

Core Competencies

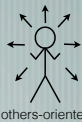
Part 11 - Stewardship of Relationships
Acts 16:6-34

Categories of Relationships

- family
- church
- neighbor
- friend
- stranger
- enemy
- authority
- divine appointment



self-oriented



others-oriented

Relationships...

...**entrusted** to us

Total control over the universe of our relationships **belongs to God**, not to us

Divine Appointments

Encounters and relationships with others that appear to be **random** or **coincidental**

Divine Appointments

Best Practice #1 — Acts 16:6-14

Be alert to the Spirit's influence and control, then **submit** and **follow**

- Ephesians 5:18-21
- Colossians 3:16-17

Divine Appointments

Best Practice #2 — Acts 16:11-15

Make what you know to be God's will your **passion** and **first priority**

- Not only were Paul and Silas obedient, they were **persistently** obedient
- Isaiah 26:8: "In the path of your judgments, O Lord, we wait for you..."

Divine Appointments

Best Practice #3 — Acts 16:16-40

Pray and **praise** your way through adversity, knowing that adversity often signals a divine appointment is on its way

- Acts 16:25: "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them..."

Divine Appointments

Best Practices

1. Be alert to the Spirit's influence and control, then **submit** and **follow**
2. Make what you know to be God's will your **passion** and **first priority**
3. **Pray** and **praise** your way through adversity, knowing that adversity often signals a divine appointment is on its way

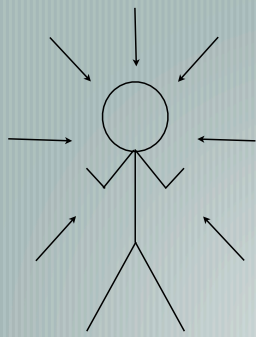
BONUS SLIDES — G.L.O.W.

Grace mindedness
Low mindedness
Open mindedness
Well mindedness

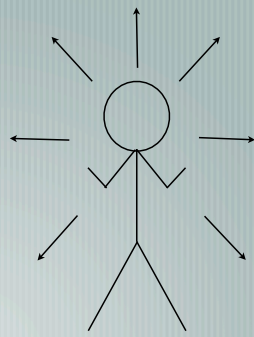
Applying G.L.O.W.

1. Use G.L.O.W. this week as a new approach with someone who has offended you or who otherwise is a "difficult" person for you
2. When you are offended or when you disagree, make your approach with "help me to understand..." or "what did you have in mind when..."
3. Resolve to replace resentment, contempt, and condemnation in your communication with others with forgiveness, forbearance, and friendliness.
4. Take responsibility for a grace-atmosphere at HHBC

Which Kind of Person Are You?



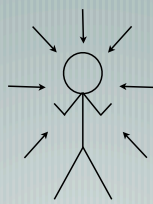
self-oriented



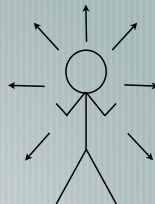
others-oriented

Applications...

1. Make generous use of affirming language
2. Embrace the interests of others as if they were your own
3. Stay focused on the majors
4. Rejoice in the Lord always
5. Make the impact of the Lord's presence obvious
6. Bathe everything in prayer
7. Direct your thinking to the good
8. Put the apostolic model into practice



self-oriented



others-oriented

The BIBLE

— [The Bible is relevant and transforming

- gives **new birth** – 1 Peter 1:23 "Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God..."
- produces **faith** – Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
- stimulates **spiritual growth** – 1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you grow up into salvation..."
- makes possible **holy living** – John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
- gives **victory over sin** – Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
- delivers **help and comfort in times of trouble** – Psalm 119:50 "This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life."
- provides **guidance for life's decisions** – Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- facilitates **blessed outcomes** – Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."
- adds **substance to our witness** – Luke 21:15 "...for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict..."
- connects us to **the wonder of God's plan and will for us** – Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

A 5-Finger Grip on the Word



Stewardship of Treasures

Assumptions

1. The other core competencies form the foundation of this one
2. Ultimately, God is the owner of all our treasures (Psalm 24:1-2)
3. Ultimately, a person's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15)
4. Whatever we have we have received from God (John 3:27)
5. God does not need any of the treasures He has entrusted to us (Psalm 50:7-15)
6. Our stewardship reveals the condition of our hearts in terms of our responsiveness to the Lord, to His Spirit, and to His Word (Matthew 6:19-24)
7. Our stewardship impacts the fruitfulness of our church (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

Stewardship of Treasures

Applications - *How to develop the core competency of stewardship of treasures*

1. Embrace the seven assumptions (and the rest of the Bible's teaching on stewardship) in your heart, on a heart-deep level
2. Embrace the importance of stewarding "small" treasures
3. Apply the seven assumptions across four activities of stewardship: supplying, sharing, saving, and spending (debt reduction, meeting needs and obligations, other legitimate, biblical priorities, and desires)
4. Apply the seven assumptions to what you keep (not just to income, but also to investments and other items of value)
5. Place equal priority (at a minimum) on sharing/giving
6. Communicate with God about your stewardship
7. Be intentional (make a plan, a budget, and work it)

Relationships

God made us, God designed us for relationships with other people...

- help us to know our place in the world
- provide us with contexts and boundaries for implementing the other core competencies
- help us measure where we are in relation to God's expectations

Measuring Where We Are...

...using three very high standards:

- **regardless-love**
- **the grace and generosity of our heavenly Father**
- **the perfect love of our heavenly Father**

Living separate FROM sin

- [Guard your heart
- [Be intentional and holding nothing back
- [Control your mind-gate
- [Choose your friends carefully
- [Plan communication strategies and escape routes
- [Choose your heroes carefully
- [Practice self-denial
- [Play it safe
- [Live beyond the prohibitions

Listening to the Holy Spirit

John 16:8 — "And when he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment"

- [through the written Word
- [through prayer
- [through a well-formed conscience
- [through interaction and accountability with others

Philippians 2:12-13

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**"

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."
