

UPHILL HOPES & HABITS DOWNHILL

- Most people have uphill Hopes and downhill habits.

2 ...fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:2 (MSG)

The habits you have today will shape who you become tomorrow.

Habit #5:

Choose my relationships with intentionality and care.

Show me your friends and I'll show you your future.

19 A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses. Proverbs 27:19 (TLB)

Four relationship choices we need to make:

- **Nurture** my **important** relationships.

7 Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer.

8 Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. 1 Peter 4:7-8 (MSG)

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

- **Restore** my **broken** relationships.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil.... 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:17-18 (NIV)

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

- **Sever** any **harmful** relationships.

It's (almost) impossible to live the right life with the wrong friends.

20 Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces. Proverbs 13:20 (MSG)

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

- **Initiate** some **meaningful** relationships.

25 Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. Hebrews 10:25 (TEV)

Four relationships we should initiate:

- Develop my relationship with my church.

19 ...You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

- Develop my relationship with other believers.

44 And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other. Acts 2:44 (TLB)

- Develop my relationship with a team.

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

- Develop my relationship with my God.

13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Spend a moment sharing what God did for you through the 21 day fast?
- How important do you think relationships really are? Do you choose relationships with intentionality and care? Explain.
- Do you believe that your past friendships have shaped you into who you are today? Explain.
- What are some important relationships to you and how are you nurturing them? What does it mean to nurture a relationship?
- There are some relationship we can't restore because the other person won't "play ball". How do we restore relationships with people that are willing to allow healing?
- How would you identify a harmful relationship? Do you have any that need to be severed?
- How would the Bible define a "meaningful relationship"?
- Why is it important that we have a church where we belong? What does belong mean to you?
- Why is it important to have relationship with godly people? In the Talk, Dave said that we know who godly people are because they encourage us to be godly. Do you have relationships like that?
- Why is it important to have relationships with a team (People we serve with)?
- What are some ways that you are developing your relationship with God?

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