



Small Group Leader's Guide

Week 4: Running From Relational Ruin



Leader's Tip

Reach out to each member of your group in a personal way...maybe a hand-written card or personal text. Let them know you're praying for them.

Read: Ecclesiastes 4

Big idea:

- How we prioritize relationships will either lead to ruin or reward.

Main points:

5 Things that Ruin Relationships

Oppression (v. 1-3)

- Envy (v. 4-6)
- Greed (v. 7-8)
- Isolation (v. 9-12)
- Applause of man (v. 13-16)

Rewards of Healthy Relationships

- Productiveness (v. 9)
- Perseverance (v. 10-11)
- Protection (v. 12)

Jesus in Ecclesiastes 4: Jesus is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24)

Discussion Questions:

Opening Question: Share who your best friend is and how did that relationship get started?

- In what condition is the man that the author describes in verse 8? Describe his circumstances. How do you think he got there?
- What does the author present as a better alternative in verses 9-12?
- What are the benefits of relationship and community described here?
- Why is it so important for believers to be in community with each other?
- How well is our small group acting as a healthy biblical community? What are our strengths and where could we improve?

Ministry Time:

What is a specific area of your life that this group could really help you with?