

**REAL Discipleship in a REAL World**  
**Week Three – Authentic Relationships**

**How do we build Authentic Relationships?**

*34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”  
(John 13:34-35)*

**God designed human beings to be relational.**

Jesus doesn't just talk the talk- he walks the walk. He sets the example.

**1. We build authentic relationships with humility.**

*14 “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”  
(John 13:14-15)*

Jesus served others, regardless of their status.

**2. We build authentic relationships with hospitality.**

*26 Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” (John 13:26-27)*

Jesus welcomed others, regardless of how they would treat him.

**3. We build authentic relationships with honesty.**

*38 “Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!” (John 13:38)*

Jesus told others the truth (in love), even if it was hard to hear.

Peter was loved for who he really was, even though he was far from perfect.

## **The Challenge: Start with One.**

- 1. Serve one person by meeting a practical need for them this week.**
- 2. Invite one person out that you don't know very well and get to know them.**
- 3. Have that one difficult conversation you've been avoiding- or reach out to that one person that you need to repair the relationship with.**

## **Small Group Questions:**

- 1. Reflect on the challenge to "start with one." Without sharing sensitive details, does any specific person come to mind? What is God prompting you to do?**
- 2. Which of your relationships have impacted you the most and why?**
- 3. How connected do you feel to others at VCPC? How could you build even deeper relationships with them (or others) in the future?**

### **News and Notes**

Feb. 4, Board Nominations Due (after services)

Feb. 11, REFRESH Membership Class: Purpose of the Church. Details at the back table.

February 18, Vision Update after services

February 23-24, IF Womens Gathering. Watch Party on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Barb, Mary, or Sharon for details.

March 3, Annual Business General Meeting

June 2, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday

NO Mentoring Moment this Tuesday as Pastor Andy is away.