

Week #4 – That Works Too!

Grab a sheet of paper and take the next two minutes to write down the process that you follow for making the people around you happy. Don't worry about being too in-depth -just write the basic steps you follow for maintaining all your relationships.

If you succeeded, congratulations, Type-A overachiever. 😊 Your friends must love how you systematically make them feel good.

In reality, though, relationships don't work on a three-step, one-size-fits-all kind of system. Relationships are living, dynamic things that don't fit into a nice, neat box. Think about the people closest to you. You don't interact and respond to them all in the same way. And even if you interacted with one of them a certain way six months ago, it doesn't mean you'd do the same exact thing now. Both of you are completely different people than you were then, and the relationship between you has changed and adapted over time.

The same idea applies to our relationship with God. We know that we can talk to God, that he talks back, and that our conversations should focus on our relationship with him, rather than what we want. However, if we don't free ourselves of the idea that communication with God is dependent on just talking, then we aren't going to mature in our relationship. None of us would claim that talking is the only way we communicate with a family member or friend, and we should not limit our relationship with God in that way, either.

Thought to Ponder:

- Creativity and personality play a role here, look at the Bible to see if we can get some pointers on where to start. Grab a Bible, and read **2 Samuel 6:14**. Then, read **Psalms 150** and finally, **1 Kings 8:17**. Highlight all the ways people are communicating with God.

Prayer Activator:

If we limit our understanding of prayer to just talking, our relationship with God is eventually going to suffer for it. Prayer is walking, singing, painting, mowing, jogging, making Jello®, clogging—the action itself is not the point. Prayer can be done while you're walking to get coffee, driving to the office, brushing your teeth, and so on. Prayer is all about communion with God—the relational interaction behind the activity. Prayer at its core, is the constant recognition and awareness of God's presence.

On that note, your challenge for this week is to find a way to pray that isn't solely talking or listening—branch out and be creative! Feel free to enlist a few others in your creative prayer adventure. If you share it on social media, be sure to tag us! Sharing your creative worship will inspire others!