

## PEACEMAKERS

Scripture used: [Proverbs 4:25-26 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

On this first Sunday of the new decade, Pastor Hurmon kicked us off on a new series, “Handle With Care”, which aims to provide practical tools to build and strengthen our key relationships. We were reminded of the African proverb: if we want to go fast, we should go alone; but if we want to go far, we should go with others. We are who we are because of relationships, and this includes our relationship with God and our relationship with others. In fact, God often shapes our lives through our relationships with others. One of the wisest things we can possibly do as we consider our goals for this year is to prioritize our relationships.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) [Genesis 1:27-28](#) tells us that God created human beings in His image / His reflection. God’s original intent was for harmonious human relationships, men and women together, to reflect the fullness of His love, grace, and mercy . By contrast, [Genesis 3:4-5](#) shows the serpent telling Eve that God has lied. The serpent is trying to destroy trust & break the greatest relationship of all.
- 2) [Revelation 7:9-10](#) shows harmonious relationships amongst all ethnicities, languages, nations. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) reminds us to trust in the Lord, seek His will. [Proverbs 4:25](#) exhorts us to look ahead, not rehash the past. Thus we must prioritize relationships which are so important in times of adversity. We must focus on one practice to drive our relationships deeper, for instance with our spouse or with teenage children. We can do that by cultivating an activity, tradition, ritual that allows us to spend focused time with the person with whom we are seeking to deepen relationship.
- 3) [Proverbs 4:26](#) tells us to map the straight path, with caution for rocks, holes, and other obstacles. Be wary of things that cause us to repeatedly have dysfunctional relationships with others. Acknowledge our old mistakes and past hurts. Forgive ourselves, forgive others, and move on. We’re a work in progress, which is different from being “a piece of work”! While growing up, Pastor Hurmon saw himself as a “scarred kid” which affected his ability to interact comfortably and authentically with others. Only by accepting who he was did he carve a new path for himself: one of learning, ease with others, and the secure confidence to build deep friendships.
- 4) Jesus died for us, which is the ultimate reminder that we are precious and irreplaceable. He has taken away our shame and guilt, and while we can continue to use regret to help us make wise choices, we don’t need to hide from other people.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Assess the relationships in your life. What are the two or three relationships that you have that are the greatest blessing for you? What are the one or two relationships that are the source of greatest challenge or pain?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Genesis 1:27-28](#) and [Revelation 7:9-10](#). What does it communicate to you about God’s intention in Creation regarding relationships, both between you and God and between you and others? How do you feel about the correlation between your relationship with God and your relationship with others? Is there a way you sense God calling you to grow your relationship with Him by taking a next step in deepening a relationship with another person?
- 3) **DO** - Identify and implement one next-level practice. Share with others in your life group the person you hope to deepen relationship with, and the practice you intend to implement. Pray for one another. Come back to NBCC next week to learn more about dealing with toxic people and challenging relationships!