

### Series Target

- It is by our primary relationship with God, through Jesus, with the Holy Spirit working in us, that love and all Godly fruit is possible.
- We bring glory to God by living our lives in authentic, life-changing relationships with Him and with one another.

**Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV)** — <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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### Trusting God

- Trust in God isn't naive optimism about avoiding hardship. Rather than viewing God as guaranteeing safety and happiness, genuine trust means recognizing that whatever circumstances arise, you remain held by God—enabling you to see suffering transformed into expressions of love, confident that injustice will ultimately be corrected, and assured that hope grounded in God's character cannot ultimately fail.
- Definition of a Disciple
  - Following Jesus requires trust.
  - Allowing Him to change/transform you requires trust
  - Setting His mission and priorities over yours requires trust
- Just because bad things happen, just because I make bad choices doesn't mean that God isn't there, isn't faithful, isn't trustworthy. The more you know and press into
- Trust does not exist without faith and grace!

**Question:** In what areas, relationships, habits do you struggle to doing what is right, what God's word tells you? Why do you struggle trusting God?

### Trustworthy Life

- Integrity: the condition of being without blemish, completeness, perfection, sincerity, soundness, uprightness, wholeness, honesty and adherence to a pattern of good works.  
**Proverbs 10:9 (ESV)** — <sup>9</sup> Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.
- Reliable: trustworthy, consistent, dependable, honest, responsible.  
**Colossians 3:1–3 (ESV)** — <sup>1</sup> If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- Vulnerable: transparent, courageous, authentic, interdependent, trusting, putting yourself in a position where you can be rejected.

**Ephesians 4:25 (NASB95)** — <sup>25</sup> Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.

**Question:** Which of the three things listed above do you struggle living out?  
Commit to discover why and make a plan to grow in it.

## Trusting Others

- Trusting each other is a two-way street because we all share the same sin nature.

**Romans 3:23–24 (NLT)** — <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

1. Ask and trust God to give you strength, wisdom, and grace to trust people
2. You are not what happened to you. God has a better future for you.

**1 Peter 5:10 (NASB95)** — <sup>10</sup> After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

3. Trust people in small doses.
4. Change your standards for who you let into your 'inner' circle.
5. People will fail you. Remember to have grace because you have failed people too.

**Question:** What does life look like without putting out full trust in God, and having the courage to trust others?

Trusting God grounds our hearts in what is unchanging, while trusting others allows that faith to take shape in real relationships. When we place our ultimate trust in God, we are freed to trust people wisely—not blindly—extending grace, building community, and reflecting God's love, even knowing that only He is perfectly faithful. (Matthew 22: 36-40)

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## Discussion Questions:

1. What does trusting God actually mean to me right now—not in theory, but in daily life?
2. What fears or past experiences make trust difficult for me?
3. What would people who know me well say about my trustworthiness?
4. Do my actions match my words, even when no one is watching?
5. Do I trust people easily, or do I tend to be cautious? Why?
6. Can I trust someone without trusting them with *everything*?