



## Small Group Discussion Guide

March 5, 2017

### Sermon Title:

"Managing Life: Relationships"

**Sermon Text:** Matthew 22:34-40

**Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 16:1-9

**Leader:** *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

**Getting Started:** Who is the newest (relationship) friend you have made? How did it begin?

### Discussion:

1. How well are you doing at managing our first three subjects?  
1) the Gospel? 2) Time? 3) Your health?
2. Remember: the purpose of this series is to help you live in the "sweet spot" of life, thereby experiencing the joy and fullness of living which God intended for us.
3. In Matthew's gospel, the Pharisees were always trying to "catch" Jesus in an area where he mis-spoke. Have you ever been in such a situation? Have you ever felt like someone was "dogging" you to catch you in a slip-up?
4. When asked by an "expert in the law", which the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied with a reference from the Old Testament called the "Shema". It is a part of Jewish prayers/songs today. ( **Read this reference in Deuteronomy 6:4,5**) In answering in this manner, Jesus' response dis-armed the Pharisee.
5. The greatest commandment is at the heart of how we maintain relationships, because it begins with LOVING.... The points the Pastor emphasized were:

\* Loving God/ Jesus (Reference: 1 John 4:19)

- God has given us life. He is the Creator of all things.  
He loves us more than we can fathom.
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came from heaven to die on the cross for our sins.

\* Loving our Family. God has designed the family as the model for abundant living.

- Parents (Reference: Exodus 20:12)

- Our Spouses. This is the focal point of familial love.  
We are "one flesh" with our spouses. (Reference: Genesis 2:24)  
Are you maintaining your marriage well?

- Our Children. God has entrusted their lives to us.  
We are simply stewards for Him.

(A recent study the Pastor did revealed that in 40% of all homes, there is no father present.... In black families, the percentage increases to 72%).  
(source: Tony Evans, in "Kingdom Men")

- \* Loving Our Friends. We are born into our family, but we CHOOSE our friends!  
**(Reference: Proverbs 18:24b)** How close are you to your friends?

**"Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful."**

**Closing:** Close *by praying for each other.* Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!**