

SHIPS

- Relationships are the vessels that carry us through the changing seas of life. Some are like the Ark and provide refuge and others are like the Titanic barreling toward a field of icebergs.
- Why this series is so important:

1. Humans need connection to thrive

- **Genesis 2:18 (TLB)** – *And the Lord God said, “IT ISN’T GOOD FOR MAN TO BE ALONE; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs.”*
- **SCIENCE DAILY:** *“Researchers find that people who experience higher 'felt love' -- brief experiences of love and connection in everyday life -- also have significantly higher levels of psychological well-being, which includes feelings of purpose and optimism, compared to those who had lower felt love scores.”*
- According to Dr. David Hamilton (PhD in Organic Chemistry): *If an infant is born into an environment lacking in love, emotional warmth, and responsiveness, the growth of its brain is hugely affected, the rate of growth of heart muscle cells is significantly reduced, and human growth hormone is produced in smaller amounts when there’s not enough love around.*

2. It’s not ok to succeed spiritually and fail relationally

- **Matthew 5:23-24 NIV** - *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*
- **QUOTE:** *Vertical worship is validated by horizontal fellowship*
- **I John 4:20 NIV** - *Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister IS A LIAR. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.*
- **QUOTE:** *The most important relationship anyone can develop is a relationship with God. But we cannot possibly have a good relationship with God while all our other relationships are shipwrecked*

Week #1 – Ships to Board, Ships to Abandon

- **Proverbs 18:24 NLT** - *There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.*
- There are some people that help you be your best, and others that bring out the worst in you.
- **QUOTE:** *Some people that enjoy each other might also destroy each other*
- We should be friendly to everyone, but we’re not meant to be everyone’s “real friend”. In fact, there are people the Bible specifically says to NOT be friends with.

Proverbs 22:24-25 NCV - *Don’t make friends with quick-tempered people or spend time with those who have bad tempers. If you do, you will be like them. Then you will be in real danger.*

Proverbs 13:20 (GNT) – *Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make friends with stupid people, you will be ruined.*

SHIP POINT: *You Will Become Like Whoever You Spend Significant Time With*

Psalm 1:1 AMP - *Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], Nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers (ridiculers).*

SHIP POINT: *Love Everyone, but Don't Sit Down to Rest with Everyone*

- We must learn to “sit down to rest” with those who return value to us
- **QUOTE:** *So many “friendships” are really “userships” with lots of unrealistic expectations, selfish demands, and inconsiderate requests.*
- **Mark 14:32-33 NLT** - *They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed.*
- **QUOTE:** *If Jesus had a few real friends that He could bare His soul to, then all of us need the same thing, as well.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NLT - *Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.*

SHIP POINT: *Life was Never Meant to be Lived Alone...Find Your Squad*

- This is why Impact Church is not a church *with* groups – we are a church *of* groups
- Groups are the heartbeat of how we help people FIND FREEDOM – in community!!
- **II Timothy 2:22 NLT** - *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*