

CLOSE TO HIM = CLOSE TO THEM

- The spiritual truth that we are unpacking this month is...
- **QUOTE:** *The health of our vertical relationship with God is reflected in our horizontal relationships with people*
- **1 John 1:7 NLT** - *But if we are LIVING IN THE LIGHT, as God is in the light, then we have FELLOWSHIP with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.*
- *Fellowship (Gr. Koinonia) – fellowship, association, community, communion, or joint participation.*
- It literally refers to a partnership in which we share in the hardships & victories together.
- Real fellowship with God inevitably affects the way we function in relationships with others.
- It's **impossible** to live in The Light and our relationships remain unchanged.
- **1 John 4:20-21 CEV** - *But if we say we love God and don't love each other, we are liars. We cannot see God. So how can we love God if we don't love the people we can see? 21 The commandment that God has given us is: "Love God and love each other!"*

WEEK TWO: LOVING LEADERS

- **QUOTE:** *The closer we get to God as leaders, the more our leadership should resemble His.*
- **1 Corinthians 13:4 – 7 NLT** *Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.*
- In other words...

1. LOVING LEADERS TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT

- **QUOTE:** *Being A BOSS does not give me the right to be A BULLY.*
- **Colossians 4:1 ESV** – *Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*
- **John 13:13–17 ESV** - *"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*
- God has called us as leaders to model how others in our organization should be treated.
- Even bringing correction as a leader should be done with respect, dignity, and care in mind.
- **Proverbs 3:12 CEV** – *The LORD corrects everyone he loves, just as parents correct a child they dearly love.*
- **FLIP THE COIN:** *Loving Leaders Treating People the Right Way Need to be Matched by Loving Followers who Give them permission to Lead.*
- **QUOTE:** *When leaders and followers both pull close to God, the light of His way will drive out the darkness of our selfish way.*

2. LOVING LEADERS DO NOT DEMAND THEIR OWN WAY

- **Philippians 2:3, 4 ESV** *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

- The natural trajectory of leadership is towards self.
- Loving leaders resist the natural trajectory of self-focused leadership with –
- **The Habit of “You-First” Leadership**
- **QUOTE:** *“Some leaders try to make you think THEY are important. The best leaders help you see why YOU are important.” —Craig Groeschel*
- **Genesis 13:1-9 MSG** *1-2 So Abram left Egypt and went back to the Negev, he and his wife and everything he owned, and Lot still with him. By now Abram was very rich, loaded with cattle and silver and gold...⁵⁻⁶ Lot, who was traveling with Abram, was also rich in sheep and cattle and tents. But the land couldn't support both of them; they had too many possessions. They couldn't both live there—quarrels broke out between Abram's shepherds and Lot's shepherds... ⁸⁻⁹ Abram said to Lot, “Let's not have fighting between us, between your shepherds and my shepherds. After all, we're family. Look around. Isn't there plenty of land out there? Let's separate. If you go left, I'll go right; if you go right, I'll go left.”*
- Abram demonstrates:
 1. Loyalty and concern for his employees.
 2. You-First Leadership by allowing Lot to choose the land he wanted first, and Abram took the rest.
- **QUOTE:** *“The leaders who get the most out of their people are those who care most about their people.” — Simon Sinek*
- **FLIP THE COIN:** *Loving Leaders Who Don't Demand Their Own Way need to be Matched by Loving Followers who Understand the Heavy Burden of Leadership. Pray for your leaders. Speak well of them. Give them space to be human and not have to be perfect. Support them in every Godly endeavor they bring.*

CONFESSION: “As a loving leader I am patient, kind, humble, polite, selfless, approachable, and forgiving. As a loving leader I have a reputation of loyalty, honesty, integrity and treating people right. I'm not rude, irritable, jealous, or territorial. As a loving leader I put others first, I build people up, I bring out the best in others, and I lead by example. My heart is full of the love of God. That love never fails, so I never fail. Everything under my leadership prospers! My household prospers. My relationships prosper. My ministry prospers. My business prospers. I'm a loving leader, in the Name of Jesus! Amen!”