

Modern Family Part 2

Small Groups Leader Guide

James 1:19-21; Ephesians 4:17-32

Connect

Communicate or disintegrate. It is true, communication is vital to relationship. If you look at any healthy relationship, solid communication is going to be at the core of the relationship. Now, the tough thing about communication is that you have to deal with other people. Let's dive in by thinking about how we communicate and how we like to be communicated with.

Which of the following best describes your style of communication?

Analytical, like a Poodle	Intuitive, like a Border Collie
Functional, like a Husky	Personal, like a Labrador

What about your closest friend or spouse? Do you have the same communication style?

Do you prefer just the facts or would you love to hear the back story when someone close is expressing themselves?

How does your communication style change between work or with friends and at home?

Does your communication style change when you're in a stressful situation?

Communication in the Bible

No matter what your communication style or the way you prefer to receive communication, this is an aspect of life that we will always have an opportunity for growth. Whether you are an over communicator or a your avoid communication at all costs, these principles are still true for you and your relationships. It is never too early to start communicating well and it's never too late to start. Regardless of style of communication, the Bible is clear about certain principles for communication. *As we read through these, note which one you are best at and which needs improvement. Feel free to have the group look up a few of the passages.*

1. Good communication is bathed in prayer. (Ps. 19:14)
2. Good communication is thankful (1 Thes. 5:16-18)
3. Good communication is not prideful. (1 Cor. 13:4-5)
4. Good communication lines up with actions. (Jas. 1:22-26)
5. Good communication doesn't waver. (Jas. 1:6-8)
6. Good communication listens well. (Jas. 1:19, Prov. 18:2)
7. Good communication isn't angry. (Eph. 4:31)
8. Good communication points to truth. (Col. 4:6, Eph. 4:15)

9. Good communication is kind, pure, and virtuous. (Phil. 4:8)
10. Good communication is filled with blessing. (Rom. 12:14-15)

No one lives up to each of these principles, there are some we are better at and some that we're not so good at and need more practice. The good news is that whoever we are communicating with needs practice too.

When are these principles hardest for you to practice?

Would you commit to praying and working toward improving one or two of your communication principles?

For each person there are some essential things that must be communicated to meet their relational needs. Communicating such things can create a safe environment in your home. What are some things that you need in order to be healthy? What about your family members? (Love, Safety, Respect, Acceptance, etc.)

Apply

Communicating for fruitful relationships often requires an understanding of how others would like to be communicated with. Could you spend time this week learning what those closest to you actually need in communication? How could you go about learning these things?

Would you commit to spending time praying, spending time with God, practicing principle #1?

What is your next step in faith as it relates to communication? Is it time to express your Faith in Jesus, Share your Testimony with others, Start a Small Group, etc.?

Prayer Requests, Prayer, and Closing

Write down any prayer requests from the group. If you would like to share them with the Pastoral team for us to pray over as well, email Pastor Clayton at Clayton@gracehillschurch.com.