

Regarding Relationships

Leader's Notes and Bible Passages

*(Please do NOT use the "if time permits" sections when your study session time is limited.
These sections could possibly be done by the participant in private.)*

All references taken from the ESV

Describe the different relationships that you have in your life. Share with a partner or your small group.

Answers will vary, but encourage everyone to share. You might need to set the example. Make it clear that everything confided within the group stays within the group.

Relationships are inevitable. We all have them; some are healthy and some are not. During this study of God's Word, we will look at some Biblical relationships and explore some of their characteristics.

Opening Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we ask that You be with us today as we look at relationships in the Bible, as well as the relationships of our lives. Jesus, we thank You for Your saving work of redemption in our lives. Holy Spirit, please bless our study of Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sin = It's a natural!

Read **Genesis 2:15–25** and **3:1–24** to learn about the relationship between Adam and Eve. What characteristics of Adam and Eve's relationship do you discover before the fall into sin and after the fall into sin? List them below.

Before: **perfection, working together, common goals, happiness**

After: **sin and all that it brings with it – distrust, jealousy, discord, unhappiness**

Genesis 2:15–25 ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was

its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:1–24 ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have

done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”¹⁷ And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”²⁰ The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Sin was born as a result of the first couple’s desire to be like God. It became the natural state of all their descendants. What does **Romans 5:12–14** tell us about the result of the first sin?

All are born in sin and spiritual and physical death is the result.

Romans 5:12-14¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

What specific relationships were damaged in the Genesis account of Adam and Eve? How?

Relationship between God and man – sin is now like a wall between God and man – the intimacy was lost – man becomes an enemy of God.

Relationship between man and woman – no longer a cohesive unit – sin created dissension.

Relationship with other people – distrust, jealousy, and strife reign.

Relationship with Nature – toil and work the ground, pain in childbirth

Read **Numbers 12:1-15**. What relationships in this Biblical account were damaged because of sin?

How?

Relationship between siblings – Moses, Miriam, and Aaron – Miriam and Aaron were jealous and critical of Moses.

Numbers 12:1-15 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.² And they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the LORD heard it.³ Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out.⁵ And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward.⁶ And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”⁹ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.¹⁰ When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned.¹² Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother’s womb.”¹³ And Moses cried to the LORD, “O God, please heal her—please.”¹⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.”¹⁵ So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.

Faith Talk: Identify a relationship in your life that has been damaged by sin. Is that relationship healthy today? What could you do to mend some of the damage sin has caused? Be specific and share with a partner or in a small group. **Answers will vary.**
Encourage sharing within the group.

If time permits: Read the Biblical account of Samson and Delilah in **Judges 16:1–22** for yet another account of a sin-riddled relationship. What specific sins do you find? **Lying, mistrust, deceit, cunning, cruelty, lust**

Judges 16:1-22 Samson went to Gaza, and there he saw a prostitute, and he went in to her. ²The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." And they surrounded the place and set an ambush for him all night at the gate of the city. They kept quiet all night, saying, "Let us wait till the light of the morning; then we will kill him." ³ But Samson lay till midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron. ⁴ After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. ⁵ And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver." ⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you." ⁷ Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." ⁸ Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹ Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known. ¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound." ¹¹ And he said to her, "If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." ¹² So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread. ¹³ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man." ¹⁴ So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web. And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web. ¹⁵ And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you

have not told me where your great strength lies." ¹⁶ And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. ¹⁷ And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man." ¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. ¹⁹ She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. ²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him. ²¹ And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. ²² But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Grace = It's *a*-mazing!

Read **Romans 5:6–11; 15–17**. Here is the "rest of the story"! How has Jesus' redeeming work changed our relationship with God?

The wall of sin was broken – we are no longer enemies of God, but reconciled with Him. Grace and the free gift of righteousness are now ours in Christ Jesus – we are justified and saved from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:6–11; 15–17 ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one

man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Faith Talk: In your own words, verbalize what Paul states in the above verses from Romans. How would you testify to God's grace in your life? Share with a partner or in a small group. **Answers will vary. Encourage sharing within the group.**

What example of God's grace can you find in **Genesis 7:1–10; 8:1–5; 18**? Identify the relationships affected by grace in this account. **God chose Noah to be saved in the midst of the evil world that was out of control. Noah was a faithful man, but had done nothing to "deserve" this salvation – it was purely by God's grace. Noah's family was also a recipient-of God's grace.**

Genesis 7:1–10; 8:1–5; 18 ¹Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, ³and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." ⁵And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. ⁶Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. ⁷And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

¹But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided. ²The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated, ⁴and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

What is the account of Noah's ark compared to in **1 Peter 3:18–22**? **Baptism; God-at-work in our lives**

1 Peter 3:18-22 ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

If time permits: Read the Biblical account of the birth of Jesus and the flight to Egypt in **Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15; 19–23**; and **Luke 2:22**. Focus on the relationship between Mary and Joseph. What characteristics do you see? **God-fearing, loving, dutiful, putting the other first, faithful, religious**

Matthew 1:18–25 ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 2:13–15; 19–23 ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what

the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Luke 2:22 ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

Life = It's a gift!

Read **John 3:16** together: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Because of Jesus' saving work and His grace in our lives, our relationships with each other can also be restored. Our loving Lord gives us His Holy Spirit to enable us and empower us to live our lives to His glory. The Spirit works through the Word and Sacraments (Baptism and The Lord's Supper) to give us faith and new life in Christ.

Read the following Scripture passages about Mary, Martha, and Lazarus: **Luke 10:38–42**; **John 11:5, 17–19**; and **John 12:1–3**. What are the signs in these verses that indicate a healthy relationship between the siblings? **They lived and worked together; Jesus and His teachings were important to them; they loved one another (as evidenced by their sorrow at the death of Lazarus); they all served their Lord in their own unique way.**

Luke 10:38–42 ³⁸ Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

John 11:5 ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

John 11:17–19 ¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.

John 12:1–3 ¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. ³ Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Read **1 Timothy 1:1–2** and **2 Timothy 1:3–5**. What relationships are mentioned in these verses? **Paul and Timothy; Timothy, Lois (mother), and Eunice (grandmother)** How would you characterize them? **Faith–nurturing relationships – faith shared in families and in spiritual communities.** Identify relationships in your life that are connected to your faith life? **Answers will vary – encourage sharing.**

1 Timothy 1:1–2 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:3–5 ³ I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

Read the following Bible verses about Priscilla (Prisca) and Aquila, a husband and wife team in the early Christian church: **Acts 18:1–3; 18; 24–26**; **Romans 16:3–5a**; and **1 Corinthians 16:19**.

Identify some of the beneficial characteristics of their relationship with each other, their friend Paul, and other Christian friends. **They worked together to encourage the fellowship of believers; they were one in their belief; they were hospitable to Paul and worked side by side with him; they lovingly showed the error of their Christian friend, Apollos.**

Acts 18:1–3; 18; 24–26 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews

to leave Rome. And he went to see them,³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

¹⁸ After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila.

²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Romans 16:– 5a ³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. ⁵ Greet also the church in their house.

1 Corinthians 16:19 ¹⁹ The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

Read **John 1:14–18** and **Romans 5:18–21**. What relationship is restored through Jesus Christ? **Our relationship with God; we have received grace upon grace; what was lost in the Garden of Eden is restored through the saving work of Jesus Christ.** What is the final result of that restored relationship? **Eternal life in a forever relationship with our Lord.**

John 1:14–18 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Romans 5:18–21 ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faith Talk: What relationships has the Lord given to you to encourage your Christian walk? Share with a partner or in a small group. **Answers will vary. Encourage sharing within the group.**

Faith Walk:

1. Each day thank your Savior for His redemptive work in your life.
2. Rejoice in the Holy Spirit’s guidance.
3. Examine the relationships that God has given to you.
4. Thank the people in the relationships that nurture your faith in Jesus.
5. With the help of the Spirit, restore relationships that have been broken or damaged due to sin.

Closing:

Awesome God, we humbly come before You to ask forgiveness for all our sins for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We ask that You help us forgive one another, just as in Christ You forgive us. Give us healthy relationships of family and friends in our lives. Enable us to restore relationships that have been damaged or broken. Be with us throughout our days, as we joyfully look forward to our eternal relationship with You in heaven. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Sing together the Christmas hymn “*Let All Together Praise Our God*” (LSB #389; LW #44) or “*Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men*” (TLH #105).

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