

Theme & Passages	Growing Together: Relationship Genesis 2 v 25	Notes prepared by Neil Casey
Welcome (10 mins)	What is your most embarrassing moment? Share these moments with the rest of the group.	
Working with God (15 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	<p>This week we are hearing from our friend Mikey Dicken, Senior Youth worker at LYP, one of our local mission partners. Please have a look at this short video to learn more about LYP's work. Click on the link to the website http://www.leatherheadyouthproject.com/ and scroll down the homepage to show the video. LYP's work demonstrates two of the five marks of mission; discipleship and compassion. There is a mental health crisis amongst young people today with many young people lacking the support and skills to cope with the challenges of today's society. Mikey and his fellow LYP workers are providing young people with essential relationship skills to help them thrive and realise their potential. LYP is a safe space where young people are able to be themselves in an environment where they can experience healthy relationships. LYP changes young peoples' lives for the better.</p> <p>Please pray for Mikey and his colleagues at LYP. Pray that they may have the physical, emotional and spiritual resources to support this generation of young people living in our community. And pray for the young people that LYP supports, that they realise their full potential and thrive.</p> <p>Take some time as a group to consider those within our networks of relationships who may well be struggling physically, emotionally or mentally with the pressures of life. What could you do this week to come alongside them and support at this time? Commit to praying for them every day this week.</p>	
Worship (15 mins)	God has been relentless throughout human history in finding a way to restore the relationship between Himself, ourselves and Creation that was broken in the Garden of Eden. His permanent solution to the brokenness was to send His son Jesus; the ultimate expression of just how deep the Father's love is for us. Take some time to listen to How Deep The Father's Love For Us . Allow the words to wash over you and as they do reflect upon the sacrificial gift of Jesus who restored our relationship with the Father. Take some time to express prayers of thankfulness to God for his deep love for us	
Word (20-25 mins)	<p>Read Genesis 2 : 25 The picture that is being painted here is one of God, humankind and creation being in harmonious relationship with each other. It describes the ideal state of being for the whole of God's creation. The writer describes Adam and Eve as being naked before God. Does the use of this word point to more than just being physically naked? If so what does being naked before God mean?</p> <p>Read Genesis 3 : 8-13 Describe Adam and Eve's behaviour in this passage. What are they doing? Neil described this behaviour as evidence that shame has come into the relationship. Do you recognise this behaviour in any of your relationships? What impact does it have?</p> <p>Read Matthew 7 : 3-5 When it comes to relational breakdown Jesus' instruction to us is to shift our focus away from the other and focus on ourselves. Why do we find it hard to accept responsibility for the contribution that we make to relationship difficulties?</p>	

	<p>Read Luke 15: 11-24</p> <p>This is the story of the Prodigal Son, the story of a young man who faces up to his shame, and returns home to his father who receives him with open arms and fully restores the relationship he has with his son.</p> <p>The verses we have read provide two pictures of God. The God who walks unhindered with Adam and Eve in the Garden, and the Father who receives his child with open arms. Which picture of God most resonates for you? Neither of these images of God describes a God who causes us to feel shame. Do we think that God causes us to feel shame?</p> <p>Neil described this story as an invitation to us. What is that invitation and what might accepting this invitation mean for how we do relationships going forward?</p> <p>Take time at the close of the meeting to pray that each member of the group would have the courage to accept the invitation to run into the Father's arms, overcome the shame that separate us from God, so that we can learn how to do relationships well, and in so doing, offer a compelling alternative such that others would want to come into the same relationship with God that we enjoy.</p>
EXTRA	<p>Our challenge, if we want to do relationships well, is to learn new skills and develop new behaviours. A resource that we use at Bookham Baptist Church to help us develop relationship skills that are rooted in biblical truth is the Emotionally Healthy Relationships Course. This is the video link to session 1 of the course - Emotionally Healthy Relationships Session 1 - Take Your Community Temperature Reading Share this link with the rest of the group and ask them to set aside half an hour in the coming week to watch the video, and to discuss it with other members of the group during the week</p>