

## 2. Sample Roof Crasher Lesson: Relationships Matter, Part 1

I've got some questions for you.

Ask: What kind of relationships did Jesus have? Let the group respond. The following are some examples you might share:

- Intimate relationship with his Father God (Mark 6:46)
- Intimate relationship with his disciples (Mark 12:43)
- Loving and caring toward the masses (Mathew 13:13)
- What about the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin? He was careful around them because he knew they were a problem for him and his mission (Mark 12:13–17)
- Did these relationships matter to Jesus?
- What kind of relationships do you have? Some responses might be as follows:
  - Close friends
  - Family—sisters, brothers, cousins, grandparents
  - Parents
  - Ones that are good, and some that may not necessarily be healthy or good
- Do you think relationships matter in your life? In Dennis Rainey's latest book, *Stepping Up*, he wrote, "He [men] needs to know that if he doesn't have relationships, he misses life."
  - Why would he say, "He misses life"? He is implying that relationships are life or at least the purpose of life.
  - Why would that be?
  - Is life intended to be a team sport or an individual sport?
  - What happens to a lion or an animal if it goes it alone?

State: We are not called to go "lone wolf." Relationships do matter! Your relationship with God, with family, with friends—recognize those who call you up, and recognize those who pull you down.

So here is a very simple principle that I want you to consider: Has anyone ever been to a graveside funeral service where they carry the casket in? The people who carry the casket are called pallbearers. It's usually six of the person's closest friends and family members who carry that person to his or her grave. I have done it three times, and it is a very sober and humbling experience (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

I want to challenge each of you to create deep, meaningful relationships that result in the six people you would want to be your pallbearers.

Now, the interesting part of this is that these are not only the people who would carry you to your grave, but also those who carry you through life. These are the people who will pick you up when you fall, call you out when you stray, cheer you on in your dreams, and mourn with you in life's losses. What a blessing that would be and something you would not want to miss in life! Relationships matter!