

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

By This Time Next Year: Relationships – January 18, 2026

Big Idea: Our Circle Determines Our Story

Ice Breaker: If you had to pick a fictional character to be in your circle for a year, who would it be and why?

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the main ideas from this week's message.

- We are designed by God to live in relationship with one another
- The people in our circle significantly influence some of our most important behaviors
- To bring about change in our relationships, we must focus on how we impact those in our circle and we must thoughtfully choose people to be in our circle
- To bring about change, we must want God to transform us so we are different this time next year
- Spending time praying and reading the Bible is the first step to bringing change that will make us more like Jesus
- We must commit to consistent presence, ask better questions and listen, and prioritize investing time to improve relationships with people
- Appropriate boundaries should be set to protect ourselves in relationships that may be unhealthy

Discussion Questions

- What was your biggest takeaway? What stuck out the most or moved you on a personal level?
- Did anything bother you? What questions did you have?

Making It Personal

Use these questions to move from insight to reflection.

- For good or bad, when were you influenced by another person?
- When did someone carry a burden for you, or you carry a burden for someone else?
- When you think about your closest relationships, how are they shaping you spiritually?
- Where do you feel confident in how you show up for others? Where do you struggle?
- The sermon emphasized intentionality—where does that feel energizing, and where does it feel heavy?
- Share an example of how you prioritize time for someone or something that matters to you. How can you use this as a springboard to be deliberate in deepening a relationship in 2026?

Scripture Review

Revisit a few passages from the sermon

- Genesis 2:18 Why did God say it is not good for man to be alone?
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Why are two better than one?

Diving Deeper

Explore additional passages that connect to this week's sermon.

- **Old Testament:** Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 18:24, Leviticus 19:18, Ruth 1:16-17
- **New Testament:** John 15:4-5, Galatians 6:2, 1 Corinthians 15:33, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:29, 2 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4:3, James 1:19

Application & Action

In this section, we'll explore how our relationship with God shapes the way we relate to others. These questions are designed to help you reflect on how abiding in Christ—not just effort or willpower—affects your words, actions, and priorities in your circle. As you discuss and pray together, consider how God's Spirit is at work in your heart, and how that inner work can flow outward in practical, intentional steps in your relationships.

Group Discussion Questions

- **Abiding in God:** How are you currently spending time with God—through prayer, Scripture, or listening—and how does that impact the way you show up for others?
- **Listening to Jesus:** What is one way Jesus might be inviting you to reflect His love or wisdom in a specific relationship this year? As you listen, is there a person or situation the Holy Spirit keeps bringing to your mind?
- **Walking with Him:** How can your daily connection with God influence how you respond to challenges, conflicts, or opportunities in your circle – whether that means presence, patience, or healthy boundaries?
- **Anchoring in His Word:** Which truth from Scripture reminds you that your ability to love, forgive, or encourage others flows from God's work in you, not your own effort?
- **Leaning on His People:** Who could help you stay rooted in Christ while you seek to grow relationally, and how might God be inviting you to receive support rather than carry things alone?
- **Growing in His Likeness:** How does abiding in God shape your priorities, words, and posture toward others over time? Where do you notice God already forming Christlike character in you?
- **Action Step:** What one habit could you begin this week—spiritual or relational—that flows out of your relationship with God and strengthens your circle?

Simple Practice for the Week: Abide → Notice → Act

- **Abide:** Begin each day with a simple prayer: "Jesus, help me see people today the way You see them."
- **Notice:** As you remain in Him, pay attention to where God is already at work in your relationships. Watch for small opportunities, changes, or moments of connection that reveal His presence.
- **Act:** Participate in God's work by taking one or two small, natural steps this week to encourage, listen to, or bless the person or people He has brought to mind.

Prayer

Close by praying together—not only for better relationships, but for deeper dependence on God.