

✘ Interpersonal Competence ✘

YOUNG PERSON HAS EMPATHY, SENSITIVITY, AND FRIENDSHIP SKILLS.

By Sally Pritzl

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Interactions

Romans 12:9-18 Let love be genuine...



- As a bunch of toddlers playing next to each other what did you notice?
- How did you treat one another?
- How do behaviors and attitudes towards other change as you get older?
- What changes when we grow older in our interactions with others?
- What are fears that people have in trying to interact with others?
- How do we learn to interact with others? Both good ways and bad ways
- What do you look for in friends?
- What is our motivation to try to get along?
- How do you show your friendship to others?
- How do people expect us to treat them?
- What guidelines do you have for your interaction with others?
- Read Romans 12:9-18. What guidelines for interactions do you do well? Not so well?

So What?

Pick one of the following that best describes your reflection on this discussion and complete the sentence with your own thoughts.

- I need...
- I hope...
- I learned...
- I will pray...
- I am still wondering...
- I am feeling...
- I will take action by....

Candle Time

Place a chair in the middle of the room. Read Matthew 18: 20. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among you." Let the chair represent Christ's presence. Direct prayers toward the open chair and encourage prayers to be conversational and from the heart.

EXPLORE



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| Mathew 7:12 | In everything do to others as... |
| 1 John 4:19 | We love because he first loved us. |
| Galatians 5:13 | do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence... |
| 1 Timothy 6:18 | ...do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and... |
| Proverbs 22:9 | ...generous are blessed, for they share their bread.. |
| Luke 1: 57-58 | ...came for Elizabeth to give birth... and they rejoiced with her. |



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Discussion Goal

Interpersonal competence is driven by the love of God and love for each other.

Background

The very young are centered on themselves. Watch young toddlers as they play. They please number one and give little attention to those around. This is often called parallel play. They play side by side, not together. If a child sees a toy that another is playing with the child will try and take the toy away, not understanding anything about the needs or feelings of the other. As a child begins to grow older a realization of the effects on interactions with others begins. The child is not a separate entity but has behaviors that impact others. Why should we care how others are affected?

People become aware of the care they receive from others and begin to care how their actions affect others. When we do hurtful things to others, we hurt too. When we cause someone to feel good, we also feel good. Where does this motivation come from?

Our motivation is from the two most important commandments Jesus quotes. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39) Love drives us to be involved with the lives of others and share in their happiness and joys, sorrows and frustrations. Romans 12:9-18 is a wonderful look at some of the attributes for living out these commandments of love with others.

As people grow up, priorities change in relationships with others. People worry about their skills at being a friend. People discover that relationships require a lot of intentional work. Thoughtfulness and skills are needed. Understanding and experiencing God's love is followed by a desire, a response to love and care for others in the midst of relationships. "We love because he first loved us."-1 John 4:19

Motivate:

Bring a variety of toys – the number of toys will depend on the number of people you have. Have everyone join together on the floor and tell them to play with the toys as if they were 2-3 years old, having the same style of play and same attitude towards playing. You will need to use your best judgment in when to stop them. Observe what happens. Most likely some will remain interested in their toy while others may abandon theirs and try to steal others. Use the first questions to talk about what happened.



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