

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1John 4:8)

The love and care we manifest in our relationships with our loved ones, is a natural extension of our love relationship with God. The closer we are to God, the closer we will be to each other.

If we are to be truly unselfish and truly love others, we must first be connected to God. The closer we are to God, the better we will be able to love each other.

Any relationship therefore, stands a better chance of being loving and successful if we first nurture our relationship with God.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

is the essence of the God-head, the Trinity. God created man because He desired communion with Him. Stewardship is first and foremost a relationship. It is an understanding of who God is, and where we stand in relationship to Him. When we see that He is Creator, Owner and Sustainer of all, we realize that all we have comes from Him and belongs to Him. We see the gift of life in the right perspective. (Psalm 50).

When we understand our relationship to God, this helps us to see our human relationships, and our earthly responsibilities, in the right perspective also.

## It Really Is...

This series of brochures helps us understand our true relationship to God, each other and the church. When we understand that, we'll have the power to

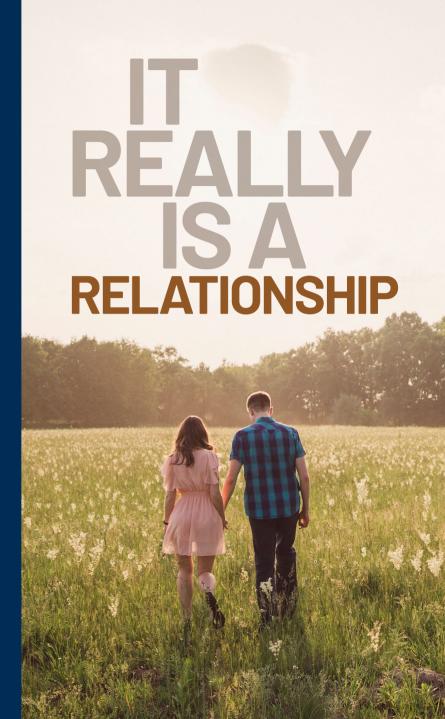
## BE GOOD STEWARDS!

Use this series for personal instruction, group discussion, outreach, or stewardship education in your local church. Please contact us to place your order. Discover other useful resources via our website.

Bible verses are quoted from the New International Version.







## THE POWER TO KNOW

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

Isaiah 43: 1



God created us to be in relationship with Him. We are made after His own image. More than that, He adopted us into His family—through Jesus Christ. Jesus our Lord, is also our Brother (Genesis 1:26,27: Hebrews 2:10-17).

Because of creation and redemption, we belong to God, and to one another. We need never feel alone.

Belonging to God brings special privileges and responsibilities to us as stewards.

Through the gift of salvation, we experience reconciliation with God. We feel the need to reconcile with one another.

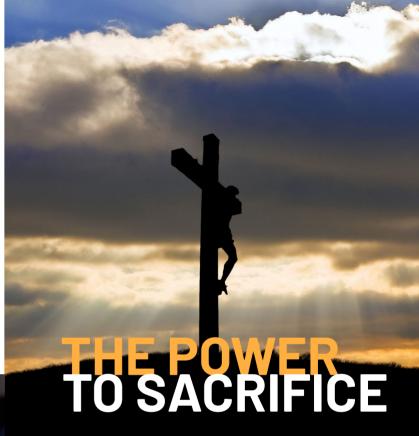
I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one (John 17:22)

"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times seven (Matthew 18:21,22)

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:35)

THE POWER IO RECONCILE





For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

Love empowers us to give of ourselves. In a relationship where everyone puts the other first, true love will abound.

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need" (Acts 2:44, 45).

Christian stewardship and generosity starts with the giving of onesself, first, to God. Our ability to give generously and sacrificially to the mission of God, is an outcome of His work in us.