We’re here to figure out how to have great relationships by applying the truth of the Bible to our lives.

We’ve all been through relationship struggles. We’ve seen them fall apart.

One big reason our relationships fall apart is that we make decisions based on our feelings, rather than on facts.

Great relationships aren’t based on feeling love for someone, or on feeling loved by someone.

Great relationships are based on wisdom. They’re based on thinking that is grounded in truth.

And James is giving us real wisdom...

James 3:13-18 NLT

13 If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. 15 For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. 16 For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

To change your relationships, let God change your thinking!

Fact #1: Relationships fall apart when I focus only on what I get from them.
For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

When I live by my survival instinct alone, I look to my relationships for what I can get out of them...

As long as you are ruled by fear, you will manipulate and control people.

There’s an alternative way to relate to people. Where do we discover it?

Fact #2: Relationships are healthy when I learn wisdom from God about them.

But the wisdom from above is first of all pure.

The Bible is God’s revelation of his will and wisdom for our lives. And what is its purpose? What does the Bible do for us?

2 Timothy 3:15-17 NLT

You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

The Bible teaches us...

1. How to have life through the work of Jesus.
2. How to live life through the wisdom of Jesus.

You need God’s Word, to get God’s wisdom, to have healthier relationships!

And a lot of our relationships go south because we ignore what the divine architect of those relationships has revealed about his will for us.
Fact #:
Relationships are healthy when you invest yourself into them.

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. 18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

Notice the phrase “plant seeds…”

You get out of relationships what you invest.
You have to cultivate healthy relationships with people.

What do we invest in others?
- Wisdom that loves peace.
- Willingness to yield to others.
- Mercy and good deeds.
- Sincerity.

Grace givers will always have healthier relationships than manipulators!

And grace doesn’t make sense. It’s not right. It’s not fair. We deserve to be vindicated, right? We deserve to be first, right?

That’s what our human wisdom tells us, but God’s wisdom gives us a different way to live - becoming a grace giver and investing our lives into the lives of others!

Jesus went first, by the way!

Jesus entered history to save stubborn, lost people. He came for sinners, invested his life into them, died for them, and rose again for them. And “them” is all of us!