how to cultivate meaningful relationships

MAIN IDEA || Know the heart, know the person.

1. Every heart is **loving** something.

Matthew 6:20-21 [NLT] 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

James 1:14–15 [NLT] ¹⁴ Temptation comes from **our own desires**, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to **sinful actions**. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

Psalms 62:8 [NLT]

2. Every heart is **producing** something.

Luke 6:45 [NLT]

⁴³ "A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. ⁴⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of **a good heart**, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of **an evil heart**. What you say **flows** from what is in your **heart**.

• "The glaring behavior you see on the surface is produced by what's growing below the surface."

Mark 7:20-23 [NLT]

²⁰ And then he added, "It is what comes from **inside** that defiles you. ²¹ For from within, **out of a person's heart,** come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. ²³ All these vile things **come from within**; they are what defile you."

3. Every heart is **adoring** someone.

Romans 1:21 [NLT]

21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

• "In the very depths of our heart, it is not so much what we love but who we love."

How we can move more deeply into someone's life:

- 1. After you ask, "How are you?", follow the strongest emotions.
- 2. Notice, affirm & enjoy the good "fruit" that's showing.
- 3. Use their surface behaviors to help you see what's happening below the surface.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

- God has revealed to us that every heart is <u>loving</u> something, <u>producing</u> something and <u>adoring</u> someone.
 Which of those ideas resonates with you the most?
- 2. What does Good tell us (Rom 1:21) about what kind of help most people actually need?
 - Romans 1:21 [NLT] 21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or
 even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a
 result, their minds became dark and confused.

3.	Have any of these methods ever helped you more naturally move deeper into someone's life?
	☐ After you ask, "How are you?", follow the strongest emotions.
	☐ Notice, affirm & enjoy the good "fruit" that's showing.
	☐ Use their surface hehaviors to help you compassionately see what's happening helow the surface