

God created us for connection; we have a significant role to play in those connections.

God places the lonely in families. - Psalm 68:6a (NLT)

A helpful acronym: L.E.A.D

1. LIFT them up before the Lord.

John 18:20 (NLT) - Jesus replied, "Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret."

2. EMBRACE them where they are.

John 4:16-21 (NLT) - "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. ¹⁷"I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband— ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!" ¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. ²⁰So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?" ²¹Jesus replied, "Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem."

3. ACCCEPT that God placed them in your life.

Psalm 67:5-6 (NLT) - May the nations praise you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you. ⁶Then the earth will yield its harvests, and God, our God, will richly bless us.

4. DIE to yourself.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) - My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Study Guide

1. Make a list of the most influential people in your life. Can you articulate why they made your list?
2. This question is a little more bold - can you name people that would consider you an influence? Why do you think they made your list?
3. How does the thought that you have influence affect you? Is it daunting? Hopeful? Some of each?
4. Pastor Derrick's message from Sunday, July 4 could be really helpful here. The point is not to put pressure on ourselves to 'influence better'. The point is leaning in to Jesus, the One who can produce in us the things that ultimately influence well. What are some things that you can do to deepen your relationship with Jesus, the Great Influencer?
5. Take a moment or two to pray for those that are closest to you.