

## Walking with God

### 4. Walking through Difficult Relationships.

Genesis 13: 5-18.

## Stress....

- Generated by change
- Expressed in difficult relationships



## Relationships

1. We live by our relationships (Genesis 2)



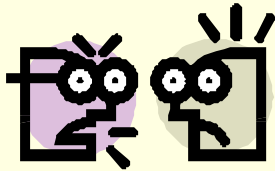
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## Relationships

1. We **live** by our relationships (Genesis 2)
2. We are **shaped** by our relationships
3. We **struggle** with relationships
4. We are **damaged** by relationships – Cain + Abel; Jacob + Esau; Joseph + bros



## Damage from relationships

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- Fear
- Rejection
- Worthlessness
- Anxiety to be accepted
- Betrayal
- Etc ....

## Conflict in relationships

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- Is natural
- Is more intense as you get closer
- Leaves us with a choice...



## Question 1

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**Do we attack people or issues??**

## Abraham's masterclass...

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  - No recriminations

## Abraham's masterclass...

1. **Talk directly** to the person concerned
2. **Refuse to make an enemy**
  - What am I aiming for? To win the argument or my brother? (Matthew 18: 15)
3. **Remember the issue is the issue**
  - No recriminations
4. **Think of the other person**

## Who's won???

### ■ Lot?

Got the best land  
The "whole plain"

Loses home, wife and  
nearly his life!!

### ■ Abraham?

More land than he can see  
More descendants than he  
can count

**We are never  
worse off  
for releasing  
what God wants us  
to let go of!**

## How do we hold God's gifts??



**God will only happily give us  
what we learn to let go of.**