

GOD IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

(15 minutes maximum. Discussion and summary sharing. No poster. This talk is given by an outside team member.)

Please limit your talk to the time allowed for this talk. In order to successfully complete the program every effort must be made to be on schedule. This is of the essence and hour cooperation is extremely important. If you are witnessing, please do it within the theme and within the outline of this talk.

Open with a short prayer.

Purpose: To encourage the candidates to find Jesus in their family relationships. You will also encourage them to continue their growth in their relationships with Jesus, with themselves and with others after this weekend is over. You must take into account that any family relationship for an inmate at this point is sustained by sporadic visits, letters and phone calls. This talk replaces the "Married Life" talk that was given on previous REC's. The relationships that should be addressed here are "family" relationships. Not all the men are married. Some have never been, some are divorced, many have children from different women. Your witness should be applicable to the kind of relationships they will have after release. At this point some family relationships may be strained and the inmate may feel guilty about it. All of the men will be released to a community where they will try to resume some type of relationship (with parents, wives, girlfriends or children). This talk should stress the importance of finding Jesus in each of those relationships no matter how strained they are.

Points to cover in your talk:

1. What are your primary family relationships? Are you a father, son, husband, boyfriend? What are the joys of those relationships. Give examples. What are the struggles and pains of those relationships? Give examples.
2. What kind of role Jesus plays in your family relationships? What is your responsibility for keeping God at the center of those relationships? How do you resolve problems in these relationships? Is God of any help to solve your family problems?
3. For many of the men, the relationships that they will return to after release or the ones they continue now, are strained or broken by a loss of trust. How can Jesus play a major role in rebuilding that trust?
4. Has God always been present in your family life? How is God shared in your family? How do you give support to the different family members in your family relationships? How do they support you? How can an inmate support and seek support from his family?

Lead the men into the table discussion of your talk. You can ask them to respond to a question and to write down that question. You can challenge them and offer a theme related to your talk for discussion. You can provoke and stimulate the discussion in the best way you can.