

SERIES: INSPIRED

WEEK 4: INFLUENCE

Proverbs 3: 3-4

Pastor Jon said that every relationship, every marriage, every friendship, and every business has a climate. The climate of these relationships influences, or dictates, the forecast, and the forecast will never change if the climate doesn't change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Did you have a best friend as a child? Why did you call each other 'best friends'? What characteristics did you have in common?

We all have a climate surrounding us. Looking from the other side, or outside yourself, how do you think others see your climate? What image do you project? How does our climate influence our relationships?

He also said that the number 1 climate changer is conflict. How do you view conflict, positively or negatively? Have you had an experience with a 'frozen' relationship in a marriage or a friendship? What were the circumstances and how did that feel? Did the relationship survive?

Read Proverbs 3: 3-4

Do you have different translations of these verses in your group? If so, read them. How do Solomon's words from Proverbs help us with the tension of a surface relationship.

The New Living Translation uses the word loyalty in verse 3. Pastor says that any time we retreat and avoid conflict, we are being disloyal to the relationship. What do you think about this? Agree or disagree? How you handle conflict? What did Pastor mean about a 'nothing' box? Do you, or someone you know, have a 'nothing' box?

The second word that Solomon uses, from the NLT translation, is kindness. Showing loyalty and kindness in any relationship are the Godly ways to handle conflict. And that is why the climate improves when conflict is resolved and not ignored.

KEEPING IN STEP:

This week, is there a conversation you need to have in a relationship or friendship of your own?

Pray that God will bravely help you to confront the conflict head-on, with kindness and loyalty to that relationship. Remember, God is appealing to the world through us, and by improving the climate of our relationships, we will be a positive influence in our circles, align ourselves with God's will, and be an inspiration to others.

