

## **SERIES TITLE**

COURAGEOUS

## **SERIES SUMMARY**

What do our shoes say about us? Whether it's a pair of work-boots, crocs, flip-flops, loafers, vans, or soccer cleats – each scuff, detail, and well-worn sole provides a glimpse into who we are and where we're going. We invite you to join us on this journey as we step into the shoes of those whose lives were touched by Jesus. Let their stories fill you with hope and inspire us all to live with courage and purpose.

## **SERMON TITLE**

COURAGEOUS RELATIONSHIPS

## **SERMON SUMMARY**

Gene emphasizes the importance of relationships, stating that life is significantly better when shared with others, as we are hardwired by God for connections. Genuine growth—spiritual and otherwise—occurs not in the rows of church gatherings but in the circles of community, where personal connections happen. He encourages listeners to take courageous steps towards forming deeper relationships, particularly through small groups, to unlock their full potential in life and faith.

## **ICE BREAKER**

If you could have any animal as a pet for a day, regardless of practicality or legality, what animal would you choose and why? What does this say about how you do relationships?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why do you think God created humans in His image and emphasized relationships right from the beginning, as mentioned in [Genesis 1:26](#)?
2. In the sermon, it was stated that 'relationships are God's eco-system to reach your full potential.' What do you think this means? Read [Proverbs 27:17](#). Can you think of a time when a relationship helped you grow or reach a goal? How did that relationship impact you?
3. Read [Acts 2:44-46](#). List the activities recorded here. Which of these courageous steps toward relationship to you find most compelling? Which do you yearn for most?
4. How do you think the idea of 'gathering in rows' for worship differs from 'gathering in circles' for relationships, as described in the message? Which do you think you benefit from more: large gatherings or small groups? Why?

5. Gene mentioned taking a 'courageous step' towards building relationships. What do you think might prevent someone from making that step? What is a courageous step you can take to move past your fears and start building meaningful relationships?

#### **PRAYER + WRAP UP**

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for the courage to build new relationships and strengthen an existing one.
- Ask God for guidance in being intentional about community throughout the week.