

**Review:**

**Principle #1: It all begins with God**

God has the wisdom and the skill to do relationships.

Proverbs 9:10

**Practice:**

Make God's Word your handbook for relational guidelines.

**Principle #2: Recognize everyone is desperately insecure**

Our fear-based insecurities begin at the fall of mankind.

Genesis 3

**Practice:**

Take off your mask. Authenticity builds genuine relational intimacy; hypocrisy destroys it.

**Principle #3: Everyone behaves in a way that makes sense to them**

When people act in immature, inappropriate ways, or even have patterns that appear dysfunctional and damaging, they are doing it for reasons that make sense to them.

*<sup>12</sup> There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)

We all have a way that seems right to us, but if it isn't in alignment with God's wisdom, it will produce tremendous conflict and the relationship will further deteriorate.

**Practice:**

1. Become a \_\_\_\_\_ of others' behavior to learn "the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the \_\_\_\_\_."

2. Choose to ask: "What is the most \_\_\_\_\_ explanation for their behavior?"

### Discussion Questions:

1. What from this message resonated with you the most? Why?
2. Why is it so important to understand that everyone acts in a way that makes sense to them?
3. To avoid misunderstandings you must learn the “why” behind the “what.” Is there someone in your life you need to become a “student” of? If so, what steps will you take to identify what makes sense to them?
4. Think of a time when you did not think generously of someone’s behavior. What was the outcome? What could you have done differently?
5. Take time to pray and ask God to help you be in alignment with His wisdom. Ask Him for patience and love for others as you begin to recognize that everyone acts in a way that makes sense to them.