

Where would we be without people? They're interesting, intriguing, and lovable. Relating to and getting along with some of them may not always be easy, however, and how well you do in your interactions with others has a major bearing on your happiness and theirs.

No one understands people better than Jesus, and no one can help you build successful relationships with others like He can. He holds the key to every heart, and wants to share it with you. Here's your chance to learn from the Master!

The 55 short messages from Jesus in this book will leave you with a fresh perspective on people and doable, sure-fire ideas for happier and more rewarding relationships.

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SUCCESS WITH PEOPLE

From Jesus with Love



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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures quoted in *From Jesus with Love* are from the New King James Version of the Bible © 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc. When other versions are quoted, some typographical changes have been made for the sake of clarity and uniformity.

INTRODUCTION

One of Jesus' critics once asked a question to test Him: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:36–40).

Another time, Jesus put it in a slightly different perspective when He told His disciples, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12). This saying is now commonly referred to as the Golden Rule, and it is, as you might have guessed, the secret of success with people and the focus of this book. This is a Golden Rule book for successful relationships with others.

Life can be tough at times, and often one of the toughest parts is getting along with people. But how you succeed with people has a major bearing on how you succeed in life. You may have made millions, you may be tops in your field, but if you haven't been an instrument of God's love to help better the lives of those around you and let Him better you in the process, you've been missing one of the best things in life!

The following messages from Jesus don't contain everything there is to know about developing successful relations with others, of course, but enough to get you well on your way. And there's lots more where this came from! Jesus wants to open a personal hotline between you and Him so He can give you the perfect, personalized answer to each question and problem you face. You, too, can hear directly from Jesus. He will speak to anyone who believes in Him, sincerely asks Him to speak, and then accepts by faith that what they "hear" in their heart or mind is truly Him speaking.

Open your heart to Jesus and receive His words of love and life, and you will be more successful in your relations with others and happier than ever.



THE SCHOOL OF LIFE



THE FOUR MEASURES

It's a quirk of human nature that those who generally have a positive effect on those around them often worry about their "people skills," whereas those who have more of a negative impact on others often aren't aware of how they come across, or may even think they do well in that area. As a result, many of those who could stand to improve the most keep repeating mistakes they probably would try harder to correct if they recognized the problem. To keep from falling into this trap, it's wise to assess your people skills from time to time.

Don't rely solely on your own assessment, either. Measure your interactions with others by My teachings in the Bible. Learning to apply the counsel you read there to yourself is always one of the smartest things you can do, and it has *lots* to say about human relations. And when I say apply, I mean *not* only acknowledge your weaknesses when My Word reveals them to you, but work at making the needed changes.

Next, ask Me what I think. Because I love you and want to see you succeed in your relationships with others, I will shoot straight with you regarding any social tendencies or habits you should change.

It's also wise to ask those you respect and trust how *they* see you. That takes humility, but you may gain invaluable insight.

To get the complete picture, it takes all four—your own assessment, My assessment, counsel from My Word, and the evaluation of others. Be encouraged by the positive and go to work on the negative. This isn't a once-and-for-all process, of course, but as you remain open to constructive criticism from these four sources, your people skills will blossom.

EMBRACE CHANGE

Are you set in your ways, or do you embrace new ideas? Do you welcome suggestions from others? Are you open to learning and trying new things? Are you willing to change things if someone else finds a better way?

It's often easier to keep doing things the old way than it is to change, or at least it can seem so at first. Change takes time and effort, but good changes are worth it in the long run. You shouldn't resist change, but you shouldn't go to the other extreme either of changing things just for the sake of change.

Some things never change—My love for you and My basic commandments and promises in the Bible—but in other areas I delight in change. Situations change. People change. You change! I don't like things to stagnate. I like innovation and progress, and I want you to as well. Be flexible. Flow with the new and move with Me, and you'll be much easier for Me and others to work with.

How do you know whether or not a certain change would be beneficial? The surest way is to ask Me. Get My stamp of approval. I can help you recognize opportunities for positive change and spare you from missteps. If a new idea has My blessing, your efforts will be rewarded as you act on it.





BE A STUDENT OF PEOPLE

Everyone has at least one good quality or skill to pass on, and a wise person will look for that something. What some people have to offer is obvious, but with others it is hidden and must be drawn out. The Bible says: “Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out” (Proverbs 20:5).

Sometimes the learning experience doesn't center on some special skill or knowledge the other person has, but from simply being around that person and partaking of his or her good qualities, such as faith, patience, optimism, or outgoing love and concern for others.

You can also learn from children. The Bible says of children “of such is the kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 19:14), and, “out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise” (Matthew 21:16). Little children, with their innocence and simple faith, can sometimes be the most profound teachers.

You can even learn from some people about how *not* to behave, what *not* to do, and why *not* to follow in their footsteps. It's been said that a wise man learns from his mistakes, but a wiser man learns from the mistakes of others.

If you can learn to see people from the angle of “this person has something to offer that can help make me a better person,” you'll not only learn something, but will also be more likely to focus on things you respect in them and thereby build stronger and more meaningful relationships.

LEARNING TO RELATE

A key to understanding others and therefore treating them right is to put yourself in their place. When I came to earth, I put Myself in your place and made Myself like you so I could better understand you. I experienced firsthand the difficulties of life. I got tired, hungry, sick, lonely, discouraged, and went through everything else you experience. And having done that, I can now truly feel for you, and help and comfort you the way you need Me to.

That's also the key to relating well to others—put yourself in their place. You can't totally change your circumstances like I did, and you don't need to. Just project yourself mentally into their circumstances.

For example, before you ask someone to do something that may seem simple and straightforward to you, consider first whether that person will feel the same. Or if someone is out of sorts or isn't being as productive as usual, think about what might be causing that person to act that way. This is a much safer way to operate than assuming the next person sees and feels the same way about things as you.

Walk a mile in another's shoes, as the saying goes, and you will be much more inclined to be understanding and supportive when the situation calls for that. Then adjust your expectations or presentation accordingly. Others will sense that you've anticipated their needs or concerns and taken their limitations into account, and this will help you live and work together better. Empathy helps create unity of spirit, and that's a wonderful thing!



FAILURE IS OPPORTUNITY

History is full of stories of people who were either blind to their faults and mistakes or refused to acknowledge them, and their pride was their downfall. How different things could have turned out if they would have been humble enough to admit when they were wrong.

What about you? Do you hide your mistakes? Or do you take the courageous path of owning up to them? Believe Me, most people will respect you more if you do. Sure, some people may rub it in or try to use your humbling for their own advantage, but that's their problem and does not indicate a weakness in your own character.

In the long run, character determines your worth. It's not the easy successes that prove your mettle, but how you pick yourself up after a fall and try again. By acknowledging and going on in spite of your failures, you'll also inspire others to not give up.

Failure is a step forward when you learn from it. Failure prepares the way for success by causing you to look hard at your plans and methods. If all those who eventually succeeded at what they set out to do had stopped at the first failure, you'd still be back in the Stone Age! Aren't you glad others took advantage of their failures? Won't you do the same?

