



Relationships

*h*

What **adjectives** best describe your family?

Traditional  
Blended  
Single  
Multi-generational  
Alternative

Struggling  
Hurting  
Wounded  
Broken  
Divorced



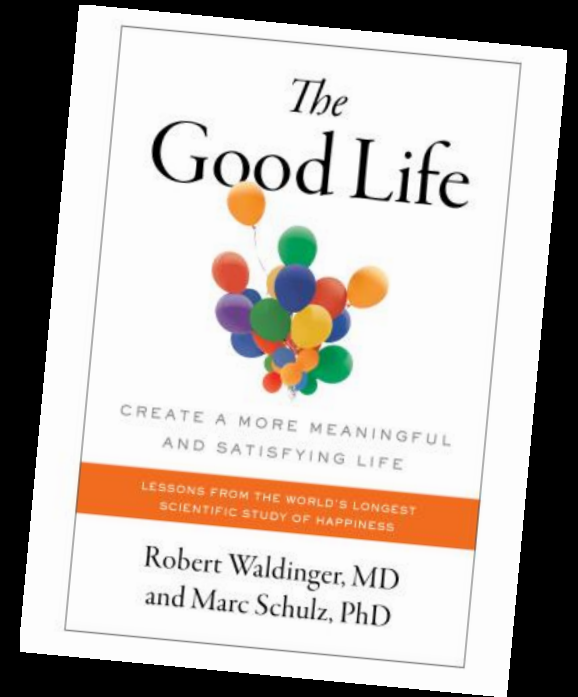




A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a dense field of dark roses. The petals are tightly packed and layered, creating a complex, swirling pattern of light and shadow. The overall tone is very dark, almost black, with subtle highlights on the edges of the petals. Centered over the roses is the text "RELATIONSHIPS MATTER!" in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER!





*Relationships are the key to a healthy human thriving.*

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The spheres are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth.

Relationships

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All families are messy.

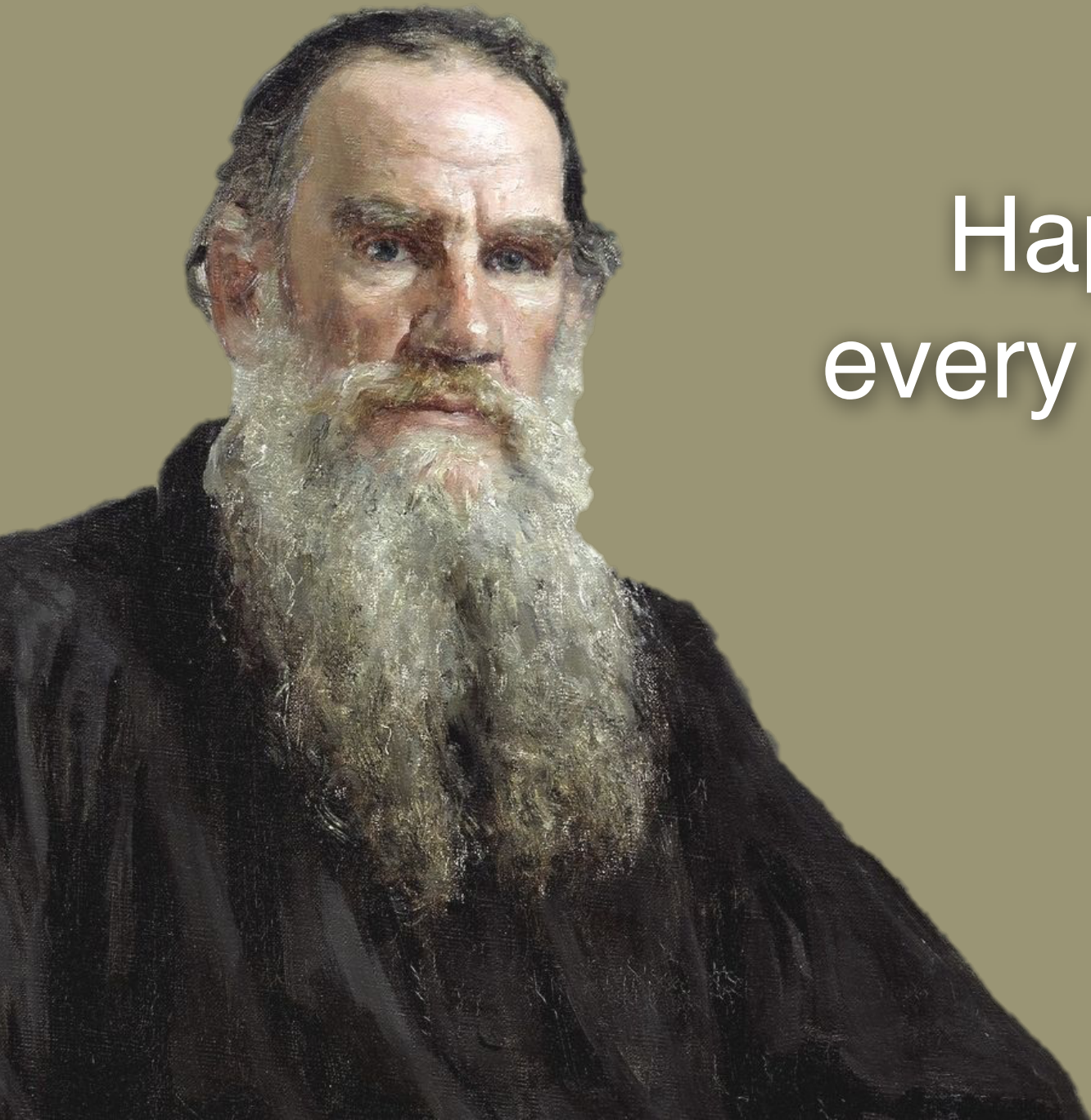
A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The word "Relationships" is written in a light gray serif font, with the letter "i" in "ips" crossed out by a red diagonal line.

Relationships

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All families are **messy**.  
Not all families are **in pain**.





Happy families are all alike;  
every unhappy family is unhappy  
in its own way.

Leo Tolstoy  
Anna Karenina



# Relationships

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Slip #1: Communication Breakdown

Slip #2: **Fractured Faith**

Slip #3: Mismanaged Disappointments

Slip #4: Busyness

At Risk  
Attacked  
Threatened



Relationships

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Families are in **pain** when they are  
**misaligned** with God's principles.



Relationships

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Families are happier and filled with joy  
when the are **aligned** with God's  
principles.





Relationships

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Learn • Obey • Share

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires. The wire for the second sphere from the right is highlighted in red.

Relationships

*h*

Relationships suffer when we ignore  
and disobey God's instructions.

I work with a man who says he is a Christian, and he teaches Sunday school at his church. **But** ... he is probably the most **negative** and **critical** person in the office. He often gets into **conflict** with people and draws other people into his little **battles**. He drags the whole office **down**. He's such a **hypocrite**.

We hear about the man who helps people every day through his encouragement and his wise, biblical counsel ... and returns home to **emotionally abuse** his wife with his relentless criticism.

We hear about the wife who says she is “saved” and grateful for God’s forgiveness, and yet **will not forgive** her husband when he manages his money poorly and takes the family into debt.



We hear about the father who, in his **anger and bitterness**, causes his children to lose all interest in the Christian faith.

We hear about the mother who thinks she is being a good model to her children because she attends a weekly Bible study but doesn't recognize the **damage** caused by her **preoccupation** with **materialism and worldly success**.



Are you living what you believe?  
Are you practicing what you preach?





Relationships

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Failure to live with sincere faith is a  
threat to our relationships.



A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin silver strings. The string of the second sphere from the right is highlighted in red.

Relationships

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Be real! Live with sincere faith at home  
(and everywhere else!).

I am reminded of your **sincere faith**,  
which first lived in your grandmother  
Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I  
am persuaded, now lives in you also.

2 Timothy 1:5 | NIV



GOD GIVES US TWO PRINCIPLES  
AND FOUR PRACTICES FOR  
SINCERE FAITH.

These are the commands, decrees and  
laws the Lord your God directed me to  
**teach you to observe ...**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | NIV



Relationships

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God's commands,  
decrees and laws

=

God's Way  
God's Principles



Relationships

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First Things First!  
Make God's way your way every day!



Relationships

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Get in alignment with  
God's way for living.



Relationships

*h*

Determine to make  
God's way your **everyday** way.





Relationships

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Why?

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The spheres are arranged in a horizontal line, with the central one slightly lower than the others.

Relationships

*h*

Life is **much better**  
when God has his way!

These are the commands, decrees and laws  
the Lord your **God directed** me to teach you to  
observe ... **so that**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | NIV

so that **you**, your **children** and their **children after them** ...

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | NIV

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The spheres are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth.

Relationships

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This is for **every person**  
in every family.

so that ...

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | NIV

so that you, your children and their  
children after them may fear the  
Lord your God as long as you live by  
keeping all his decrees and commands  
that I give you ...

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | NIV

... and so that you may  
enjoy long life.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 | NIV





Relationships

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How?

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The word "Relationships" is written in a white serif font, with the letter 'i' in "ips" crossed out by a red diagonal line.

Relationships

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Apply Two Principles

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, **the Lord is one.**

Deuteronomy 6:4 | NIV

There is a God!

There is a God!

1. Acknowledge him continually.

**Love the Lord** your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your  
strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5 | NIV

There is a God!

2. Love him completely.



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Make love for God  
the purpose of your family.





Relationships

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Live Four Habitual Practices

These commandments that I give you  
today are to be **on your hearts**.

Deuteronomy 6:6 | NIV

**Internalize** God's way!



A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The word "Relationships" is written in a white serif font, with the letter "i" in "Relationships" being red and slightly tilted.

Relationships

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Make it **real**.  
It starts with you!

**Impress** them on your children.

Deuteronomy 6:7a | NIV



**Instruct** God's way!



Take responsibility for  
teaching your children.

Children can never **learn to love**  
what they do not know.

**Talk about them** when you sit at home  
and when you walk along the road, when  
you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:7b | NIV

Talk God's way!



A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The word "Relationships" is written in a light gray serif font, with the letter "i" in the "ships" part being red. The letter "h" is written in a white script font below the word.

Relationships

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This is not moralizing or preaching.



Relationships

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It is illustrating God's way  
in every day.



Relationships

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Where do you share?



Talk about them when you **sit at home** and  
when you **walk along the road** ...

Deuteronomy 6:7b | NIV

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The sphere on the far right is in motion, having just struck or about to strike the others, creating a slight blur and a red motion line.

Relationships

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Where do you share?  
**Everywhere!**

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The spheres are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth.

Relationships

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**When** do you share?

Talk about them ... when you lie down  
and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:7b | NIV

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin wires against a black background. The word "Relationships" is written in white, with the letter "i" in red and a red checkmark over it.

Relationships

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When do you share?

**All the time!**

Tie them as symbols on your **hands** and bind them on your **foreheads**. Write them on the **doorframes** of your houses and on your **gates**.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 | NIV











Tie them as **symbols** on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 | NIV

**Apply** God's way!





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**Hands** – apply God's way  
to what you **do**.



Relationships

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**Foreheads** – apply God's way  
to your **thoughts and attitudes**.

A Newton's cradle with five silver spheres hanging from thin silver strings. The string of the second sphere from the right is highlighted in red.

Relationships

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Doorframes and gates – apply  
God's way to the people around you.



Relationships

*h*

GOD'S CAN **LIVE** IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS.

In Your Family ...

**Internalize** God's way

**Instruct** God's way

**Talk** God's way

**Apply** God's way

In Your Family ...

Make God's way  
your every day way.



The place to start is that family faith is  
**non-negotiable.** Nothing matters  
more!



# Challenge

Pray more with people.



Make regular prayer a  
routine part of your family life.





# Extreme Challenge

Have a **family conversation** about  
how to live out the instructions  
of Deuteronomy 6:4-9.



Relationships

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