



Today's Lesson

Love's Classroom

Power Point notes available at:

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Love's Classroom

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.
- Antoine de Saint-Exupery.



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Charles Fillmore had this to say about the attribute of love: "In Divine Mind, love is the power that joins and binds in divine harmony the universe and everything in it; the great harmonizing principle known to man."

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As William Shakespeare put it: "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players."

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It has occurred to me that if the whole world is our stage to play out how we love one another, then the relationships we have become the classroom where we get to learn what it means to love one another.

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The Master Teacher was no stranger to the power of love and how it was to be directed toward others, and God: *Love God, love neighbor as self.* And he told his followers: *This is my commandment: to love one another as I have loved you.*

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As someone once said: *The person who has learned to keep his relationships in perfect repair is a very wise person indeed.*

But sometimes you may have to get the other person's attention: *A doctor conducting a physical examination noticed bad bruises on the patient's shins. "Are those from playing hockey or soccer?" asked the doctor. "Neither," replied the patient. "I got them playing bridge."*

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Once Henry Ford was having lunch with a man when suddenly he asked him, "Who is your best friend?" The man started naming certain people. "No," replied Ford, "Let me tell you who your best friend is." He then took out a pencil and wrote on the tablecloth this sentence:



"Your best friend is anyone who brings out the best that is within you."

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In his book Illustrations Unlimited, James Hewett tells this story about relationship:

When we brought our new satellite dish system, the neighbors gathered to help us install it. Since we only had the simplest of tools, we weren't making much progress...until a man who was new on the block showed up with an elaborate tool box, with everything we needed to get it up and running in record time.

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As we stood around congratulating ourselves on the piece of good fortune, we asked our new neighbor what he made with such fancy tools. He looked at us all then smiled and answered, "Great relationships mostly."

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What can we expect to learn in love's classroom of relationships?

In their book Life Lessons David Kessler and the late Elisabeth Kubler-Ross share these lessons found in love's classroom on relationships:

Lesson #1 We will have many relationships in our lifetime. Some we will choose, while others come into our lives by divine design.

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Lesson #2 These relationships offer us the biggest opportunities for learning lessons in life by discovering four basic things: who we are; what we fear; where our power comes from; and the meaning of real love.

Lesson #3) Relationships happen every time we meet and interact with others. The common denominator is YOU.

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Lesson #4 The attitude—positive or negative, hopeful or hateful – what we bring to one relationship we bring to all our relationships.

Lesson #5 There are no accidental meetings when it comes to our relationships. Every meeting, every encounter, or exchange with another, no matter how brief or profound, how positive, neutral or painful, is meaningful, and potentially important.

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Lesson #6 Every person we encounter acts as the catalyst for us to create happiness and love, or to create struggle and unhappiness.

Lesson #7 Behind our quest to be in relationship is our basic demand for healing, happiness, love, security, friendship, gratification, and companionship. We also want them to “fix” our lives, to lift us out of depression or bring us incredible joy.

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Lesson #8 All relationships end. Relationships are not suppose to last a lifetime. It is a very rare case when two people meet, fall in love, and pass on together. The length of a relationship is never wrong, so to judge them as a failure if they do not last is not seeing the real purpose for the relationship—to teach us something about ourselves; to help us heal what needs to be healed and to reveal what needs to be revealed.

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Lesson #9 People recycle in our lives. Until we learn what we need to learn, heal the issues we need to heal, forgive the issues we need to forgive--the reason for a particular relationship keeps coming up. The people and faces change, the reason for the relationship doesn't.

Lesson #10 There are no mistakes in relationships; everything unfolds the way it's supposed to. We learn through them to see our souls and to deliver ourselves to healing. This is love's true goal!

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All relationships help us with our needs and the need to be heard is one of the biggest reasons why most relationships end up in the waste basket of life due to a misunderstanding because we didn't hear what was really being said, as illustrated in this little story:

A four-year-old boy was overheard praying one night, having been listening to the minister at church:

“And forgive us our trashbaskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.”