

# God's Design for Community

## Your Facilitator

Gaylyn Williams is an inspirational and motivational speaker and author. She has written [three online courses](#) and twenty-eight books including [2031 Names for God](#), [All Stressed Up and Everywhere to Go](#) and [Never Do Fundraising Again](#). Gaylyn uses her skills to educate and transform her audience. Her stories and illustrations reflect the power of God's sustaining grace.



Gaylyn was raised as a missionary kid in Guatemala. She served with Wycliffe Bible Translators for sixteen years and The Navigators for three. Since 1999, she has been the executive director of Relationship Resources. She is the mother of two married sons and lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

You can contact her at [gaylyn@gaylyn.net](mailto:gaylyn@gaylyn.net).

## Relationship Resources, Inc.

Relationship Resources facilitates growth for believers and not-yet believers in their relationships with God, themselves, and other people. They provide practical, biblical workshops and materials designed to empower and equip people in their lives, work and ministries.

Learn more at <http://RelationshipResources.org>.

## Course Description

This is an online self-study course, but is also available as live instruction. Contact Relationship Resources for more information: [info@RelationshipResources.org](mailto:info@RelationshipResources.org).

We live in a variety of communities, including family, church, ministry, life group, business and more. How we relate to one another will demonstrate whether we are living in ways that glorify God. One of our goals should be to interact with the people in our lives so they will be drawn to God, us and our communities.

In this practical, biblical course you will discover how to:

- Cultivate strong communities that glorify God and draw people to Him and to your group—both believers and not-yet believers
- Deepen your personal knowledge of the Bible
- Grow in your relationship with God
- Learn how to live out God's Word in all your relationships
- Discover step-by-step, practical applications to enrich your life

- Develop effective communication expertise to deepen your connections
- Discern what others are communicating to you, both verbally and nonverbally
- Challenge your personal and community core beliefs
- Build rapport with others quickly, to enhance your interactions and communication
- Create receptivity to your ideas
- Establish a bond of trust resulting in long-term, meaningful associations
- Break free of your fears and the security of your comfort zone, pushing you beyond whatever hinders your relationships

This course is based on the book and subsequent workshops called *Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills* written by Ken and Gaylyn Williams, a father-daughter team. Ken, with a PhD in human behavior, and his wife Bobbie served with Wycliffe Bible Translators for fifty-five years.

The principles in this course have been tested and proven with over forty-thousand people worldwide for over forty years. In this course you'll discover biblical principles that are critical for your life and relationships. I challenge you not only to study it, but to put each part into practice.

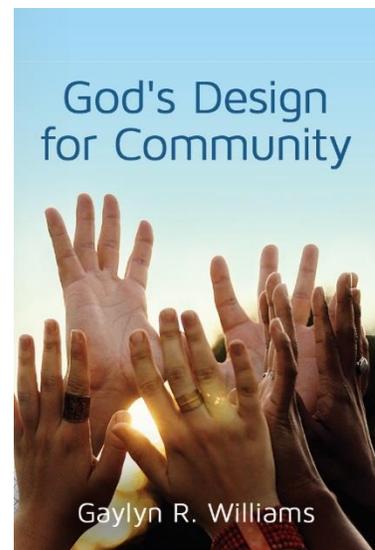
### Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will:

- Have the tools to grow in all your relationships, learning to apply proven, biblical principles. People skills are essential in every area of your life with—students, faculty, family, friends, coworkers, boss, fellow believers as well as not-yet believers.
- Gain practical biblical direction so you can be victorious in your life and your communities.
- Be equipped to grow in how you relate to others in your attitudes, knowledge and skills, equipping you with the ability to build strong relationships.
- Be able to teach your students these powerful, life-enhancing skills.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities:

- Watch each video and practice each of the skills.
- Study each section, including the Bible studies, working through the skills.
- Take self-assessments to determine how you are currently doing in your relationships.
- Participate in the discussion forums, answering questions and commenting.



## Course Materials

All materials are included in the course, except your Bible and a journal if you want one. These are:

**Forums.** You will encounter numerous discussion forums that ask you to reply to a question that corresponds with the material of the course. Feel free to browse the forums for ideas, encouragement or pitfalls to avoid. We recommend that you participate fully in them, as you will find that you learn more when you are sharing with others.

**Videos.** Gaylyn will introduce each lesson and emphasize the key parts of each principle.

**PDFs.** Each lesson has a PDF to read explaining the skill, grounding it in the Bible and giving practical advice. These are taken from your instructor's forthcoming book, *God's Design for Community*.

**Self-Assessments.** Each Key contains self-assessment tools to identify current skills. You'll evaluate how effective you are at using your newly acquired abilities with your students, family and others.

**Practice Makes Perfect.** Each Key provides practical tips and tools for improvements. Most of the skills are demonstrated in videos, so you can see how to do—or not do—the skill. You'll have an opportunity to practice what you've learned.

**Activities.** Each lesson also includes practical activities to help you engage the principle and begin applying it to all your relationships. Integrate God's Word, knowledge and abilities to effectively apply them in your personal and professional life.

**Snapshots Page.** Each lesson gives you an opportunity to note what you want to take away from it. These snapshots can include your highlights, key insights, questions you still have or action steps for you to take. When finished with the course, all your snapshots will be in one place to take with you.

**Powerful Stories.** Through their personal stories, learn how the authors applied the key principles. You will also consider real-life situations to emphasize effective responses and communication.

**Questions for Personal or Group Study** Dig deeper personally or with others through thought-provoking questions and Bible studies.

**Verse to Meditate on and/or Memorize.** Each lesson gives one or more verses to focus on that will empower you to apply the truth of God's Word.

## Course Requirements

You will need a computer with an internet connection. If it is not sufficient to stream video, each video has a transcript that you may download and read offline.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Course Schedule

This course is divided into seven Keys with twenty-two lessons. Each Key explores a practical skill, you can apply to relationships with anyone in your communities—family members, friends, colleagues and even acquaintances. It is designed so you can work at your own pace. We recommend giving yourself enough time to practice the principles. There are no expected due dates for activities or course completion. As you complete the activities, your communication skills and knowledge of Scripture will be strengthened.

Each Key is divided up as follows:

1. The first one or two chapters under each Key provide a big-picture overview of the concept. Discover a deeper understanding of real-life, practical information focused on critical concepts, grounded in the Word.
2. The following chapter, entitled “Reality Check,” contains self-assessment tools to identify current skills. You’ll evaluate how effective you are at using your newly acquired abilities with your family as well as others.
3. The final chapter in each section—“Practice Makes Perfect”—provides practical tips and tools for improvements. Most of the skills are demonstrated in videos, so you can see how to do—or not do—the skill. You’ll have an opportunity to practice what you’ve learned.

*Key #1: Lay the Foundation* unlocks the connection between how God sees us and how we treat others.

### Lesson 1: Who’s Your Daddy?

Before you can begin to improve your relationships with people in your communities, you need to know who you are and how God sees you. Here is some of what you’ll learn in this lesson:

- Nine distinctions between an orphan and a loved child
- Nine powerful statements about how God sees you
- Four passages with interactive questions about how God sees you
- Five truths about how God sees other believers
- Nine pieces of clothing to put on every day

### Lesson 2: How Do I Handle Hurt and Injustice?

Here is some of what you’ll learn in this lesson:

- Two biblical ways to handle hurt and injustice
- Four truths about bearing with others
- Nine practical issues to consider about forgiveness

- Four ways unforgiveness can destroy us
- Seven steps to forgiveness
- Five questions answered about forgiveness
- Four myths about forgiving

### Lesson 3: Reality Check: What Do I Really Believe?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Six insights into core beliefs that influence relationships
- Seven ways to determine your personal core beliefs
- Three core beliefs that are foundational to relationships
- Ten self-assessment questions to determine how you are at living in community

### Lesson 4: Practice Makes Perfect: Laying the Foundation

This "Practice Makes Perfect" section will be different than the others. In this one, you will do more evaluation and talking to the Lord about how you are feeling. Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Five more truths about how God sees you
- Three passages on how God wants us to treat others
- Two fictional scenarios to determine how you would respond
- Ten questions for personal or group study

*Key #2: STOP in the Name of Love!* unlocks readers' potential by helping them stop sabotaging their relationships.

### Lesson 5: Ambushed!

People do and say things that damage relationships in their communities—with spouses, family members, friends and colleagues. Often they don't even realize what they are doing. Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Four questions to consider about your relationships
- Three primary ways to improve your people skills
- Four common ways people sabotage their relationships
- Two ways nonverbal communication speaks louder than words
- One core belief about nonverbal communication
- Six questions for personal or group study

### Lesson 6: How Do I Stop Doing Something I'm Not Aware I'm Doing?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Five questions to determine if you may be sabotaging relationships
- Four ways to become aware of when you sabotage relationships
- Four of the most destructive saboteurs
- Seven statements to help you understand gossip and slander
- Seven verses revealing more destructive behavior

Lesson 7: Reality Check: What Am I Doing Wrong?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Fifteen statements to help you determine how much you may be damaging your relationships with both family and friends
- Forty-six verbal and nonverbal saboteurs that reveal what you may be doing without recognizing it
- Two hypothetical scenarios assist you to gauge how you would react to specific situations

Lesson 8: Practice Makes Perfect: How Can I Stop Sabotaging My Relationships?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Six things you can start doing today to transform your relationships
- Sixteen Scriptures about relationship saboteurs
- One demonstration about how people may sabotage relationships
- Four ways to stop gossip or slander
- Seven questions for personal or group study

*Key #3: Listen Up* unlocks understanding.

Lesson 9: Can You Hear Me Now?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Six key biblical principles to help you listen and respond effectively
- Two key levels people may be speaking from and how to respond to them on the corresponding level
- Six qualities Jesus demonstrated in His interactions with people
- Understanding cultural relevance when you are with people from other cultures
- Three core beliefs about listening that dramatically affect your relationships

Lesson 10: Reality Check: What Kind of Listener Am I?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Fifteen statements to assess how you're doing at really hearing the people around you
- Thirty-one habits you can apply to build your relationships
- Three hypothetical scenarios help you evaluate old and new options that will give you increased understanding of the people around you

Lesson 11: Practice Makes Perfect: How Can I Build My Relationships?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Two active listening exercises
- Five strategies you can implement *today* to build intimacy in all your relationships
- Nine verses about how God listens to you and five verses about how to listen
- Five practical tools for personal or group study to help you better receive what others express to you

*Key #4: Unravel the Mystery* unlocks intimacy in relationships.

Lesson 12: Recognizing Clues to Greater Intimacy

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Two of the most powerful interpersonal skills you can develop
- Eight descriptions of heart clues people give revealing they want to communicate on a deeper level
- Fifteen nonverbal clues and four types of verbal clues
- Three variables to help you learn to focus your responses to clues
- Three core beliefs that affect the depth of your communication

Lesson 13: "Elementary, My Dear Watson!"

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- You suspect someone is open to deeper communication ... now what?
- Four ways to respond to clues with advantages and disadvantages for each
- Four types of questions and how to use them effectively
- Nineteen ways to relate to someone without turning the conversation to yourself (using self-disclosure)
- Sixteen personal responses that create a healthy environment for greater intimacy in relationships (using observations)

Lesson 14: Reality Check: How Am I Doing at Pursuing Intimacy in My Relationships?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Fifteen statements to assess how you're doing at pursuing greater depth and connection in your relationships
- Three hypothetical scenarios to gauge what you would do in each
- Five of Jesus' nonverbal clues

Lesson 15: Practice Makes Perfect: How Can I Better Recognize and Respond to Clues?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Practice exercises designed to help you pursue greater intimacy in your relationships
- Three strategies to help you move to a deeper relational level
- One fictional scenario with five questions to help you determine how you would respond
- Eight questions that will help improve your skills at drawing people out to build deeper relationships
- Nine open questions Jesus used to draw people out
- Two passages to help you learn to recognize and respond to clues

*Key #5: Nurture Trust* unlocks a healthy foundation for relationships

### Lesson 16: If You Build It, They Will Come

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Seven questions to reflect on
- Five core beliefs about trust
- A distinction between healthy and unhealthy trust
- Two skills necessary for building personal trust
- One of the most damaging trust busters
- Four generational responses to trust
- Six questions to consider about community trust
- Three ways to build trust within your sphere of influence

### Lesson 17: Reality Check: How Am I at Building Trust?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Fifteen statements to assess how you're doing
- Three hypothetical scenarios to gauge how you would react to specific situations
- Six Scriptures on being the kind of person others can trust

### Lesson 18: Practice Makes Perfect: How Can I Build Trust?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Five issues to consider about personal trust
- Eight subjects to discuss with others in your community
- An opportunity to role-play building trust
- Nine Scriptures revealing trust busters
- Nine questions to discuss with people close to you

*Key #6: Cultivate Life* unlocks the power of encouragement.

### Lesson 19: Helping Folks Bloom Where They're Planted

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Three reasons why encouragement is so important to God
- Two kinds of encouragement
- Three ways to inspire others, even if you don't have the spiritual gift
- Five ground rules for being a good encourager
- Five love languages to help you determine what encourages others
- Nine ways to encourage others as a community
- Seven passages revealing how God encourages us
- Suggestions on how to encourage others when we need encouragement ourselves

### Lesson 20: Reality Check: How Am I Doing at Cultivating Life?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Sixteen statements to assess how you're doing at encouraging
- Two hypothetical scenarios help you evaluate old habits and new options for cultivating life and growth in the people around you
- Ten scriptural commands to encourage others

### Lesson 21: Practice Makes Perfect: How Can I Become More of an Encourager?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- One extremely powerful tool to encourage others
- Four practical strategies for inspiring others
- Three things you can start to do *today* to cultivate life in people around you
- Seven questions for personal or group study
- Seven Scriptures to help you encourage others

*Key #7: Overcome Obstacles* solidifies the skills learned.

### Lesson 22: What Now?

Here is some of what you'll learn in this lesson:

- Three commitments you can make
- Twenty self-assessment questions to determine how you are doing at living in community
- Three areas to assess your response to this study
- Three personal issues to examine
- Two specific ways to continue to grow in these skills
- Six ways to improve your community

I pray as you go through this course, God will use it in your life to empower you to be more effective in all you do. I'd love to hear how God uses it for you.

Blessings,

Gaylyn Williams

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