

MATTHEW 13:44-46

Finding our purpose and identity in the Kingdom of God means looking at our relationship with God - and this week, Andy did a wonderful job of examining the types of relationship we can have through Matthew 13:44-46, and the Methodist Covenant.

We can have a superficial, 'toilet paper' relationship: thin and easily broken. Or a rule based 'paper chain' relationship that is on our terms. Or a sometimes close, sometimes far away 'elastic band' relationship that can snap and hurt us. Lastly, a secure connection through the 'rope' relationship is strong, firm, dependable.

But through the parables, God challenges us to give everything we have to Him, 'selling' all we have, to be close to him.

You can read the full Covenant here: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/a-covenant-with-god/>



01 — Your relationship with God

Think carefully about what kind of relationship you have: toilet paper, paper chain, elastic band, or rope. If you feel comfortable, share with the group. What sacrifices do we have to make to gain the 'rope' relationship with God? The man had to sell everything to gain the field or the pearl. What haven't we 'sold'?



02 — Where else in the Bible do we see this

God asks for everything several times in the Bible. What other Biblical characters give up a great deal, or everything, to follow God? What happens to them?



03 — The Methodist Covenant

How do the words of the covenant challenge you? What words within it do you 'treasure', and which make you uncomfortable?



04 — Practising what (Andy) preaches

In your hearts, do you feel unsatisfied with the relationship you have with God? Are there parts of your life we haven't given to him?

