



Personal relationships are on the decline in our current society. Due to living fast-paced lives, constantly surrounded and invested in social media, both the quantity and quality of friendships and personal connections have declined. In this audio presentation, Sally teaches us about six T's that will help us and those around us to thrive in life. Many of these T's are in direct opposition to what the world teaches, as is often the case with God's ways. We must be intentional to cultivate these things for ourselves and our children.

## **#1 Touch**

### **Read**

Matthew 10: 13-16

Isaiah 66: 12-13

1 Kings 19: 3-9

John 13: 1-17

### **Reflect**

What do these verses reveal to us of God's view of personal touch? Who in your life needs you to initiate appropriate personal touch? Be brave and be the first to hug, offer a back scratch, or to cuddle a cranky toddler. We all need someone to show affection to us.

## #2 Talk

### Read

Proverbs 18: 21

Proverbs 15: 14

Ephesians 4: 29

### Reflect

As Sally's story about the emergency room doctor shows, it is often "easier" to shut down and ignore the needs of those around us. God does not want us to disengage, but to engage, to encourage, and to draw out the hearts of those around us. Is there someone that God is putting on your heart right now who needs you to listen? Is there a teen that needs your time in order to feel safe to open up and share his/her concerns? Are you listening and reacting to your husband as he shares about his day? Ask God to give you the patience to interrupt your projects and focus on the people around you.

## #3 Taste and See

### Read

Psalm 34: 8

1 Peter 2: 2-3

Psalm 19: 1-10

## **Reflect**

We are not one-dimensional beings! God created us with senses to observe and enjoy his masterfully created world. Sometimes we feel guilty for the very things that God wanted us to enjoy. How can you light a candle in the darkness of your circumstances? Your children's image of God is formed through how you live your life out. How can you help them view God as a grand artist today?

## **#4 Teach**

### **Read**

Psalm 32:8

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

Matthew 7: 24-26

## **Reflect**

Teaching is such a crucial part of maturing. We need God to teach us of Him and His word, as we need to pass on those things to our children. If we submerge ourselves in God's word, we will have His truths engrained upon our hearts, minds, and souls. Are you spending time with the Lord, learning from the Master Teacher? How are you passing on those things to your children? Choose one book to read this month that will challenge you to grow in excellence. (Biographies are a great place to start!)

## #5 Train

### Read

Psalm 34: 11

Proverbs 3: 1-4

### Reflect

Training and teaching are often confused. Teaching is to know and impart knowledge. Training is applying that knowledge to build a life of character. What is one area of character that you'd like the Lord to grow in you this year? Pray about what your children need to be trained in. We have the privilege of helping them to practice living with godly character and when they go out into the world on their own, they will have a strong foundation to stand on.

## #6 Tell Forward

### Read

Matthew 16: 18

Hebrews 11: 13

John 1: 47-50

Matthew 26: 6-13

**Reflect**

As you reflect on the verses above, what is God impressing on your heart about your children? Jesus called Peter, Nathaniel, and Mary forward into the story he was writing about them and their part to play. We get to do the same with our children. What language can you use to tell forward into your children's lives?

**Conclusion**

The Six T's are guidelines to build relationships of love and trust with those around you. Spend some time in prayer and ask God how and when you can apply these as you walk through life today, this week and into the future.