The relationships that you have with each member of your core group will vary. Your goal should be to consistently go deeper in your communication with your students. Seek out ways to go from level 5 to level 4, to level 3 and so on...eventually maybe even a level 1 relationship with a student.

- **Level 5 – Cliché Conversation**
  “Hi, how are you?” Nothing is really given of the self at this level. No risk is taken; yet some interaction has taken place. It is a kind of “social grease”. We slip by each other comfortably and easily, yet we never touch. “Hey Guy” “Hey Dude” (I see you, I’m speaking in your direction, but I’m not expecting you to necessarily respond.)

- **Level 4 – Reporting External Facts**
  At this level virtually nothing of the self is communicated. All that is learned about the person is what he or she observed or heard. “Great weather we’re having” “How ‘bout the Cubs?” “Did you see that new movie?” “Where do you go to school?”

- **Level 3 – Reporting Personal Ideas, Judgments, and Opinions.**
  Now we are getting somewhere. Risks are taken at this level because our personal beliefs can draw anger, hurt, and other reactions squarely toward us. A lot of conflicts occur over personal ideas, opinions and judgments because they are typically see the world from different perspectives. “What do you think about what she said?” “Where do you stand on this issue?”

- **Level 2 – Reporting Feelings and Emotions**
  This is “gut level” communication, the level where the greatest risk is experienced. Sharing your feelings with others leaves you far more vulnerable than simply sharing thoughts. Members of a healthy, dynamic group must share more than the facts with each other. Healthy, vibrant group communication requires this level of sharing on a consistent basis. “So how does all that make you really feel?” “Didn’t that just crush you?” “I know I would have felt crushed.” “I know we’ve been praying for that for a long time. Are you feeling betrayed?”

- **Level 1 – Peak Communication**
  Consistent, open, mutual communication of feeling between two people will periodically bring about spontaneous moments of what feels like perfect, mutual empathic understanding. You know the other person at the same time they know you. These are beautiful moments to be savored, with the understanding that they cannot be planned or enjoyed forever.