



# GroveGROUPS Sermon Guide

Can You Relate ~W3 “Breaking Through Your Own Reflection” ~ Bill Clark ~ 9/25/22

## OVERVIEW

This week we’re taking about “breaking through our own reflection,” or in other words knocking down the barrier of being focused on ourselves more than on Jesus and those around us. Think about it... When you're in a room with others are you thinking about connecting or worried about what you wore? Are you genuinely trying to get to know others or are you focused on being funny enough, having control of the conversation or fitting in? Sometimes we can allow the dialog in our minds that is focused on “us” trump the opportunity we have to connect in meaningful ways with others. When we fight the urge to be heard, understood or have the spotlight in a room or conversation then Jesus and truly loving others can become the breakthrough we desire when looking for authentic community.

## ICEBREAKER

Describe a situation, setting or group of people where you feel comfortable and confident to be yourself. What situations or types of groups make you anxious, nervous or are difficult for you to connect in?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ 1 Samuel 13:1-14.
2. During this time burnt offerings and peace offering were done by priests. In this account they would have been done by Samuel. That was God’s design at that time. Based on the text, why did Saul take matters into his own hands?
3. Saul’s focus seemed to be on his timing and his way. He didn’t have patience to wait on Samuel and ultimately didn’t trust God to handle the enemy. Can you relate? Are there times in your life when you have a one track mind too, when whatever you’re trying to accomplish needs to be done your way and in your time? How could this mindset be a barrier to your relationship with Jesus and others?
4. Retraining our brains to take the focus off of us and put it on God’s plan for us and how that might call us to love others is a skill that has to be intentionally developed. What are some “exercises” you could add to your day that could help you become more “others-focused” rather than “self-focused?” If something immediately comes to mind, write it down or share it with your group.
5. Deepening relationships is hard for most people what is one small baby step you could take this week in that direction?

## SERMON QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Breaking through loneliness often starts with getting out of our own way and being more mindful of others than ourselves.”

## EXTRA CREDIT

### MONDAY/TUESDAY

READ Philippians 2:1-5.

Did any of the characteristics of Jesus’ attitude in these verses jump out to you? How could you apply that characteristic in your own life and relationships today?

### WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY

READ 1 Peter 5:5-6.

Do you ever feel like you're not getting the credit you deserve? What would it look like for you to let others be greater than you today? Can you trust Jesus that you will be lifted up at the right time? In HIS time? Read 1 Peter 5:7 and if this is a struggle for you spend some time talking to Jesus and letting Him know how hard this is for you.

### FRIDAY/SATURDAY

READ Ephesians 4:2.

Has someone wronged you recently? Who do you need to “make allowance” for or forgive today?

## NEXT STEPS

We all want to be heard and understood, however sometimes our need to be the focus of a conversation can hinder our ability to connect with others. Read the following statements. If any of these statements are difficult for you, be honest with God about that difficulty. Let Him begin to work in you in a different way to relate to others.

- In groups or conversations do you need to be the one talking?
- In groups or conversations do you have to have the last word or always be right?
- In groups or conversations do you sometimes elaborate or exaggerate about yourself?
- In conversations are you thinking about the next thing you’ll say instead of listening?