



GroveGROUPS Sermon Guide

Can You Relate? ~W5 “Breaking Through ‘Never Again’” ~ Bill Clark ~ 10/9/22

OVERVIEW

Have you ever heard the phrase “fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me?” If you’ve been hurt deep enough to say “never again,” this week’s barrier could be keeping you from the next level in relationships with others and with Jesus. In any good, close, long-term relationship, pain is almost always inevitable. However, if we choose to bail out of those relationships instead of pushing through the pain we might be allowing ourselves to become guarded, cautious and even controlling of those around us. God’s design is for us to connect authentically to Him and to others. This week we’ll try to knock down the barrier of “never again” by opening our hearts and eyes to seeing others with the same redemptive eyes Jesus sees us.

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever tried something and gotten hurt? Did it make you decide to never try it again or were you able to pick yourself up and give it another shot?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: If within your conversation, a level of abuse is addressed that you are not comfortable to respond to, feel free to encourage that group member to talk with one of our ministers.)

1. READ Genesis 45:4-10.
2. Joseph’s story is full of the physical and emotional pain of rejection by his brothers and other relationships he experienced. Thrown in a pit and sold into slavery was the way his twelve brothers expressed their feelings toward him. Joseph could have responded many different ways. What could some of his reactions been based on the way he was treated?
3. What was Joseph’s actual reaction when finally being reunited with his brothers?
4. Have you ever experienced a relationship where you felt a desire to cut that person off, hold a grudge or want to take revenge? Does that relationship look the same today? Why or why not?
5. God gave Joseph the ability to see his circumstances through redemptive eyes. Do you believe that God can do the same for us in our broken relationships?
6. If group members are dealing with broken relationships, end your time together praying for God to begin working in those relationships.

SERMON QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Many human beings miss out on rich, deep connection and community because the moment they experience some kind of hurt, they bail out.”

EXTRA CREDIT

MONDAY/TUESDAY

READ about the life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. His story is a fascinating account of a man who was betrayed by relationship after relationship but still hung on to God’s plan and purpose for his life.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY

READ Genesis 50:20.

Do you think it’s possible that the painful situation or relationship that you’ve experienced could actually be used by God for your good?

FRIDAY/SATURDAY

READ Matthew 5:43-48.

What “enemy” could you pray for today? Is there a past relational hurt you’re carrying? Beginning to pray for those who hurt us can help us see them through the same redemptive eyes Jesus sees them through.

NEXT STEPS

So how do we break through the barrier of “never again?” Let these five steps guide you to a renewed sense of being able to forgive, trust and re-cultivate the relationships in your life.

1. Accept God’s pain-enduring love for you.
2. Identify past hurts you may be hanging on to.
3. Ask God to help you forgive and let go of past hurts.
4. Confess to someone when you feel like bailing out. Be truthful with that person and instead of pulling away, push through the tension.
5. Ask God to help you see your circumstances and your relationships through HIS redemptive eyes.