



GroveGROUPS Sermon Guide

Can You Relate? ~W6 “Breaking Through ‘What Will They Think?’” ~ Bill Clark ~ 10/16/22

OVERVIEW

One of the hardest things for humans to do is to let themselves feel exposed to someone else. Breaking through “What will they think” may be the toughest barrier in our “Can You Relate?” series to overcome. In many relationships there is a moment we encounter where we have to decide if the relationship will remain an acquaintance or if we’re willing to dive into deeper waters and develop something more. For many people it’s at this point we ask ourselves what that person may think if they really knew us. Jesus longs for us to dive deeper into relationship with Him and to allow ourselves to be loved by others too. If the strongest relationships happen when we let others into our broken mess, are we ready to take that step with others and be willing to be someone else’s next step too?

ICEBREAKER

Share a leader, past or present, that you admire. What characteristics of that leader do you admire most? Do you think that the leader that you chose worried about what others thought about them? Why or Why not?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We all struggle with feelings of shame at some point in our lives - and maybe today’s topic hit you especially hard. How do you feel like shame has kept or is keeping you from deeper relationships with God or others?
2. READ Romans 7:15-16.
3. Throughout this series we’ve battled through the tension of six barriers that might be keeping us from authentic connections with Jesus and others. But did we miss something? Is there a barrier in your life that you are currently going through or that you have gone through that you believe is unique to you?
4. Hopefully throughout this series we have learned to understand each other better. Have you experienced a time in your life when another person has understood your situation because they have had a similar one? How did it feel to be understood in that way?
5. Who is a safe person for you? Are you a safe person for others?
6. Going forward in your relationships do you feel you may be able to be more honest and open with others? Why or why not?
7. As a group, pray for God to grow your relationships with each other and that God would help you to be safe supporters for each other.

SERMON QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The strongest relationships happen with people who let someone else see all of who they are, including the messiness and brokenness.”

EXTRA CREDIT

MONDAY/TUESDAY

READ Ecclesiastes 4:12.

Who are the people in your life that you could say, “Have your back?” Have you thanked them for being in your life recently? Take time today to send them a text or note letting them know you appreciate them in your life.

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY

READ 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Does this verse give you encouragement to know that you are not alone in what you experience in life? Remember today that God IS faithful and you are not alone.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY

READ 2 Corinthians 1:4.

Who in your life needs to know that they are not alone? If someone comes to mind, reach out to them today and remind them that they are not alone in their struggle.

NEXT STEPS

READ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. God Himself is the ultimate source for all comfort and as you work through the different barriers from his series, ask yourself these questions and decide what your next steps can be.

1. What is one thing about you that you are afraid to share with others?
2. How would you feel if someone knew that about you but still accepted you?
3. Do you believe that Jesus can rescue you from anything?
4. In an effort to break through these barriers, would you be willing to follow Jesus and allow Him to turn your pain into purpose?