

I CAN RELATE

PHILIPPIANS 2:5 NIV
*'IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS
WITH ONE ANOTHER, HAVE
THE SAME MINDSET AS
CHRIST JESUS'*

A Devotional Discussion Collective

Biblical wisdom for real connections into Christlike relationships

What Is This Series About?

At the heart of the I Can Relate series is a call to approach every relationship in our lives; friendships, marriages, families, and parenting, with the mindset of Christ. **God IS community.**

As **Philippians 2:5** (NIV) encourages us, *“In your relationships, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”*

His mindset, marked by humility, love, sacrifice, truth, and grace is the lens through which we’ll explore God’s design for healthy, gospel-shaped relationships. Relationships can be deeply personal and incredibly complex. Our church family includes people in every season: single, married, widowed, divorced, those longing for children, estranged from family, or thriving in community.

That’s why this series isn’t about offering one-size-fits-all advice. It’s about anchoring our relationships in the truth of Scripture, which speaks to everyone. Through biblical teaching, personal stories, and honest conversation, we’ll confront the brokenness that often surrounds relationships, while holding fast to the hope of Jesus our Great Reconciler.

Whether you feel full or empty in this area, our prayer is that through the Word and the Spirit, you’ll find both comfort and clarity, and come away equipped to relate to others the way Jesus does: with wisdom, compassion, and purpose.

Collective FIVE / The Gift Of Family

INTRODUCTION

Here we're exploring the beautiful and complex idea of family - not just the one we were born into, but the family of believers we've been born again into. Whether you come from a close-knit home or a fractured one, God's Word speaks to the power and purpose of family in all its forms. We'll look at the biblical picture of family: a circle of relationships where everyone gives and receives, where lineage is honoured, and where faith binds generations together.

Jesus didn't just come to preach a message - He came to bring us into God's family. Through Him, we're not only sons and daughters of God, but brothers and sisters to one another. Today, we'll reflect on what it means to belong, to carry responsibility for one another, and to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

"We need to place God at the center of our family... As a family, we need to walk with God daily." - **Billy Graham**

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Joshua 24:15** (NIV) – "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- **Ephesians 3:14-15** (NIV) – "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name."
- **Psalms 68:6** (NIV) – "God sets the lonely in families..."
- **John 17:3** (NIV) – "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."
- **Galatians 3:7** (NIV) – "Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham."

DISCOVERY

Family is central to the story of Scripture. From the first humans to the lineage of Jesus, and ultimately the church, God's story is one of generational blessing, covenantal relationships, and spiritual inheritance.

In Hebrew, 'bayith' refers to everyone and everything in a household. 'Mishpachah' speaks of a reciprocal circle - family is not meant to be one-sided. In Greek, 'patria' points to lineage from the Father, and 'adelphoi' reminds us that in Christ, we're siblings - born of the same Spirit.

Family is God's idea. But like anything God ordains, it also comes under attack. Brokenness, conflict, and isolation can distort our experience of family. Yet the Gospel always makes room for restoration. The church becomes a spiritual home where we learn how to relate, forgive, grow, and walk with one another in love.

"Many times it takes just one member of a family to initiate the action to bring a family back together again." - **Billy Graham**

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- How has your understanding of "family" been shaped by your personal story?
- Do you feel like you've experienced the idea of spiritual family before? What did that look like?

Exploring Questions:

- What stands out to you about how Scripture defines family (bayith, mishpachah, patria, adelphoi)?
- Why do you think God chose family as the framework through which to build His people?
- In *Ephesians 3:15*, we're told that every family finds its origin in God. What does this say about His heart for both natural and spiritual family?
- Consider *John 17:3*. Jesus wanted to connect us to the Father. How does this connection affect the way we relate to others - in our homes, friendships, or church community?
- Have you ever had to fight for family - in prayer, reconciliation, or forgiveness? What happened?

Action Questions:

- What's one intentional way you can strengthen your family - natural or spiritual - this week?
- Is there anyone God might be prompting you to include, reach out to, or reconcile with as an act of spiritual family?
- What's one tradition, practice, or value you want to start or revive in your home to honour God?

DEVOTION

Take A Moment To Reflect:

- Where do you feel most connected in your sense of family - and where do you feel most distant?
- Are there any mindsets, disappointments, or wounds you need to bring before God for healing?
- Ask God to help you see others through His family lens - not just by shared blood, but by shared faith.

Prayer:

- Pray for healing in broken family dynamics - for homes to be places of peace, not pain.
- Pray for the lonely to find belonging in the church family.
- Pray for wisdom in parenting, humility in leadership, and grace in siblinghood, both natural & spiritual.
- Ask God to restore honour, joy, and unity to every family represented in your group.

*“God knew that children grow and mature best in a stable, loving family, and this was one reason He gave marriage to us.” - **Billy Graham***

“Amazing things can happen when the family of God bands together.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

What is God saying to you?

Family is a gift, sometimes messy, often meaningful, always part of God’s design.

1. Take Time

Slow down and be present - God often speaks through the people closest to us.

2. Focus on God’s Word

*“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” - **Joshua 24:15** (NIV)*

3. Reflect

No family is perfect, but every family is called.
Whether you’re part of a close-knit tribe or healing from hurt, God’s design for family includes you to give, to grow, and to reflect His heart. He places us in both biological and spiritual families for our good and His glory.

What does “family” mean to you in this season?

Are there areas where healing, connection, or commitment are needed?

How can you contribute to making your home or church family a reflection of God’s love?

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS / HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FAMILY CULTURE & VALUES

Why It Matters

Every family has a culture. Whether it's intentional or accidental. Your family culture is the unseen atmosphere in your home: the way you speak to each other, how you handle conflict, what gets celebrated, what gets corrected, and what rhythms shape your days.

When we establish our family values intentionally, we create a shared vision that strengthens connection, builds purpose, and helps our children grow up with clarity about who we are and what we stand for. Think of it as your family's spiritual and relational compass, it won't make every day perfect, but it will help keep everyone pointed in the same direction.

"A family is not built in the grand gestures, but in the everyday choices made together."

Let your children be a part of choosing the words, creating the poster, or even drawing pictures to go with each value. When kids help build it, they're far more likely to take ownership of it.

Step-by-Step Guide: Building Your Family Values

1. Pray Together First

Invite God into the process. Ask Him to show you what makes your family unique and what He desires to shape in your home. Let Scripture lead your vision.

2. Set a Family Meeting

Create a relaxed moment (over a meal, or a cozy evening) where every family member can be involved, yes, even the little ones!

3. Ask Each Other Good Questions

Here are a few prompts to spark discussion:

- What do you love most about our family?
- What makes our family special?
- What do you think we could do better?
- What kind of people do we want to become?

4. Choose 3–5 Core Values (Let the language reflect your voice as a family, it doesn't need to be formal.)

Based on your conversation, decide together on 3–5 key values that define how you want to live as a family.

Examples could include:

- We speak kindly.
- We say sorry and forgive quickly.
- We serve one another.
- We show up for each other.
- We honour God.

5. Write a Family Manifesto

Put your values into a simple statement or declaration you can display in your home. Example:

In our family, we love God, speak kindly, forgive often, and have fun together. We serve others and choose joy, even on hard days. This is who we are.

6. Make it Visible

Hang your family values somewhere central, the fridge, the hallway, a framed print. Let it serve as a daily reminder and a conversation starter.

7. Live It Out

Come back to your values often. Use them to guide decisions, celebrate growth, and even navigate discipline. Revisit them once a year to update or reflect. Your family culture won't be shaped in a day, but in the patterns you repeat, the grace you extend, the Jesus you reflect.

"The best legacy you can leave isn't just what you do, but who you are together."

A Closing Benediction

May the God who is the source of all relationship;

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - fill your heart with wisdom, your words with grace, and your life with love.

May He bless your conversations, and continue the work He's begun in quiet moments of reflection.

May the truths you've explored take root, and bear fruit in your friendships, your family, and your faith.

As you go, may you walk humbly, love deeply, forgive freely, and honour boldly.

May you build homes that reflect heaven, and live lives that draw others to Christ.

And may you always know: You are loved, you are called, and you are never alone.

Amen.