

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 SEVEN / Boundaries & Honour

INTRODUCTION

In this study, we're exploring two vital pillars for healthy relationships: boundaries and honour. Boundaries protect what matters; honour shows what matters. When these two work together, they build trust, clarity, and peace in our relationships - with family, friends, church community, even strangers.

God is a God of order, not confusion, and He models boundaries and honour in how He relates to us. As we look to Scripture, we'll uncover how to live wisely and graciously in a world that often confuses control with care, and self-expression with self-respect.

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Proverbs 4:23** (NIV) – “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”
- **Romans 12:10** (NIV) – “Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.”
- **Galatians 6:2-5** (NIV) – “Carry each other’s burdens... for each one should carry their own load.”
- **1 Peter 2:17** (NIV) – “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.”
- **Matthew 5:37** (NIV) – “All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

DISCOVERY

Boundaries are not walls to keep people out - they are doors that teach others how to enter our lives in healthy ways. In the same breath, honour isn't flattery or blind obedience - it's recognising the image of God in someone and treating them accordingly. Scripture consistently affirms both. Jesus set boundaries (He withdrew from crowds, said “no,” and didn't entrust Himself to everyone), while also showing profound honour - to children, to women, to the dishonoured, and even to those who crucified Him. Boundaries and honour are not opposing values. In the Kingdom, they work together to form the culture of heaven in our relationships.

DISCUSSION

Starting questions:

- Have you ever struggled to say “no” to someone? Why do you think it's so hard sometimes?
- What does honour look like in today's world? Can you think of a moment where you felt truly honoured?

Exploring questions:

- What do healthy boundaries look like in relationships, and how can we tell when one is missing?
- Why do you think Jesus said “let your yes be yes, and your no be no”?
- How does the world confuse honour with people-pleasing, or boundaries with rejection?
- In Galatians 6, we're told to carry each other's burdens and our own loads. What might that look like practically in your life?

Action questions:

- Where in your life do you need to set clearer boundaries?
- How could you do this in a loving and Spirit-led way?
- Who do you feel God prompting you to honour more intentionally; what could you do this week to show that?

DEVOTION

Take Time To Reflect Quietly:

- Where have I allowed others to overstep boundaries in my life that God never intended them to cross?
- Where have I withheld honour - maybe from people I find difficult - and how might God be inviting me to see them differently?

Let's Pray Together:

“Father, thank You for being the God who both guards and gives. Teach me to set wise boundaries like Jesus did - not out of fear, but out of love. And help me to honour others the way You honour me - with grace, patience, and value. May my relationships reflect both heaven's truth and heaven's kindness. Amen.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

What is God saying to you?

Pause and let the Holy Spirit bring clarity and conviction to your heart.

1. Take Time

Silence the noise - honour begins with stillness before God.

2. Focus on God's Word

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." - **Romans 12:10** (NIV)

3. Reflect

God set the ultimate boundary - His holiness - and yet invited us in through Jesus.
He calls us to honour others not based on perfection, but on position and His image in them.

Where might God be asking you to reestablish healthy boundaries?

Is there someone in your life you've found difficult to honour?

What does honour look like in your current season or relationships?

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.