

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 EIGHT / Unity In Diversity

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world that's beautifully diverse across race, culture, language, gender, background, personality, and story. God is not colour-blind or culture-averse; in fact, He designed diversity and delights in it. But unity doesn't happen by accident. In this study, we'll explore how we can honour our differences while being united in Christ.

Unity isn't about sameness, it's about surrender. The end goal is not uniformity, but spiritual maturity: to become a people that reflect the multifaceted love and wisdom of God, in real relationship with one another.

*"Unity is not the absence of differences; it's the presence of love in the midst of them." - **Unknown***

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **John 17:20–23** (NIV) - “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
- **Galatians 3:28** (NIV) - “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
- **Ephesians 4:1–3** (NIV) - “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:12–14** (NIV) - “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...”

DISCOVERY

From Genesis to Revelation, God’s desire is to form a family from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Revelation 7:9). This is not an abstract idea - it’s the kind of community the Church is meant to embody right here and now. The early Church was radically inclusive: Jews and Gentiles, men and women, rich and poor, slaves and free - all made one in Christ. But that unity took effort, humility, and sacrifice.

We are invited to model this today. It means choosing love over pride, grace over judgment, and curiosity over assumption. When we embrace unity in diversity, we don’t erase our differences - we honour them under the Lordship of Jesus.

“Unity in Christ doesn’t eliminate our differences - it redeems them.” - Lecrae

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- When you hear the word “unity,” what comes to mind?
- Can you recall a time when a diverse team or group brought out the best in you? What made it work?

Exploring Questions:

- Read *John 17:20–23*. Why do you think Jesus prayed for unity before going to the cross?
- According to *Ephesians 4:1–3*, what attitudes help maintain unity in the Spirit?
- How do you respond when someone’s culture, opinion, or background challenges your own assumptions?
- Read *1 Corinthians 12:12–14*. How does the image of the body help us understand our role in a diverse church?
- What’s the difference between “diversity for diversity’s sake” and God’s vision for unity in diversity?

Action Question:

- What is one practical way you can build relational bridges across difference in your life this week (at church, work, school, or home)?

DEVOTION

Reflect:

- Where might God be inviting you to grow in humility, patience, or love when it comes to those different from you?
- Are there unconscious biases or prideful walls He wants to break down in you?

Let’s Pray Together:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to make you an agent of unity - someone who reflects God’s heart for reconciliation and connection across difference.
- Pray for our church to be a house of welcome, honour, and diversity that reflects the Kingdom of God.

PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

What is God saying to you?

Let the Spirit lead you into greater unity, deeper humility, and stronger love.

1. Take Time

Still your heart - unity begins when we choose to truly listen.

2. Focus on God’s Word

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit...”
- **Ephesians 4:3–4** (NIV)

3. Reflect

God celebrates diversity, He designed it. But His call is to unity, not uniformity.
In Christ, our differences aren’t erased, they’re embraced, redeemed, and used for His glory.

Are there places in your life where differences have led to distance?

How can you actively contribute to unity in your church, family, or friendships?

What does it mean to you to be part of “one body” with many parts?

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.