

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 ONE / The Source Of All Relationship

INTRODUCTION

Before we unpack friendship, marriage, parenting, family and some of the foundational attitudes we should all adopt when it comes to relationships, we begin here: with relationship itself.

The idea of relationship doesn't start with us. It begins with God. He is relational at His very core: Father, Son and Spirit one God in three Persons, living in perfect unity, love, honour, submission, and joy.

Everything we know and long for in relationship closeness, trust, understanding, purpose flows from God's nature.

We were made in the image of this relational God. That means to live well with others, we first need to see how Jesus relates to the Father, how the Spirit glorifies the Son, and how God draws us into fellowship with Himself and with one another.

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? So one hundred worshippers looking to Christ are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be were they to become 'unity-conscious' and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."

- A.W. Tozer

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Philippians 2:5** (NIV) - *"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."*
- **1 John 4:7-8** (NIV) - *"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God... whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."*
- **Genesis 1:26** (NIV) - *"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...'"*
- **John 17:20-21** (NIV) - *"I pray also for those who will believe in me... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."*
- **Romans 5:5** (NIV) - *"God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*
- **Colossians 3:12-14** (NIV) - *"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*
- **Ephesians 2:19** (NIV) - *"You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."*

DISCOVERY

- What comes to mind when you think of "relationship"?
- Have you ever thought about the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; as a relationship?
- How does the way Jesus related to others (disciples, sinners, friends, enemies) challenge or inspire you?

DISCUSSION

Starting Questions:

- What does Philippians 2:5 suggest about our posture in relationships?
- Why do you think Jesus' mindset is the foundation for healthy relationships?

Exploring Questions:

- Read Philippians 2:1-11 together. What parts of Jesus' attitude stand out most to you?
- In what ways do pride, selfish ambition, or insecurity damage relationships in our lives?
- How do humility, servanthood, and love draw people together?

"The most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God." - A.W. Tozer

- How does your view of God shape the way you relate to others?
- What do you think God desires to form in your character through the relationships in your life right now?

Action Questions:

- What relationship in your life could benefit from a fresh dose of Christlike humility this week?
- Is there someone you need to ask forgiveness from, encourage, or show more patience toward?

DEVOTION

Let's take a moment this week to reflect on the perfect love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As you spend time in prayer and the Word, ask the Holy Spirit to help you adopt the mindset of Christ in every interaction - not by striving, but by abiding in His love.

"God is a relational being, and He made us to reflect that. That's why no possession, no success, no achievement will ever fully satisfy - we were made for connection with Him and each other."

PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

What is God saying to you?

Before we can love others well, we must be deeply rooted in the love of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1. Take Time

Come to stillness. Allow yourself to simply be with God, no striving, just belonging.

2. Focus on God's Word

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." - **2 Corinthians 13:14** (NIV)

3. Reflect

God Himself is the perfect relationship, Father, Son, and Spirit, united in love. He created us for connection with Him and with one another. When we understand the way God relates to us, with patience, mercy, honesty, and intimacy it transforms how we show up in every other relationship.

You are fully known and fully loved. That is the foundation.

What does it mean to you that God is the ultimate source of relationship?

Is there an area of your life where you need to return to Him first, before looking to others?

How can your relationships reflect the way God relates to you?

FAMILY CONVERSATION STARTERS / TAKEAWAYS TO TAKE TO HEART

1. Start With the Source

Before any relationship gets your energy, give your attention to the One who created relationship itself. Time with God fuels everything else.

2. Mirror the Mindset of Christ

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." **Philippians 2:5** (NIV)
Humility. Compassion. Service. That's the model we follow.

3. The Trinity Is the Blueprint

Father, Son, and Spirit live in perfect unity, honour, and mutual love. That's not just theology, that's your relationship framework.

4. The Fruit of the Spirit Is the Culture of God's Kingdom

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) says, *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"*
If your relationships are bearing fruit like love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness, you're on the right track.

5. Ask: "What Does Love Require of Me?"

Not just what feels fair, or easy. But what reflects the love I've received from Christ?

6. Relating Takes Practice

Grace is a muscle. Listening is a discipline. Patience is grown. Don't quit on the process.

7. Let the Holy Spirit Lead the Way

He is your Helper, Counselor, and Convictor, especially in hard conversations and complex dynamics.

8. God Doesn't Waste a Relationship

Every connection, even the strained or strange ones, is a classroom for growth and grace.

9. Relationship Is Risky and Worth It

Vulnerability, forgiveness, setting boundaries. It can feel costly. But love is always the better way.

10. Live Like You Belong

Because you do. You've been adopted into the family of God. Let that security shape how you treat others.

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.