

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FEBRUARY

Relationships in God's Order





Relationships in God's Order

SUMMARY

Relationships can be complicated. There are relational problems everywhere we look. Within families, friendships, romantic relationships and even the relationship you have with yourself. Like the women at the well, we often try to quench the thirst we have to be accepted, identified and secured through relationships. This is the agenda that the world pushes but in order for relationships to work, we must let the one who designed them define them. Fractured friendships, broken intimate relationships and divisive homes are at the core of the enemies plan to distort the true fruit that can come from healthy relationships. For the month of February, we will focus on the redemptive power of Jesus Christ in each of the relational areas.

KEY POINTS / VERSES

6 Tips for Relationships in God's Order:

- #1. God must be first || Matthew 11:36-38 (NIV)
- #2. Your Family Matters || Ephesians 6:1-3 (NIV)
- #3. Choose Your Friends Wisely || Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)
- #4. Your Closest Relationships Should be With Other Believers | 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NLT)
- #5. Shine the light for friends who don't know Jesus || Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)
- #6. Cut any toxic relationships | 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)

Our most important relational needs can only be met by God

“Because, in order for relationships to work, Let the One who designed them define them.”



01. Your Closest Relationships Should Be With Other Believers.

SUMMARY

The closest relationships we have to us are like elevators, they have the potential to take us to the highest mountain or to the lowest valley. Many times students and adults will sacrifice their identity in Christ, to be accepted by others. This is where peer pressure begins to dictate what we look like, sound like and how we start to live our life. This includes the places that we go to, the things we look at and the sets of principles that we live by. In this day and age, relationships are at the center of all social aspects. Not just friendships (who you know) but also romantic relationships (who you're with). It's not just a "challenge" to not do friendships/romantic relationships according to God's way, it's detrimental and catastrophic. If it's not according to His Word, it will be done in the wrong way and at the wrong time. Allow God's Word to heal and renew your mind, so that you can experience the blessings found in God's Word regarding having the right friends and doing relationships in a way that honors Him.

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Because in order for relationships to work, let the one who designed them, define them.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NLT), 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT), 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)
Proverbs 13:20 (NIV)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a sheet of paper, title the page "Important Traits" (centered). Then on the left write the word "Friends" and underline it and do the same on the right side with the word "Relationships". Take a moment to write down the traits that are important to you when looking for a friend and a possible relationship in the future.
2. Discuss the activity that was done above. Emphasize the importance of having God first in both columns and what that means. Give a short/personal testimony of how without God in these areas, you were affected in the past.
3. Use what was written and discuss what they're "looking for in others", they embody and live out themselves.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-15, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 1 Corinthians 15:33. **What is God speaking to you today?**



02. Your Family Matters

SUMMARY

The first relationship that the enemy attacked was the relationship between God (Father) and the first two humans (Adam & Eve, His children). We see it over and over again, how broken relationships between parents and children have a huge effect on the present and the future. Emotionally absent, harsh words, unrealistic expectations, lack of love, abuse, divorce, are just a few of the realities that children live from birth until they leave the home. How can such broken family dynamics result in anything positive? God can turn it around and calls us to honor our father and mother. Regardless of who or what they are, this is biblical. There's a difference between staying in a dangerous situation that is threatening the well being of a child, versus, learning to submit, love, forgive, communicate and do it over and over again. Siblings are not exempt from the possible pain, jealousy, anger and problems that can surge from within. A prime example of this is between Cain and Abel. Students will be given an opportunity today to confess pain, offenses and receive God's healing in exchange.

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Ephesians 6:1-3 (NLT), 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NIV), Matthew 6:14-15

Many times the love we have for things, surpasses the honor and love we show our parents. Before we know it, we grow up and realize what we once had, is now gone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 1

- Tell us about your family dynamic. Mother, Father, Siblings. Walk us through the following stages of your life. Birth to Elementary, Elementary to Middle and Middle to High (if applicable).

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- What is the most hurtful thing your mom, dad or sibling have done/did to you?
- Have you ever spoken to them about it? Have you been able to forgive them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 2

1. What does it mean to you, to be forgiven from God, for your sins?
2. How have the offenses/pain from your family affected you?
3. Read Matthew 6:14-15 Together. What's one step you can take towards forgiving those who have hurt you, within your family? (Confession, Prayer, Conversation, Grace, Mercy)



03. Cut Any Toxic Relationships Through Having God First

SUMMARY

The focus of the month was “Relationships in God’s order”. We covered friendships, romantic relationships, the relationship between children and family (parents/siblings). God created us to be relational beings. It shouldn’t come as a surprise, that the enemy of our soul is intentional in creating the most amount of division and confusion possible within this area. Throughout the month of February, students have had the opportunity to allow God into their hearts through moments of worship, confession and worship. Now we must make a decision. Will we continue to live out in disobedience to God’s word? Or will we choose to TRUST Him above our fleshly desires and confusing emotions. This is a conscious decision we must take today, through the power that Jesus gives us, by His Holy Spirit. Students today will be encouraged to be specific about the friendships and relationships that they will cut out. They will also be encouraged to ask the Holy Spirit, where they need to start, to mend any relationship at home or what step they need to take.

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV) 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read **Hebrews 12:1**. What stands out and why?
2. How has the sin of falling into peer pressure or sexual experiences affected you? Did it “easily entangle” you?
3. Read **Hebrews 12:2-3**. What did Jesus do that gives you hope to not grow “weary and lost heart” when choosing the right friends, waiting for the right time/person for a relationship and in your family dynamic?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Does the sacrifice of Jesus, impact/move me, to give my life to Him and do “Relationships in God’s order”?
2. A. If the answer is yes: Who/what that’s toxic is God calling me to cut out of my life?
B. If the answer is no: Am I open to getting to know Jesus, why or why not?