

Made for More: Small Group Guide

Sermon Series: Made for More

Week 1: Create a Christ-Centered Relationship

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to help you grow in your identity in Christ and in your relationships with one another.

Ice Breaker

Share one relationship goal you have for 2026. This could be with a spouse, friend, family member, or coworker.

Key Scripture Passages

- **John 13:34-35** - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
 - **1 John 4:7-11, 19** - "We love because he first loved us."
 - **Galatians 2:20** - "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."
 - **Psalms 91:1-2** - "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."
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Key Takeaways

1. **God's vision for relationships is agape love** - sacrificial, unconditional, selfless love that mirrors how Christ loves us.
2. **Our humanity is the fundamental barrier** to the relationships God intends us to have, but Christ redeems our connections with others.
3. **A Christ-centered identity opens us to lasting intimacy** - the stronger our identity in Christ, the greater our capacity for meaningful relationships.
4. **Two common problems in relationships:**
 - Settling for "meh" instead of pursuing God's "more"
 - Hiding or denying problems instead of facing them with God's truth
5. **Putting God first is the foundation** - When God is at the pinnacle of our lives, our relationships flow out of that connection.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The pastor mentioned that a study of 38 million obituaries revealed people want to be remembered for how they treated others, not what they accumulated. Why do you think relationships matter so much to us? How does this reflect how God created us?
2. What does "agape love" mean, and how is it different from other types of love? Why is this the kind of love Jesus commands us to have for one another?
3. Explain the triangle illustration (God at the top, two people at the bottom). How does having God at the center of a relationship change how we interact with others?

Personal Reflection

4. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the depth of your current relationship with Christ? What would it take to move that number higher?
5. The pastor said, "I know who I am because I know who you are" (referring to God). How secure is your identity in Christ? What tends to shake that security?
6. In which relationships are you tempted to settle for "meh" instead of pursuing God's vision for "more"? What would "more" look like in that relationship?
7. Are you more likely to settle for less in relationships or to hide problems? Why do you think that is?

Going Deeper

8. Read Galatians 2:20 together. What does it mean practically to say "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"? How would your relationships change if you truly lived this way?
9. The pastor said, "The devil works to keep you obsessed with another person's weaknesses to prevent you from working on yourself." Have you experienced this? How can we guard against this tactic?
10. How does prayer strengthen relationships? Share an example of when praying for or with someone deepened your connection with them.

Closing Reflection

The pastor shared this powerful truth: "God made a great sacrifice to make relationships great, not just good enough."

Take a few moments of silence to reflect:

- How has Christ's sacrifice for you changed your understanding of love?
- What is one way you can reflect Christ's sacrificial love to someone this week?

Closing Prayer

Pray together, asking God to:

- Deepen each person's identity in Christ
- Give courage to face relationship challenges honestly
- Provide strength to move from "meh" to "more" in relationships
- Help the group love one another with agape love