



Leader’s Discussion Guide -- Relationships

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Church of the Nazarene

**Relationships**

**Session Goal:** To encourage participants to put God in first place in their lives and develop Christ-like relationships with others.

**Are You Ready?**

 Pray for God’s direction as you prepare for the session. Pray that participants will be open to

God’s truth and be ready to apply it to their lives.

 Read the entire leader’s guide for this session to get an overview of the material.

 View the Mor2Lif video, *Relationships.*

 Be prepared to show the Mor2Lif video, *Relationships.*

 Choose one or two questions from the “So What?” section as a follow-up to the video and an intro to the study.

 Determine which *Option* you will use from the “Now What?” section of the session.

 Be prepared or enlist several people to read: John 15:9-17; Ephesians 4:1-16; Hebrews 10:19-

25; 1 Peter 2:9-10

 Prepare copies of the participant outline, *Relationships.*

**Introduction**

Relationships can be rewarding, fulfilling, frustrating, and challenging. They are always unavoidable. God created us to be in relationship with Him and with others. As Christians our relationship with God should govern all of our other relationships.

Contemplate the following as you prepare to lead the session.

 As you think about the relationships in your life: Which are positive and energizing? What factors make them that way?

 As you think about the relationships in your life: Which are negative and draining? What factors make them that way?

**So What?**

View the Mor2Lif video, *Relationships*. Choose one or more of the following questions that best fits the needs/dynamics of your group.

 Name some qualities which characterize the relationships demonstrated in the video.

 How do these women really feel about each other?

 How do they feel about some of the other people in their lives?

 What evidence is there of a healthy relationship with each other? A detrimental relationship?

 What evidence is there they have a healthy relationship with other people in their lives? A

detrimental relationship?

 Which of these women do you think is most like you? In what ways do you identify with her?

**What Does the Bible Say?**

**Say,** God calls us to be a community of believers. When we are in right relationship with God, we are better able to live in community with each other. That community, which we call the Body of Christ, encourages us to be and do our best, keeps us accountable, helps us carry our loads, picks us up when we stumble or are weak, and travels alongside.

*Chosen by Christ*

Read or have someone read John 15:9-17.

 What qualities do you think characterize the relationship between the Father and Son in this passage?

 What qualities characterize the key relationships in your life?

Read or have someone read Ephesians 4:1-16.

 What do you see as the key relational qualities this passage highlights?

 What do you think could be the result of applying these qualities to your relationships?

*Accountability in Christ*

Read or have someone read Hebrews 10:19-25.

**Say**, There are four “Let us” statements in this passage: “Let us draw near to God” (v. 22); “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (v. 24); “Let us not give up meeting together” (v. 25); and “Let us encourage each other” (v. 25).

 What do you think it means “to draw near to God”? How might this impact the relationships in our

lives?

 Why might there be some relationships we may have to give up?

**Say**, The word “spur” (v. 24) can be translated “provoke.” This means we are to hold each other

accountable.

 What are some ways you think Christians can “spur” each other on in “love and good deeds”?

 Why do you think that “meeting together” with other believers is vital for Christian fellowship?

 How might your relationships with other Christians help you to be accountable to God?

**How Does This Affect My Life?**

*Knowing Ourselves in Christ: A Chosen People*

Read or have someone read 1 Peter 2:9-10. **Say,** As believers we are called into a relationship with God; we are “chosen” to be part of the family of God. We are unique, special, distinctive, and valued. We have been given a purpose; a reason for being. We find our purpose not from what we possess, personal accomplishments, or who we know. Our worth and value come from our relationship with God.

In the video, Christina tells Tiffany: “If you don’t really know yourself, if you’re looking for someone else to fulfill you or define you, you’re looking in the wrong place. Only God can tell you who you are. He created you! Relationships are at their best when both people know who they are distinct from one another.”

 Why do you think Christina hated the phrase: “You complete me”? How do you feel about that phrase?

 How does our relationship with God help us to discover wholeness in ourselves?

 Christina tells Tiffany she needs to know herself in Christ first before she can find Mr. Right. What do you think she means? Why is this important to a healthy marriage relationship?

 How does our relationship with God get reflected in our relationship with others?

 From the video we learn that Tiffany is in an unhealthy relationship. What are some reasons people hold on to unhealthy relationships?

**Now What?**

**Say,** God has created and chosen us for relationship; first and foremost with Him and then with others.

 What have you personally learned about relationships from this study?

 In what ways can this study help you to grow in your relationship with God? With others?

To help apply this session’s truths, choose one of the following options and invite participants to take part.

*Option One*

Look again at Hebrews 10:22-25; make a list of ways your group can:

 Draw near to God (v.22)

 Support each others during times of discouragement (v. 23)

 Thank the people who have been instrumental in the development of your faith (v. 24)

 Encourage each other to show God’s love to others (v. 25) Be prepared to share your thoughts and ideas at the next meeting. *Option Two*

Think about the many ways God has provided and nurtured a relationship with you. Journal and be prepared to share:

 Ways God has nurtured a personal relationship with me.

 Ways I can use God’s model in forming healthy, God-honoring relationships with others who are important to me such as the members of this group.

 What are some practical ways that we can support one another during this video series?

Close the session by thanking God for calling us into a relationship with Him. Pray that God will help the members of your group to develop healthy, god-honoring relationships.