



I Can Relate – Identity Frenzy Pastor Rich Harris 04.30.2023

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Matthew 22:35-40, ESV]

³⁵ One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question:

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

³⁷ Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

[Psalm 33:11, ESV]

The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

[2 Corinthians 2:10-11, ESV]

¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

[Luke 6:47-49, ESV]

⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

1. God has a design for an eternal family

[John 1:12, NLT]

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

[1 John 3:1, ESV]

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

[Ephesians 2:18-19, NLT]

¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. ¹⁹ So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.

"Identity encompasses the values people hold, which dictate the choices they make."

- Psychology Today

2. God has design for your individual identity

[Psalm 139:13-18, ESV, NLT]

¹³ For you formed my inward parts you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. ¹⁶ You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. ¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.

They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸ I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!

[Romans 12:4-8, NLT]

⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Who You Are In God Verses:

You are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)

You are chosen and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12)

You are not alone (Hebrews 13:5)

You are a member of His Body (1 Corinthians 12:17)

You are a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)

You are dead to sin (Romans 1:12)

You are justified by faith (Romans 5:1)

You are brought near to God through Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13)

You are redeemed (Ephesians 1:8)

You are set free (Romans 8:2; John 8:32)

You are forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14)

You are delivered (Colossians 1:13)

You are healed (1 Peter 2:24)

You are alive with Christ ((Ephesians 2:5)

You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

You are holy and blameless in Him (Ephesians 1:4)

You are the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)

You are victorious in Him (1 John 5:4)

You are more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)

You are given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction (Ephesians 1:5,8)

You are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)

You are promised eternal life with Him (John 6:47)

You are a child of God (John 1:12)

Key Points:

1. God has a design for an eternal family
2. God has design for your individual identity

Applications for the Week:

This week take time to read out loud the verses Pastor Rich provided during the message. Declare who you are in God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are people in your circle who are naturally relational? Are they inherently outgoing, or is it more of an acquired skill?
2. Why are relationships a big deal to God?
3. How does God's nature reflect relationships?
4. Why should we have a design and structure to build on with relationships? What type of design should we follow?
5. Whose designs are you building upon, and how is that playing out in your life and sphere of influence?
6. Pastor Rich said, "The way you relate to yourself is the way you relate to other people." How does this statement challenge the way you view yourself?
7. What does it mean that "God has a design for an eternal family?" How do you see this in Genesis 1?
8. Where do you see this divine design devalued? How does this confusion damage every layer of relationships we have? In what ways can we stand for biblical relationships?
9. When have you had breakthrough experiences or moments that solidified confidence in your identity?