



## **I Can Relate – Relationship Destination Pastor Jude Fouquier 05.07.2023**

### **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.

### **Where are your relationships taking you?**

#### **[Amos 3:3, NLT]**

Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?

#### **[Philippians 3:12-16, ESV]**

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

**[Genesis 2:18, ESV]**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone"

***"Relationships are not optional, and they are not neutral."***

**1. Who's walking ahead of you? Everyone needs a Paul.**

**[Philippians 3:17-21, ESV]**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**[Philippians 4:9, NIV]**

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**2. Who's walking with you? Everyone needs a Barnabas and a Silas.**

***"We need friends who are pulling us in the direction of Jesus."***

**[Proverbs 27:17, ESV]**

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

**[Proverbs 13:20, ESV]**

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm

### **[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, ESV]**

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. <sup>10</sup> For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! <sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? <sup>12</sup> And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

### **3. Who's walking behind you? Everyone needs a Timothy.**

### **[Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV]**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

### **[Proverbs 11:25, NIV]**

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

### **[Hebrews 12:1-3, MSG]**

<sup>1-3</sup> Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

## **Key Points:**

1. Who's Walking Ahead Of You? Everyone needs a Paul
2. Who's Walking With You? Everyone needs a Barnabas and Silas
3. Who's Walking Behind You? Everyone needs a Timothy

## **Applications for the Week:**

This week take time to pray and evaluate the kind of relationships you are invested in. Are there any adjustments you need to make? In relation to the message, answer these questions: Who is your Paul? Who is your Barnabas and Silas? Who is your Timothy?

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What kind of relationships do you have in your life? How much does each relationship mean to you?
2. Where are your relationships taking you? What is the destination, and what are you coming into agreement with along the way? How are they taking you toward the call of God on your life?
3. How can you make sure you are becoming more like Jesus today? How does this impact your relationships?
4. When you think about personal growth in your faith, who have been significant figures in influencing you in that direction?
5. How are relationships necessary for the call of God in your life?
6. In what ways are you trying to set the example, both privately and publicly, for those in your life?
7. Think about healthy and well-rounded relationships: Who's walking ahead of you? (Paul—mentor and source of wisdom) Who's walking with you? (Barnabas and Silas—friends pulling us in the direction of Jesus) Who's walking behind you? (Timothy—follower and future leader) Is there anyone in your life who can call you out?