



***All the Feels:
Relationship with
OTHERS***



PREVIEW

Each one of us has relationships (friends, family, teachers, coaches, etc.). However, each relationship can be quite different. You see teachers for a few hours a day, but you live with your brothers or sisters all the time. You may see your pastor once or twice a week, but you see your friends almost every day. Every relationship has a unique set of dynamics, difficulties, and successes. What makes a relationship truly successful? In lesson one of this All the Feels series, we explored the power of relationship with God. Today we will focus on the power of relationship with others.

PRAISE

Ask your group this question:

Does anyone know the differences between an extravert and an introvert?

Typically, introverts tend to enjoy more time to themselves, are very aware of their internal thoughts, and recharge more in solitude. Extroverts can be just the opposite. Extroverts are often more outspoken, outgoing, and love being around other people.

Both of these personality types involve how they handle relationships with people. In today's lesson we will be addressing relationships with others. We've already taught on "Relationship with God," but how are your relationships with your friends, parents, classmates, and others?

PARABLE

Did you know that God created your personality? What is personality? It is our unique set of personal traits and preferences. It's how we react to things, how we do things, how we relate to people, and how we prefer to live. Personality is who we really are and what we're really like; it is our personal uniqueness.

Look across this room. Some people are funny and some are serious. Some people love being around others all the time, and some prefer to be alone reading a book. Some like sports and some prefer video games. Some are fearful and won't ride a roller coaster, and some would jump out of a plane right now if they had the chance for a thrill. Some are outgoing and love to talk to people they don't know. Some love to speak to friends but don't know how to communicate with a classmate they don't know well.

Good news: There is nothing wrong with you! God made you this way for a purpose, and He can and will work with your personality to lead people to Christ in your own unique way. Learning to identify your personality will serve you well in your relationships with others.

PRESENT

In lesson one of this series, we discussed the power of the Cross. The Cross is the ultimate picture of what love looks like. (Read John 15:13.) The Cross can teach us a lot about relationships. For instance, in order to make a cross, there must be two beams. One beam is vertical; the other is horizontal. What do those two beams look like? We can find the answer in Mark 12.

(Read Mark 12:29–31.) Notice the clarity of the statement “There is no other commandment greater than these.” Verses 29–30 refer to the vertical beam, the beam on which all other relationships are hung. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart” is the vertical beam of the cross. Verse 31 is the horizontal beam. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

It all comes down to this: love God and love people. To portray the love of Jesus on the cross, you must love God and you must love people. You can’t reach outward if you never reach upward, but reaching upward will always push you to reach outward. The more you love Jesus the more you’ll love His people. (Read Matt. 22:40.) Everything hangs on these two beams—love God and love people.

A minister jokingly said, “I love God, but sometimes I hate people.” While those in the crowd that day knew he was joking, in reality we see this happen too often. People can get so caught up in working for God that they forget that working for God means serving others. Serving others is a foundational principle of P7 Clubs. Jesus served others. Loving and serving others can never be predicated on how others treat you. Think about it. Have you ever tried to love someone who didn’t make it easy? Some people are hard to love, and sometimes that is the person you look at in the mirror every morning. Let’s be honest. One-sided relationships are hard. However, Jesus taught us to give love even when love isn’t being given back to us.

PRACTICE

In the Book of John, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This was traditional for this culture and was a very humbling gesture. People would travel wearing sandals, and their feet would collect dust and dirt from the unpaved roads. Jesus washed twenty-four feet, proceeding from one disciple to the next: Andrew, Peter, James and John (sons of Zebedee), Philip, Bartholomew, Nathaniel, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alpheus), Simon the Zealot, and finally Judas.

Can you imagine Jesus looking at Judas with loving eyes and saying, "Judas, come here. Let me wash your feet." Didn't Jesus know that Judas was going to betray Him for thirty pieces of silver? Yes, He knew, but He still washed Judas' feet. Loving and serving others cannot be predicated on how others love and serve you. Kindness is a commandment, not a suggestion. We have to serve those who may betray us and love them the same way Christ loves us.

PRAY

Thank You, Jesus, for the reminder today that serving others is a vital part of serving You. You have called us to be Your hands and feet. Help us serve those who may be less fortunate. Open doors for us to be able to help someone in need this week. Let us love those around us no matter what they have done to us or might do to us in the future. Give us a fresh love for others. Let us serve others even when it might be inconvenient for us, because we know that as we draw closer to You, we will draw closer to others. Thank You for every student attending our club today. Let us tell the world about what You have done for us and what You can do for them. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

PLUS

Play "Tell the World" (available on your favorite music streaming site) by Nathan + Rachel. Focus on the lyrics and make it your mission this week to tell your world about Jesus Christ.