

Relationship 101: It's not about you Romans 12:14-16

- God has designed us to be relational beings
- Romans 15:13 - ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- My Pride
- Our Pride
- "I will only relate to you if..."
- Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.
- Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.
- Luke 14:11 - "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- It's not about you.
- Romans 12:14-15 ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
- Concept of Blessing: Ability to put *everyone* else before yourself
- "Bless and do not curse..."
- The deeper issue in us is sin
- Set aside yourself
- Here are some ways you can be a blessing:
 1. Ask good questions
 2. Pray for them
 3. Be emotionally available
 4. Speak kindly about them
- Romans 12:16 - Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.
- It's not about you
- Find freedom and forgiveness in Christ
- Remember the next time someone wrongs you:
 - Ask, "Would I do the same if it weren't for God's love."
 - Pray, "Help me forgive them as you forgave me."
 - Meet with them where they are
 - Let your words about them bring hope

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Starter Question: When does your pride get the best of you in your relationships? Who in your life was able to be a blessing in strained relationships?

- 1. Read Romans 12:14-16**
- 2. There is only one key concept for this week: Why is it so hard for us to be a blessing to the people who oppose us?**
- 3. In your opinion, why is it hard to come alongside the people you feel don't deserve it?**
- 4. Tell about time when you did come alongside someone you felt opposed you?**
- 5. How would this look in your life group? How would this help your group become even more of a place of grace?**