



## Relationships: Restored | February 17, 2016

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Relationships are meant to be redemptive in nature. Healthy relationships have fair expectations, love others in spite of flaws, and together fill the voids that make us imperfect. Relationships allow us to be a more complete picture of who God intended us to be.

#### Key Verse

##### 1 Corinthians 12:14-18 (NLT)

*Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.*

#### Discussion

Fair expectations are a major contributor to healthy relationships. We typically expect grace from others but struggle to extend it when others are imperfect. What if we asked ourselves whether or not we will love our family, our friends, and our spouses in the times when they are imperfect?

1. In your relationships, who is the most infuriating and why?
2. How might your expectations of others be preventing you from maintaining a redemptive view of relationships?

As we read the verses from 1 Corinthians it is easy to see how things work in a human body, but seeing the benefits of our differences in relationships is much more difficult.

3. Think about and discuss a time when someone accepted you in spite of your flaws.
4. Think about your 3-5 key relationships. In what ways do you complete each other or make each other better?

God is in the business of restoring us through our encounters with key relationships. Adopting a redemptive and restorative mindset when it comes to relationships can really help us grow and be better equipped to serve and help others.

5. If you think through your entire life considering all the mistakes, insecurities, and imperfections, who has been there for you to help you overcome those things? How?

#### What's Next?

God lays the foundation for redemptive and restorative relationships as he has extended unconditional love and grace. How can your life reflect God's grace in your relationships? Who do you need to reach out to in order to be a part of their restoration? Who do you need to thank for being a part of your redemptive story? Are there people in your life with whom you need to be more intentional about spending time in order to continue your restoration?