



Relationships: Ebenezer | February 10, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

The more time we spend in relationships the easier it becomes to see the faults, the bad, and the ugly than it is to see the things that brought you together. However, if we can figure out a way to more regularly celebrate the good, the triumphs, and the redemption in our relationships, our relationships will be a reflection of a God who created us for relationships.

Key Verse

1 Samuel 7:12

Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the LORD has helped us!"

Discussion

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul encourages followers of Jesus to refrain from getting too attached to people—more specifically to refrain from getting married. His intention was to help people be free of the burdens of deep relationships so we could focus on God.

1. Are you more of a people person or someone who would rather be alone?
2. Have you ever had a relationship that took you away from God?

One of the reasons God created us to be in relationships is because they can be incredibly redeeming. They can fill the gaps where we fall short, and they can accept us in spite of our current or past flaws. What if we could prove Paul wrong by investing in our relationships in such a way that pointed to a redeeming, loving God?

3. How has a relationship with a family member, close friend, or significant other brought you closer to God?
4. In what ways do your current closest 3 relationships reflect redeeming, encouraging, challenging, or loving qualities?

It was a regular practice in the bible to create gatherings or symbols in celebration or remembrance of significant happenings. In an effort to both prove Paul wrong and continue to point people toward our God, we need to be more intentional about reflecting on and celebrating our relationships. Like Samuel, we need some Ebenezers in our lives.

5. What are some ways that you have celebrated your relationships in the past?
6. What are some specific ways you could begin to celebrate your current relationships?

What's Next?

This week commit to the ways in which you will be intentional about celebrating in your key relationships. Look for birthdays, anniversaries, a start of a new year, a reminder of a significant event and CELEBRATE! Do not take this lightly. You, the people in your life, and God deserve the time to reflect on the significance of your relationships.