



Us: Fill In The Gaps| February 15, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Relationships round us out. They help us be more complete. We all have gaps, and the others in our lives help fill in the gaps.

Key Verse

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

Discussion

Sometimes things we don't understand or even disagree with cause us to research, study, and learn. One of the places with which we often don't understand or find significant disagreement is in relationships. It is an understatement to admit that we...people...see the world differently.

1. What would you say is a regular point of confusion, disagreement, or lack of understanding in your closest relationships?
2. For you, what has been the best source for learning how to navigate difficult times in relationships?

We, as individuals, have different skills, different natural wiring, and different experiences that shape us. If you think of these things that shape us like a wheel with spokes, the things we are not good at doing or lack, leave certain spokes short and create flat spots. Relationships with others make it more complicated but also help to round us out and fix the flat spots.

3. What would you say is something positive you bring to your significant relationships?
4. What is an area in your life that a significant relationship helps to round you out?

As a result of our natural tendency to see the world the way we prefer to understand it, these things that round us out are often annoying, difficult, and stressful. However, approaching relationships with the attitude presented in Philippians 2:3-5 can significantly change the way we approach and exist in relationships.

5. What is an example of how applying this "do nothing out of selfish ambition" and "looking to the interests of others" mentality could have helped you in a relationship lately?
6. What do you think a "mindset of Jesus" looks like in your most significant relationships?

What's Next?

Imagine if both parties in a relationship believed and acted out Philippians 2:3-5 more regularly. If you serve others and look for ways to fill in the gaps, you are more likely to be served and have yours filled as well. This week, look for ways to put this verse into practice with your most significant relationships. When applying this verse, consider replacing the word "others" with a person's name or their relationship to you (i.e. mother, father, son, daughter, spouse, friend, etc.).