



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

DIFFERENT: DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS | WEEK 04 | SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

KNOW GOD | FIND FREEDOM | DISCOVER PURPOSE | MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are called not simply to hear God's Word, but to allow it to transform the way we live. This guide is designed to help you carry Sunday's message into your week—growing in your relationship with God, engaging in meaningful conversation, and putting what you're learning into practice.

Read the Scripture. Reflect on what God is teaching you. Apply it to your life. Pray with purpose. Go deeper. Use the guide on your own as a personal study or journaling tool, with your family, or in your Connect Group.

Our hope is that as we spend time in God's Word and respond to what He is teaching us, we will know God, discover His purpose for our lives, and make a difference.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Different Relationships

Relationships have a way of revealing what is happening in our hearts. It's easy to show grace and forgiveness when life is easy; it's much harder when someone disappoints us, betrays us, or causes real pain.

Jesus calls us to something different. The grace, mercy and forgiveness we have received from Him should change not only how we treat others, but what we allow their actions to produce in us. We can tell the truth, address what is wrong and still choose a response shaped by Jesus rather than by the hurt.

Different relationships begin with a heart being changed by Jesus.

What happens between us and another person can stay with us. A disappointment, a painful experience, or a betrayal can linger long after the incident has passed. Following Jesus invites us to pay attention not only to what happened **between** us and another person, but to what may still be happening **inside** of us because of it.

Grace received should become grace given.

KEY VERSE

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13-14

Jesus calls us to love, forgive and respond differently—not because others deserve it but because of the grace we have already received.

GOING DEEPER



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THIS WEEK IN THE WORD

Five passages to read, reflect on, and apply this week.

LOVE

EPHESIANS 2:1-5

*How has Jesus loved
you at your worst?*

REMEMBER

COLOSSIANS 3:12-13

*How does knowing you
are chosen and loved
change the way you
respond?*

FORGIVE

MATTHEW 18:21-22

*Whose wrongs are you
still keeping count of?*

PRACTICE

JOHN 13:34-35

*What would look
different in your
relationships?*

RELEASE

EPHESIANS 4:31-32

*What do you need to stop
carrying?*

DISCUSSION/JOURNALING

STARTER:

Pastor Paul described relationships as “sandpaper to our soul.” What is it about relationships that can bring out both the best—and the worst—in us?

1. What makes it hardest to respond with grace when someone has genuinely hurt you?
2. How can holding onto a hurt begin to shape how we see ourselves—turning “this happened to me” into “this is who I am”?
3. When we call our response “truth,” “boundaries,” or “justice,” what can help us recognize when anger, retaliation, or a desire to get even is driving us?
4. Where are you more focused on what someone deserves than on showing them the grace Jesus has shown you?

APPLICATION | PUT IT ON

Colossians 3 tells us to “put on” compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness and love. We don't produce these qualities on our own. As the Holy Spirit works in us, He changes the way we respond—even in our most difficult relationships.

Think of one relationship where following Jesus is asking something different of you. What do you need to “put on” in that relationship this week?

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what this could look like—in your words, your attitude, your response, or even in a boundary you need to hold with grace.

PRAY

Jesus, search my heart. Show me where my relationships reflect You—and where they don't. Reveal any hurt, resentment, anger or unforgiveness I am still carrying. Show me what I am holding onto and what it is doing inside of me.

Remind me who I am in You and of the grace, mercy, patience and forgiveness I have received. Holy Spirit, work in me. Where I need to forgive, help me forgive. Where I need to speak truth, give me grace. Where I need a boundary, give me wisdom. Where I need to change, make me willing.

Jesus, what do You want to change in me? What do You want me to release? Show me how to become more like You in my relationships this week. Amen.