

Relational Living

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 4****Focus:**

Making an effort to relate to others helps us witness.

Lesson 4**Bible Basis:**

Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 9:12-23

Lesson 4**Memory Verse:**

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.
—1 Corinthians 9:22b-23

By looking at what people might be going through, your students will consider how they best can make an effort to relate to others.

Materials:

- Whiteboard and markers

As teens come to class, invite them to respond to this question: **Do you think we can get the full picture of someone based on their social media or online presence? Why or why not?**

Choose a volunteer who is outgoing, well-known, and personable. Have him or her stand in front of the large group. Ask students: **What do we know about** (name your volunteer)? **Does he or she play a sport? Does he or she play an instrument? What interests does he or she possess?** Encourage your class to list other things they know such as any of the siblings that may attend your congregation, any functions their parents may serve in the church (example: mother is a teacher; father is a deacon, etc.).

Write on the whiteboard all of the things you either know about this student or new things you learn about him or her as a result of this activity. If your class is meeting online, you can use a screenshared document.

Making an effort to relate to people by getting to know them is a great way to deepen relationships. Think of all that we learned about _____ today just by asking a few questions. By relating to _____ and looking deeper into who he or she is as a person, we can honestly say we know him or her better now.

- **In what ways do you relate to others?** (Answers will vary such as getting to know someone better over time, asking questions, spending time together, doing something fun together, being together on a team, committee, club, etc.)
- **How do others get to know you?** (Answers will vary. Invite students to share ways that people are able to get to know them.)

What if we could look into the minds of other people and know exactly what was going on with them? Do you think knowing what people have going on in their lives would make you more compassionate and empathic?

When people are going through tough times and we know about it, it is easy to be caring and thoughtful. However, we don't always know what people are going through until we take the time to relate to them. Today's lesson is about relating to people in such a way that we show we care and can share the gospel with them. Let's dig in to learn more.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 4 / December 26, 2021

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Materials:

- Internet access
- Conversation Starters (either share the webpage or invite students to follow the link on their devices)
- Paper
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, you can share the document to your screen or send the link to students and invite them to open the page on their device. You can also invite students to bring an index card and pen/pencil with them to class.

The master list can be found here:

200 Questions to Get to Know Someone

https://conversationstartersworld.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/200-Questions-to-get-to-know-someone-conversationstartersworld.com_.pdf

Today's Bible study about Paul shows how well he was able to relate to all kinds of people in the hopes that he could share the gospel message with them. Paul spent time speaking equally with Jews and Greeks trying to find common ground and share in fellowship with them. Paul didn't let the differences the Jews and Greeks had regarding certain matters affect his dealings with them as long as he was able to continue to share Jesus with them. Today's memory verse shares Paul's words on this matter, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings" (1 Corinthians 9:22b-23).

➤ **How might it look if we did today what Paul did here?** (Answers will vary, for example, spending time with people in groups at school or socially that might not "fit" in perfectly in a church setting. Reaching out in friendship to a person who looks different outwardly than most of your friends. Ignoring someone's dress or fashion style and instead getting to know his or her heart, etc.)

Have the Conversation Starters link ready to share with students. Hand each student an index card and pen/pencil. If your class is meeting online, invite them to have those supplies ready.

Have teens look through list to find questions they would be comfortable asking someone they are trying to get to know better—questions that would lead to insight about the person’s heart place and openness to the gospel. Students should glean as many questions as they can, realizing that the process of getting to know someone takes time and will involve many get-to-know-you conversations. Challenge them to write down a few of their favorite questions on the card.

It isn’t easy to reach out to people who are different than us. All people, however, are universally the same in the needs they have and their desire to be known and loved by others. Making an effort to relate to others can be difficult, yet that is what God calls us to do. Doing difficult things socially in order to reach a person spiritually is exactly what Paul did!

Using one of the conversation starters they selected, challenge your students to relate to someone this week in the hopes that they can eventually be able to share the gospel with them. In addition, encourage your teens to make an effort to relate to others by smiling, making eye contact, and saying “hello.” Be sure to follow up with students and see how their reach-out attempts went during the week.

Close today’s lesson in prayer asking God for help in relating to people who might be experiencing a different life-place than they are right now and for His help knowing when and how to share the gospel with someone who is willing to hear.

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