

# NO FILTERS

A HOPE CITY RELATIONSHIP SERIES

## Discussion Guide

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# Fighting For Progress

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### Main Idea

In all of our relationships, we want each day to be a little better than the one before. Today we discuss some questions that were submitted through social media. Pastor Holly offers some great insights on a few hot buttons that we all face in a variety of relational situations.

### 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

### Accountability Cultivates Responsibility

Christianity is communal, relational. It's about "together."

How are you displaying humility and your need for others?

Read: Proverbs 12:15

### Differences Should Be a Source of Strength

Being different is not a weakness. Relationships are about sharing things, including things that are different. Your difference is needed in the lives of others.

Where are you seeking out people who are different from you? How are you inviting their differences to become a source of your strength?

Read: Philippians 2:4, Proverbs 27:17, Titus 2:1-8

### **False Evidence Appearing Real**

Relationships are risky and require intimacy. The key to overcoming fear in relationships is to trust God and love people.

When are you most afraid of intimacy in relationships? How do you set boundaries in relationships that don't turn into walls?

Read: Psalm 34:4

### **Bitter Is Not Better**

Bitterness leads to aloneness. Our relationship with God is what fulfills us. Our relationships with others is a bonus. We need to be grateful for both.

How does someone become thick skinned without becoming cynical? Where have you grown cynical or bitter?

Read: Hebrews 12:15

### **Peace Is Not Passive Aggressive**

Peace is always on the other side of healthy conflict. Blessed are the peacemakers, not the peacekeepers. The goal is unity.

How do we have healthy conflict in our relationships? How have you seen that modeled?

Read: Psalm 34:14

## **SUMMARY**

Our relationship with God is where we find true fulfillment. Our relationships with others is a bonus blessing. Intimacy requires risk. To be one with others as Jesus prayed in John 17, we need to have a measure of vulnerability. Be wise with who you choose to be in your circle, but as we share our lives with others, we all become better.

## **CALL TO ACTION**

1. Read through 1 Corinthians 12:15-26 and take special note of what you discover about the necessity of unity in diversity.

2. Be honest with yourself and others about any resentment or bitterness that might be building up walls in your life. Resolve to seek those individuals out and offer forgiveness.
3. Community happens in connect groups. Make it a point to get into a group and allow yourself to let go of fear and embrace everyone's differences.
4. Ladies, mark your calendars for Ladies Night, Friday, October 6, 7PM, at our West Houston location.

## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

### **Game: Storytime**

To start this game, each player writes down a true story of something funny that happened to them. They then fold the paper and put it into a container or in a pile. The facilitator will then read each of the stories and everyone has the chance to guess who wrote the story. It's an interesting way to learn a little bit more about how coworkers see the world, their sense of humor, and their writing style.