

## Discussion Guide

09/22/2024

# It's Not You, It's Me

## Steady & Ready

Pastor Daniel & Jackie Groves with Pastor Scott and Karen Hagan

### Main Idea

Dr. Hagan and his wife Karen reflected on their 42-year marriage, emphasizing that while not every season may be positive, each experience can be redemptive. Our personal journey of faith shapes our worldview and relationships. We need to focus on redeeming our pain by learning lessons rather than dwelling on damage. The key is steadfast character and closeness to Jesus.

*Key Verse: If you want a happy, good life, keep control of your tongue, and guard your lips from telling lies. (1 Peter 3:10, The Living Bible)*

#### 1. **Influence in Relationships**

There is value in listening to older generations and recognizing that previous knowledge is significant. There also needs to be a focus on mutual support in relationships—being poured into and pouring into others.

Read Jeremiah 29:4-10, Daniel 12:4

How can we effectively honor the wisdom of older generations while also navigating our own experiences and challenges in today's fast-paced world? How has anxiety played a role in your relationships?

#### 2. **Responsibility in Relationships**

We need to approach relationships with a mindset of giving rather than needing. It encourages seeking fulfillment from Jesus and coming to bless others.

In what ways can we cultivate a mindset of giving in our relationships, and how can we effectively communicate to foster healing and connection?

### 3. **Integrity in Relationships**

Integrity in marriage involves aligning your thoughts, words, and actions. It emphasizes the importance of being thoughtful about what you think and say, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your speech.

How can we practice integrity in our relationships, and what strategies can we use to align our thoughts, words, and actions effectively?

## SUMMARY

In life, not every season brings joy, yet each offers the chance for redemption, inviting us to choose between victimhood and victory. We must steward ourselves well, ensuring our thoughts, words, and actions align as we engage in relationships with love and integrity. Let us honor the wisdom of those who have journeyed before us, embracing patience as God unfolds our paths and cultivating steadfast character that reflects the love of Christ in all we do.

## CALL TO ACTION

1. **Cultivate Alignment:** Take time to reflect on your thoughts, words, and actions to ensure they are in harmony. Practice intentional communication, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your speech in relationships.
2. **Embrace Redemption and Patience:** Approach challenges as opportunities for growth. Focus on redeeming past experiences, and exercise patience as you trust God to unfold your life's journey.
3. **Nurture Relationships with Intent:** Engage in relationships with a mindset of blessing others rather than fulfilling personal needs. Seek to honor the wisdom of those older than you and invest in building trust through consistent, loving actions.

## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

**Game:** If you were famous

Go around the group and have each person answer the question, "If you were famous, what would you be famous for?"