

Being Human study guide



SESSION THREE

In session three of *Being Human* we're looking at our connection to others. To be human is to be in relationship – we matter to each other.

AIMS

- To recognise the dehumanising effects of putting ourselves at the centre of our relationships.
- To reflect on how much God loves us.
- To respond by loving others the way that God loves us.

ICEBREAKER | 5 MINS

Q. What's the longest time you've spent alone? How did you find that?

FOLLOW-UP | 5 MINS

Discuss as a group any questions or further thoughts that have arisen following last week's session. Discuss how you found doing the activation points throughout the week. What worked, what didn't go well and why?

WATCH | 15 MINS

Watch: *Being Human: Connection*

While watching this session, take notes, and if you find it helpful, consider the hits and the misses of the film (hits are what captures your imagination, gets you thinking or resonates as true, misses are what you don't understand, didn't agree with or didn't connect with you).

DISCUSSION | 20 MINS

Peter and Jo begin by unpacking that connection is central to our humanity.

- Who is your oldest friend and when did you last make a new friend?
- Are there moments in your life where you have realised how connected to others you are?
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The Jenga tower is back and we move to the middle section which represents the cultural storyline of expressive individualism – “it's all about me” and “you do you”.

- Where do you see the cultural story of expressive individualism, it's all about me, in your life and in wider society?
- Have you experienced fear and protection being central in a friendship rather than love and generosity?

Jo explains that mutually compassionate, generous and loving relationships find their origins in the nature and character of the three-in-one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- How does being made in the image of a relational God inform how you relate to and connect with friends, strangers and family? How could you grow and develop in this?
- Are you comfortable with extending God’s love and welcome to people who don’t know Jesus? What does this look like in your life?

BIBLE REFLECTION | 15 MINS

Read Luke 15:11–32 together.

- What catches your attention in the passage? Discuss briefly as a group.
- In the parable of the prodigal son, do you relate more to the younger son or the older son and why?
- Who do you think is the most reckless character in the story?
- Which of the father’s responses do you find most compelling and why? What are you taking away from the story that you can apply to your own life?

PRAYER | 10 MINS

Spend some time praying with each other using the love of the prodigal father as inspiration, then move on to pray for opportunities to share God’s love with your friends, family and neighbours who don’t know Jesus.

ACTIVATION | 5 MINS

How could the ideas you’ve explored today impact your life this week? Why not commit to putting into practice an idea or a habit that helps you live out and share the truth that you are an image-bearer of God?

Here are some suggestions to get you started; pick one or come up with your own.

- Act – Hospitality is the simple practice of saying “come and share my life with me”. It is inviting others to “come walk the dog with me” or “come lie on my sofa while family life swirls around you” or “come running with me”. This week intentionally invite people into your life. Try inviting people who aren’t who you typically spend time with or who don’t know Jesus.
- Remember – Make Luke 15:31–32 your memory verses for this week. As you recite and remember them throughout the week, consider what this reveals about how God loves us and how we might relate to others.
- Respond – Worship is our response to the love of the Father; we de-centre ourselves and ensure God is at the centre of our lives and our relationships. Set a reminder on your phone for the same time each day this week and spend time worshipping God. Why not try a different style of worship each day?