

CHRIST Series: Realness and Relationship - Study 1

Read our mission statement:

To know Christ and make Him known, that all may become His fully devoted disciples.

With Christ

As Christians, for us relationship starts with our vertical relationship, with God our Heavenly Father. It starts with knowing Christ.

Read the following Bible verses.

Mark 12: 28-34

1 John 4:9-10

1. Why is it important that we first look to Christ before we relate to others?
2. What do you think it means to be 'real' with God?
3. What do you think it means to be 'real' with each other?

With Others

God has made us to be in relationship with others. These are our horizontal relationships.

Read the following Bible verses.

John 13:34-35

1 John 4:11-12

1 John 4:19-21

1. What do these Bible verses say about our relationships with others?
2. What connection does loving God have with loving others?
3. When our capacity to love others is low, what might that say about our vertical relationship with God?
4. How can we restore this? How does God help us?

Our 'Realness'

"Sometimes what gives people courage is knowing that they're not the only ones struggling."

1. How can we make Christ known to others through our 'realness'?

Have a good look at the 2 cross images over the page.

2. What do you notice?

We all struggle with people at different times!

Thank goodness God knew that this would be the case and sent Christ Jesus.

When we are real with God, and repent and say sorry to Him, he can forgive us and put us in a right relationship with him.

He then commands us to make our relationships right with others, and to forgive them as Christ has forgiven us. (And this is not by our own efforts, but with his help. Praise God!)

Read the following Bible verse.

1 John 1:8-10

3. What does this say about 'realness'?
4. How do you go with admitting when you are at fault and have done the wrong thing?
5. What blessings have you experienced in doing this?
6. How do you feel about being vulnerable with others, or about others being vulnerable with you?
7. How can God help you with these things?

Your Challenge This Week

What is God calling each of you to do this week?

Why not personally ask him about your vertical relationship with him, and your horizontal relationships with others?

Are there horizontal relationships that God is inviting you into, people he wants you to connect with? Who are 2 or 3 people at Our Saviour who you don't know and want to get to know? Ask God.

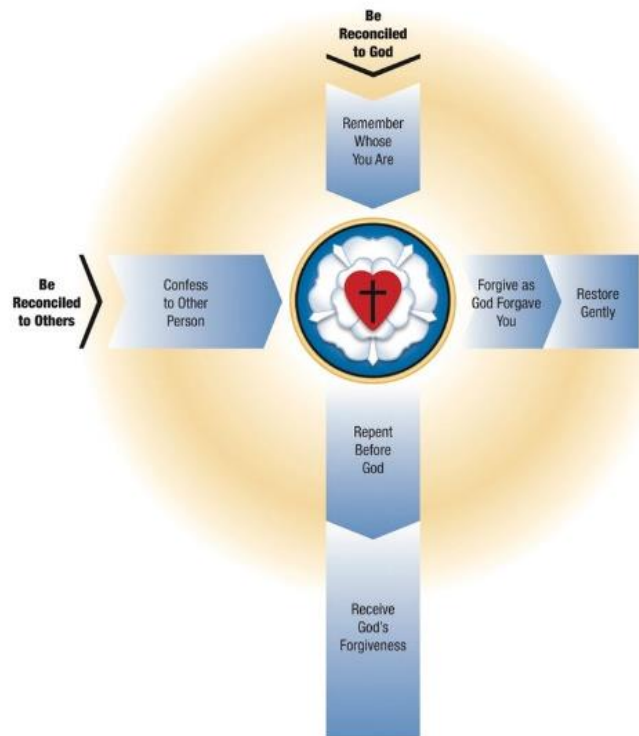
Prayer Time

Before starting your group prayer time, in light of today's study, you might like to ask each person, "how can we pray for you today?"

A Blessing

From Ephesians 3:20-21;

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7