

# Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
HEARTBURN  
PSALM 147:3  
Stuart Jones - February 19, 2017



## INTRODUCTION

"It's complicated" may be the most honest description of most relationships. Have you ever had two friends on the outs with each other and they wanted you to choose sides? Barnabas did when Paul and Mark had a conflict. And these are three of the most important leaders of the early church.

Have people wondered why you are talking with a person who is living far from Christ? Jesus understands. It happened when He was talking with the woman caught in adultery and with the woman at the well.

People are complicated and relationships get tangled. Mercy, grace, and forgiveness can untangle the complicated relationships in our lives.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Tell the group about one of your childhood relationship blunders.
2. Have you ever asked God to heal or help with a relationship? Why?

## EVALUATE IT

1. Read Ephesians 4:2. In your unpleasant relationships, have you been consistently humble, consistently gentle, consistently patient? Why?
2. Stuart said, "We repay unfair with unfair, we combat being made to feel jealous with something that would make them jealous. We retaliate; that's what makes us feel good." Does that fix the hurting relationship? Why or why not?
3. Read Ephesians 4:32. How does God forgive us? How does that translate into our relationships, especially our strained relationships?
4. Read James 1:19. As disciples of Jesus, what is our role in a hurting relationships?

## MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. From all the group has read from scripture and discussed, what is the most difficult aspect of relationships for you? Why? What can you do to conquer this relational struggle?
2. Tell the group about a relationship in your life that the group can pray for today.

Two porcupines in Northern Canada huddled together to get warm, according to a forest folktale. But their quills pricked each other, so they moved apart. Before long they were shivering, so they sidled close again. Soon both were getting jabbed again. Same story; same ending. They needed each other, but they kept needling each other.

-Leslie Flynn, *When the Saints Come Storming In*

In a "Peanuts" cartoon, Lucy says to Snoopy: "There are times when you really bug me, but I must admit there are also times when I feel like giving you a big hug." Snoopy replies: "That's the way I am ... huggable and buggable."

-Robert L. Short, *Parables of Peanuts*



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?  
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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