

## **Community Guide**

**Main Idea:** In order for relationships to work, we must let the One who designed them define them.

**Head Change:** Healthy relationships begin with me.

**Heart Change:** God gives me grace when I humble myself before him.

**Life Change:** Commit to relationally healthy promises not feelings.

Our goal in life is not simply to follow Jesus, but to become like Him. Therefore, He must increase and we must decrease (John 3:30). There are three promises we can make to help us be more like Jesus in our relationships. First, we can promise to respond with patience and love rather than to react out of emotion and impulse. Next, we can promise to focus on the good in people instead of focusing on their faults. Last, we can promise to talk it out when there is conflict instead of walking away and giving up on the relationship.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. The Bible teaches us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. What do you think we should be listening for when others speak to us about relationship problems?
2. When it comes to grace, we all want it in abundance, but we can struggle to give it freely. Do you think God wants us to keep it to ourselves or pass it on to our neighbors? Why?
3. In promising to focus on the good in others, how should we handle it when we can't easily identify the good in another person? Would talking to another believer help? What pitfalls should we be careful to avoid when discussing difficult situations with a third party?

### **Prayer:**

Father God, thank you for your faithfulness! Please protect us from bitterness and resentment caused by broken promises. Bless our relationships to grow healthier and stronger as we grow closer to you. Fill our relationships with peace, love, and joy. In Jesus name, Amen.