



Make You Like Me Series

Part 1 - "Relationships Are Simple"

Small Group Material

April 8th, 2018

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *Relationships are the FRAMEWORK through which LOVE gets EXPRESSED and EXPERIENCED.*

Study Verses: *Ephesians 4:13, John 17:20-23, John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:8*

Key Points

- *We want people to BE LIKE US and we want people to LIKE US.*
- *When I can't MAKE YOU LIKE ME, I will DIMINISH you and work to DISMISS you.*
- *Intimacy requires AWARENESS. You can't SHARE if you're not AWARE.*
- *Intimacy is simply a SHARED EXPERIENCE.*
- *Intimacy needs the SAFETY of LOVE. LOVE makes INTIMACY possible.*
- *We are built to RECEIVE love as well as created to GIVE it away.*
- *Love is exchanged through a RELATIONSHIP.*
- *Love is a force that breathes VALUE and WORTH into another.*
- *Deeper CONNECTIONS create deeper INTIMACY.*
- *We love when we GIVE ourselves away for the GOOD of another.*
- *To be LOVED is RECEIVING good for ourselves without TRYING to EARN it.*

ENCOUNTER

- **What is the purpose of a relationship? Why did God create and design relationships?**
- **As a society, do you believe we are becoming more or less connected to each other? What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **MAKE YOU LIKE ME. How do you hear this statement? When it comes to your connections with others, which one do you struggle with the most: wanting people to be like you or wanting people to like you?**
- **What drives our desire to make people like us (seeking approval and fighting for conformity)?**

FORMATION

- **Read Ephesians 4:13. What insight does this passage provide in regard to the purpose of our relationships? How does our willingness to pursue connections with others influence our faith and overall impact as a church?**
- **Read John 17:20-23. Of all the issues Jesus could've prayed for, why do you believe He centered His prayer for the church on oneness and unity?**
- **Read John 13:34-35 and 1 John 4:8. How should the way we treat our relationships cause the world to take notice?**

EXPRESSION

- **What is the greatest tension you tend to experience in your relationships with others? Why do you believe this tension continues to pop up?**
- **Intimacy requires awareness. You can't share if you're not aware. How would you describe your level of awareness when it comes to yourself as well as your connections with others?**
- **How well are you known? Who knows the real you?**
- **How well do you allow yourself to be known? What encourages you to be seen and what causes you to be guarded and hide?**