



## Closer: Relationships Both Near and Far

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### **Week 1: Border Breakers**

**What we want students to learn:** Distance = Distortion, Proximity = Passion

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** Close the gap.

**Large Group Message Focus:** 1 Corinthians 13:7 and Acts 9:1-22

**Scripture Focus:** Hebrews 10:22

**Supporting Scripture:** Proverbs 8:17

### **The Main Point**

Welcome to week one of Closer: Relationships Both Near and Far. During this series, we will be focusing on the tensions we face in relationships both near and far. This week we will be focusing on the relationships (or lack thereof) that we have with the people who are far from us. Meaning, the people whom we believe we have nothing in common with and maybe don't even want to talk to. Not only do we do this with people, but we do this with God also. We want to encourage students to close the gap that prevents them from experiencing all the love and promises God has for them and all of the relationship He has in store for them.

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### INTRODUCTION

- **What would you like to be known for?**
- **Who do you want to know this about you?**

As Christians, we should want to be known for being more like Jesus. But how can we do that when we don't close the gap between us and other people, determining to show EVERYONE God's love, even if they aren't like us?

PRAY that your group would have the boldness to close the gap with someone in their schools, teams, or clubs this week.

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### LESSON

To kick off the lesson, you and your students are going to talk about the times when we create distance between ourselves and God. This could be because we feel guilty, like we don't know enough, or even because we don't really understand Him.

Hebrews 10:22 (NLT) - "let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."

- **Put this verse in your own words.**
  - *We can go confidently to God at any time because God has forgiven us.*
- **Why does God tell us to draw near?**
  - *God wants us near to Him. No matter what we have done or who we are. Even when we think other people don't want us around, we can be sure God does.*
  - *God also wants us near to Him so He can speak to us through His word and remind us of who He is and how much He loves us.*
- **When you feel guilty do you ever distance yourself from God? What about people?**
  - *When it comes to people, perhaps a coach, parent, best friend, or even small group leader, we may tend to not open ourselves up to them like we did before we felt guilty. Often, we are afraid of what they will think of us.*

## LIFE APPLICATION

Proverbs 8:17 says "I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me."

- **What do you do when you really want something? For example, there is a new (video game, pair of shoes, movie, song, etc.) coming out and you really want it.**
  - *At this point, you do everything you can to find. Regardless, you go looking for it in some way, whether that be online or in a store somewhere.*
- **What does it mean to "seek God?"**
  - *Some versions say, "seeking diligently." The definition of diligent is "in a way that shows care and conscientiousness in one's work."*
  - *We are called to seek God even more than we seek out material things, doing whatever it is to see it and find it. In the same way, we can look for God to move in our schools, homes, etc.*
- **What is the best way to show someone you love them?**

The reality is, one of the best ways to show someone you love them is to be there for them. This cannot be done from a distance. (Distance = distortion, Passion = Proximity)

- **What is one question you can ask someone this week to get to know them better?**

Challenge for the week: **Point out the positive in one person every day this week.**

## CLOSING ACTIVITY: Fusion Prayer Time

The deadline for Fusion is NEXT WEDNESDAY. Is there anyone in your group who has not signed up yet? Take a moment to encourage them to come!

We are asking you to take up the responsibility for inviting your students and we are asking your students to take up the responsibility for inviting their friends. So, for a few minutes, take time praying with your students, for the friends they are planning on inviting. Pray that God would go with them as they invite, working in the lives of their friends.

## TAKE IT OUT

After prayer, be sure to remind them of FUSION again and THE WEEKEND!