



# Realest

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## Week 2: Relationships

**What we want students to learn:** It isn't real if it isn't messy.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** We want the students to be able to embrace the messiness and know that God works all things for the good.

**Large Group Message Focus:** Tonight, the students will be diving into two different passages; Genesis 2 and John 13. In Genesis 2, they will learn that God created relationships perfectly, but sin created the mess; which leads to messy relationships. In John 13, the students will see the example Jesus set forth as to how we can handle messy relationships.

**Scripture Focus:** John 13:1-17 and John 13:31-38

**Supporting Scripture:** Romans 8:28

### The Main Point

During this series, students will be learning about the environment in which their souls need to thrive. The three main parts of that environment include ownership, relationships, and rest. Week one is all about relationships. The goal of tonight's lesson is to show them that it is okay to have messy relationships. I am messy, you are messy, and we are all messy; so, putting two messy people together will never create perfection. It creates a bigger mess, and that is okay. Jesus was **perfect**, and put all he had into relationships that would still result in messy situations because of their sin. He still chose to love them right where they were, until the very end.

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### INTRODUCTION

To kick off group tonight, start off by telling a funny story of when you experienced a literal sticky situation or caused a huge mess. This could include massive messes your kids have made, kitchen mishaps, mudding in a Jeep, etc.

Allow a few of your students to also share.

Then, **explain that everyone is messy. Life is messy. It is okay. God knows we are messy and loves us unconditionally. What matters is how we choose to handle the messiness of life and of the relationships that we are in.**

**PRAY** your students would have open minds about accepting the mess for what it is, embracing those around them with open arms.

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## LESSON

Have your students read John 13:3-5. This section discusses the washing of Jesus's disciples' feet, which is going to be an odd concept for your students and most people.

- **Why in the world did Jesus wash the men's stinky feet?**
  - *Add in your own crazy answers and let the students have an opportunity to explore their feelings and thoughts about this odd action that Jesus did.*
  - *During this time period, the disciples would have worn what is equivalent to today's Chacos. After a long day of traveling, they would have had very disgusting feet. During this time, they also would have sat on or low to the ground for meals, so their stinky feet would have been right there. The washing of the feet was a very low job typically done by servants. Jesus washing their feet not only displays a spiritual cleansing, but also models how Jesus' disciples should serve one another. And even so how we should serve one another.*
- **How do you think Jesus felt about having to wash their feet?**
- **How do you think the disciples felt as their feet were being washed?**
- **Are you currently serving your friends? How so?**
  - *Helping them, sending encouragement, etc.*
- **So, you may not have to wash your small group's feet, but what can you do to serve them?**
  - *Helping them with homework, sending encouraging texts or phone calls, washing dishes for your parents or cleaning the house, having lunch and just listening to their concerns, etc. There are so many ways to serve our friends.*

Now have your students read John 13:38; this changes the story slightly by showing that Jesus did all of these things even though he knew he would be rejected.

- **Why is this verse important to this story?**
  - *This verse is critical to this story because it shows how deep Jesus' love runs for us. We may reject him, but he still chooses to love us with a love so deep and so wide. It is also an example to follow. It shows us that even when the mess arises, we should love our friends anyways.*
- **Jesus knew his friend would reject him, but still washed his feet. Does this change your thoughts on what Jesus did?**
  - *Jesus' 12 disciples were his best friends, his small group, and his people. He knew his best friend would reject him, but he still chose to wash his feet because he loved him where he was and through the messiness that Peter would create.*
- **What are some ways you could serve someone who has rejected you?**

Have your students read Romans 8:28.

- **Can God turn a messy moment/ relationship into something meaningful? How so?**
  - *This verse discusses how God works all things out for the good. Messy relationships may be the reality of this life, but it does not mean that God won't turn them into great things.*

Though Peter rejects Jesus, God intentionally uses the messiness of that situation. Peter rejects Jesus and ultimately plays a role in his death. HOWEVER, Jesus dying on the cross was a sacrifice made out of a deep love that each of us desperately needed. *God does not cause the messiness, but he does work it out for good.*

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## LIFE APPLICATION

Life is messy. People are messy. Relationships are messy. Jesus shows us two ways to navigate messy relationships; **Love them where they are** and **love them until the end**.

**Loving them where they are** means staying present in the middle of the mess and working through our initial emotions of pride, uncertainty, and rejection.

**Loving them until the end** means to remain constant. This culture has made it so easy to quickly disconnect from people, Jesus calls us to be consistent and to embrace the mess of relationships, and to love them through it.

- **How can you apply this to your life?**
- **If you had a Romans 8:28 mindset, how could that change your relationships?**
- **How can this be implemented into small group?**

**\*\*\*DISCLAIMER:** *There is a difference between forgiveness and trust. There is a difference between friends and friends that influence you. God calls us to love people through the messiness of life and relationships, but he also calls us to guard our hearts. Make sure your students understand the difference between loving people and putting yourself in the position to get hurt.*

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## TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests.

Pray that the students would embrace the relationships of this life with a heart filled with Jesus's love.

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