



People Are The Worst | The God Crutch | Doug Wekenman
Weekly Study | 10.20.19

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Describe your week in three words. Why did you pick each of those words?

SHARE

Welcome to our new series called *People are The Worst...and why we need them.*

Our life involves people, including the difficult ones. No matter how hard we try, we just can't avoid them. In fact, if we look in the mirror, let's be honest, we can sometimes be part of the problem. Okay, so obviously not you, but definitely the person next to you.

So, what does God have to say about dealing with difficult people? What about judgmental people or draining people? How should we react to those who let us down? How do you love those who are hard to love?

We felt led to talk about this topic, because we are facing a relational breakdown epidemic. More than any generation prior, we are more connected than ever, yet that connectedness has not led to deeper, healthier relationships. Instead, the data has revealed that although we are hyper-connected, we are one of the loneliest generations to exist. The truth is that God has a design for relationships – a real plan for deep, abiding and life-giving relationships, but many of us don't want to do the hard work involved in fostering them. In this series we are looking at what God says about relationships and learn about how we do relationships God's way.

Read John 5:1-15

What was your initial takeaway from this story? Who did you relate with most in this story?

What does this story teach us about Jesus?

We don't know much about this man, but what we do know is that he has been waiting 38 years on his mat for someone to carry him to the water to be healed. That's a long time to be waiting. Obviously, whatever he has been doing, is not working. But fortunately for him, healing, restoring, and redeeming is what Jesus does best. Jesus walks right up to this man and asks him a personal but profound question. He asked him "do you want to be well?"

On the surface, that feels like an obvious question with an easy answer. Of course, this man wants to be well. But as Doug pointed out this weekend, deciding to get healthy is often more complicated than we think, and it's most complicated when we continue to carry around our crutch.

What if we can finally walk, but we fall?

What if we finally get that job, but we get fired?

What if we finally find that community, but then we get hurt?

Life is scary. When Jesus asks if we want to be healthy, the answer may not be as black and white as we may often think. This man, like us, needs to change the way he thinks about God and the way He brings healing to the world. Or as Paul writes to the church in Rome, he needs to be "transformed by the renewing of his mind" (Romans 12:2).

God is always ready to heal, redeem, and restore! Take some time to talk to each other about what that looks like in your own life by answering the following questions.

What is one of your proverbial "mats" or "crutches" that you find yourself hanging onto in life? Do you want to be healed?

What is one practical step you can take to heal, pick up your mat, and continue moving

forward? Confession? Forgiveness?

M O V E

The ultimate hope is that we would heal in order to be more effective for the Kingdom of Heaven. What does that mean? Let's read what Jesus says to His disciples right before He ascends into heaven.

Read Matthew 28:16-20

What are your initial reactions to this passage we call The Great Commission?

What do you think Jesus meant by "disciple"?

We will refer to this passage often throughout the life of our church. As he gets ready to depart, Jesus leaves his disciples with the call to, "go and make disciples of every nation." Jesus makes it abundantly clear that it is no longer good enough for his disciples to stay where they are. This message, the Gospel, is only good news if it is for the entire world! Jesus sends out his disciples and tells them to take the message everywhere.

By the way, that is really good news for us because we are on the other side of the world. The very fact that we are currently meeting together in 2019 to proclaim that "Jesus is King," is proof that men and women left the comfort of their homes to take new ground for the Kingdom of God.

As a church, we never want to be comfortable staying put. We always want our eyes to be on the horizon, focusing on reaching far beyond our own backyard! We are working through our baggage from the past, getting rid of our crutches so that we can turn toward the future and make disciples without being weighed down. For some, that may mean moving to some unreached people group somewhere. But for most of us, that looks like using the opportunities and resources we have right in front of us to spread this message of love far beyond the walls of our church!

How can you help Red Rocks be a church that makes disciples? What issues are you passionate about tackling?

What role can your Group play in helping our church make heaven more crowded? Spend some time brainstorming ideas together.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- Acts 1:8

