



## **Commitment Issues | Doug Wekenman | 2.12.23**

### **Weekly Study**

### **S H A R E**

This week Doug started our new series “Reel Real Relationships” by going behind the scenes and talking about commitment. After a decade of highlight reels, everybody’s ready for some behind the scenes. People want authenticity and real. And its truer in relationships than anywhere else. It’s time to be real about the struggles of relationships. And it’s time to let God be real with us about what he wants for our relationships.

**Before you dive into the study check-in with each other by asking these questions:**

**How has God revealed himself to you in the last week?**

**Where do you need God to show up in your life?**

### **G R O W**

**Read John 17:22-23**

Doug reminded us this week that God’s Church is the world’s hope. And as we just read in John, Jesus prays for our relationships. If Jesus is praying for our relationships, they must be important and close to his heart. He prays that we might be one with each other as he is one with the Father and the Spirit, that’s

how the world will know. When we win at relationships, we reflect the love of God like a city on a hill. Since we know Jesus, people should look at our relationships and see something different.

**What does this look like within your relationships as a follower of Christ compared to what relationships look like through the lens of the world?**

**Think of a relationship that you know that reflects Jesus and share about it with your group.**

We all have commitment issues to some extent. But God doesn't. So, in our commitment issues let us give them back to him and ask him to teach us how to have real relationships with people that reflect his love and commitment to us. Real relationships require hard work and deep commitment.

**When you hear "commitment issues" what first comes to mind? Maybe a past relationship or current relationship in your own life?**

## MOVE

**Read Deuteronomy 4:29; John 15:4**

Doug reminded us of God's infinite grace which makes unlimited space to be real about the struggle. Single. Dating. Engaged. Married. Divorced. Thriving. Struggling. And regardless of our past, God wants us to win at love which means we must do relationships his way. How do we do that? We seek the LORD with all our heart and abide in him. Making covenant with Jesus and in our relationships. The *I'm not going anywhere* kind of covenant. The *I'm with you* kind of covenant. We love because he first loved us, and we forgive because we are forgiven. When we begin to understand what real relationships look like through the lens of the Gospel, our commitment issues seem to fade because we are doing relationships God's way.

Let us be reminded of this today and every day that we have a covenant-keeping, promise-keeping, vow-keeping God who remains committed to us no matter how many times we fail him. He prays for us to be committed to one another the same way he is to us. Our God commissions us to love each other with the same fierceness that he loves us. Because in a world of fake, people are dying for something real and so

are we. Remember our calling, fueled by his grace, is to let our relationships be pictures of His love for us. This will change the world!

**Can you imagine a world full of real, Christ thriving relationships? What do you see?**

**Is there a relationship in your life that God is asking you to put in some hard work for it to begin thriving? If not now, has there been a relationship in your past that required this?**

**How does reflecting on the relationship God has with us transform the relationships you have with one another?**

## **P R A Y**

Commit to praying for one another as we all know real relationships are difficult but worth it. Pray for courage and strength to do the hard work so that we will begin to reflect the love of Christ to the world.