



Out of Order | Ethan Matott | 2.19.23

Weekly Study

S H A R E

This week Ethan continued our new series “Reel Real Relationships” by talking about how we so often get our relationships out of order and how we can get them back on track. God is relational at his core and exists in relationship. He’s created us out of a desire for relationship, and he’s also gifted us relationships with each other. You can learn so much about the love of God through your earthly relationships, but oftentimes relationships feel more like a curse than a gift. They are at the root of brokenness in us, and everyone has wounds — we can help prevent these wounds from happening or getting worse when we get the order of our priorities right.

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 when it comes to your relationships?

Where do you need God to show up in your most intimate relationships this week?

G R O W

Read Genesis 3:1-21.

It is in this passage that we see things get out of order for the first time in our relationships with the people we love. The enemy will always strike first at your relationship with God so he can shake your identity and

thens hake all her relationships in your life. When they started listening to the voice of the enemy over God's voice, they allowed sin to enter the picture and put themselves on the throne instead of God. From there, the blame game began: Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the serpent. Sin and shame and strife are present, and even though God sets the enemy straight first there are still consequences that follow us to this day. Ethan clarified the differences in struggle that men and women feel as a result of these consequences. Men are inclined to choose power over unity, and women to choose control over companionship.

What are the effects of the curse — the consequences for this original sin — that you feel most strongly in your relationships? How do these play out practically in those relationships?

However, verse 21 shows us that we are not doomed! Jesus has come to cover over shame and sin. It's because of him that we get to fight back for mutual love and to fight for each other instead of against each other. What is truer than the pain of your past is the truth that today, if you are in Christ, you are a new creation. Unity, companionship, freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation in your relationships are possible because of Him.

MOVE

Read Matthew 6:33.

God's grace creates space for us to be real about the struggle of relationships and the ways that we get our priorities out of order. Jesus said, "I am here to do the will of my Father"; however, we usually live and operate in our relationships in a way that says, "I am here to do the will of myself." — and when we do that, everything gets misaligned. Ethan talked to us about several ways that we get our relationships out of order: romance over God, preferences over people, fairness over forgiveness, lust over trust and happiness over everything. Take some time to discuss the following questions with your group based on those topics. There's no need to answer all of them, but

Romance over God:

-Has your desire for a spouse been put in the driver's seat of your life?

-If you're in a relationship or are married, in what ways has your partner been elevated above your

relationship with God?

-How can you reorder your priorities this week?

Preferences over People:

-Do you love your opinions over the people God has put in your life?

-Are you quick to end relationships when they begin to feel inconvenient or difficult for you?

Fairness over Forgiveness:

-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?

-Relationships should be a two way street. Are there any boundaries and/or expectations that need to be set in a relationship in your life to prevent bitterness and resentment from growing?

Lust over Trust:

-What do you need to do this week to inspire trust with your partner? If you're single, what do you need to do to begin to build trust with your future spouse?

-In what area of your life do you need freedom from shame? Feel free to share with your group, or in prayer time at the end of the night. Or if you would rather only share with one person, find your group leader at the end of the night and let them pray for you. There is no shame for the decisions we have made, either in the past or present, and we want to walk with you into freedom.

Happiness over Everything:

-What about following Jesus does not make you happy?

-What is something you have given up on because you weren't happy? It could be a relationship, friendship, job or interest... is it something you should consider re-engaging with and seeking restoration in?

P R A Y

Pray together in groups of no more than three and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh desire to get your relationships back in order. Wait on him to show you the most important places in your life that need to be brought back under His plan for your life and that he would give you the courage to make the decisions needed to be obedient so that you can experience the fullness of life that is available to you.