



Relationships: Week One | Shawn Johnson | 05.18.2025  
Weekly Study

## SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high, a low, and something interesting from this week.**
- **What's your go-to side dish that you bring to BBQs in the summer?**

## GROW

This week, Shawn kicked us off by reminding us of something foundational: we were created to pursue the plans of God with the people of God. One of the most powerful ways to do this is by living a life centered on Him.

In Matthew 22, Jesus gives us the Great Commandment: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And then He adds, Love your neighbor as yourself. The order matters. When we put our relationship with God first, it transforms every other relationship in our lives.

In a world that often ties your worth to what you do, who you know, or how you perform, this series is an invitation to step back and remember: your truest identity is a beloved child of God.

Trust His timing, His design, and His way—and watch how that changes not just what you do, but how you love.

**Read Matthew 22:37-39 NIV**

- **What stuck out to you from Shawn’s message? Explain.**
- **If someone asked you, “How are your relationships?” which ones come to mind first, and what thoughts or emotions does that bring up?**
- **In what areas of your life do you struggle with trying to find fulfillment or validation from others instead of from God? Why do you think that is?**
- **Why do you think Jesus specifically called us to love God with our heart, mind, and soul, instead of simply saying “love God”? How does love look different when it comes from each of those parts of us?**

**M O V E**

To love God, love others, and get the most out of our lives and relationships, Shawn shared three key steps:

1. **We say yes.** When we say yes to Jesus, we receive forgiveness, the promise of eternity with Him, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It's the starting point for a transformed life.
  2. **We stay close.** In *John 15:5*, Jesus reminds us that we can do nothing apart from Him. Staying close involves spending time in *Scripture*, talking to God in *prayer*, and maintaining *connections with people* who help us grow in faith.
  3. **He shows up.** As we walk with Him, God proves faithful. He gives us confidence in who we are, produces lasting fruit in our lives, and does more than we could ask or imagine.
- **When it comes to spending time in Scripture, talking with God in prayer, and being in community with His people, which of these feels most valuable to you**

**right now, and which one do you find most challenging? What might help you grow in that area?**

**Read Galatians 3:26 NIV, 1 John 3:2-3 MSG**

- **When you think about your identity, what roles or labels do you tend to focus on first? Are they rooted more in what the world says about you, or what God says?**
- **How does knowing that your identity is secure, even as you're still becoming, change the way you view success, failure, or comparison?**

One of the biggest obstacles to embracing our identity in Christ is the belief that it's only as secure as we feel it is in any given moment. But the truth is, our identity isn't based on our feelings—it's based on what God says is true about us.

The value of something is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it, and Jesus paid the ultimate price for your life. That means you were, are, and always will be worth that price.

Whether you fully believe it yet or not, here's what Christ says about you:

You are...

- A Child of God (Galatians 3:26)
- Loved (1 John 3:1)
- Valued (Romans 5:8)
- Chosen (Isaiah 41:9–10)
- Wanted (Ephesians 1:4–5)
- Called (Ephesians 2:10)
- Forgiven (Romans 8:1)
- Set Free (Romans 8:2)
- A New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Secure and On Your Way to Heaven (John 3:16)
- Absolutely Complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)

- **Which of the statements above is hardest for you to believe about yourself? Why do you think that is?**
- **What do you really need to hear God speak over you right now?**

## P R A Y

God, thank You for reminding us that we were created for connection—with You and with others. This week, help us keep You at the center. Guide our conversations this week and shape our hearts to reflect Yours. In Jesus' name, amen.