

# Viewpoint Church

## Community Group Outline

Your Community Group: A place to Love, Grow, and Serve.

## Viewpoint Church CG Weekly Outline

### Sermon Date: February 4, 2018

AJ started us off by posing the question: What does it look like to have great relationships? In this series, we are not just going to talk about romantic relationships, but all types of relationships.

AJ covered three main points. The first is this:

#### **1. God is a relational God who created us to be connected with him and with others. (Genesis 1:26-27)**

We have a God who is relational in nature. In His image, He created mankind. God in his nature is plural. We worship a triune God, a God made of three persons. When He created us He said, "let US create man" because He works with himself. He created us in His image and He also created us to be connected relationally to Him and to others. The number one way we reflect the image and likeness of God is through our relationships.

We were created to be connected with God. God made Adam and Eve and our purpose was to walk in perfect harmony and peace with God. Then Genesis three happens, sin enters the world and from here our primary relationship is broken. God said to Adam and Eve, "Where are you?" He was disconnected from the ones who were created to be connected with Him. From this moment, relationships became MESSY. Why did they become messy? Because we live lives governed by fear.

AJ described how he sees just as much dysfunction in Christian relationships as in non-Christian relationships. Why? Because we are broken people who do not fully understand our identity in Christ. When you see others in the image of God, when you see them as a children of God...the only reaction to that person is honor, respect, love, peace, and vulnerability.

We have become really good at pointing out the areas in others that do not reflect the image of God. BUT we should start pointing out the areas in others that DO REFLECT THE IMAGE OF GOD! We are to encourage one another - encourage means to give courage!

**ACTIVITY: Let's encourage! To the person to the left of you, point out specific qualities, character traits, dreams, goals, etc. that reflect the image of God! Simply put, how does that person reflect the image of God!**

## **2. Being governed by fear creates an environment around you that makes it impossible to connect with others. (2 Timothy 1:7. 1 John 4:18)**

Four reactions to fear in our relationships:

1. Fight - displays temper, irritability and is confrontational. What is the result of fighting? Distance.
2. Flight - someone who avoids, anxious and is constantly running away when a difficulty faces them. What happens with this? Distance.
3. Freeze - characterized by numbing out and not wanting to deal with a situation. Again, this leads to distance.
4. Control - typically charger mentalities or outgoing personalities. Thought process: "You're scary so what I am going to do is control you." Creates? Distance.

These are dangerous because they are cyclical in nature. Why are we afraid? We need to answer this question otherwise we will stay in our cycle. We apologize but we never deal with the real reason of why we are afraid and continue in our cycle.

**QUESTION: Of the four reactions to fear, what area do you most associate yourself with? Keep in mind, these reactions are all weighed equally. All can lead to distance in relationships.**

**ACTIVITY PART 1: Take time here to separate and pray individually. Spend 10 minutes in prayer with God. LISTENING to what he has to say to you. Reflect and listen to this question: Where or what is the root of your fear (maybe in a specific relationship)?**

**ACTIVITY PART 2 : If you're comfortable sharing, please have a few people describe what they believe they heard.**

Fear is our enemy in relationships. Fear creates disconnection. If we pursue healing we will walk with God in a more intimate way and our relationships can display the Kingdom of God. As we are filled with perfect love, fears begin to flee. Listen in your prayer life, He pours his love into us when we listen.

## **3. Vulnerability leads to intimate connection with the ones we love.**

Vulnerability will lead to greater connection. One large issue AJ recognizes in our culture is a lack of vulnerability. There is so much pressure on all fronts (students/perfect grades, work/more money, relationships/be perfect, women/be beautiful, men/be strong). That is why we have a generation of young adults who don't feel like they can fail and who are lonely.

Parents (from a youth pastor): if you want your kid to be more vulnerable with you...be vulnerable with your kid. Talk with them about the things you struggle with. If you are vulnerable, your kids will follow.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC: Why might it be hard to be vulnerable?**

**QUESTION: Has there been a time in your life where you were vulnerable and it DID create better closeness? Tell about these victories.**