

relationships relationships relationships relationships relationships on repeat

*Friends +
Strangers*

**We relate
graciously when
we consider how
God welcomed us.**

■ SERIES SUMMARY

- The apostles returned again and again to the idea that our faith in
- Jesus should shape every relationship in our lives—family, church, work, and community.
- In this series, we'll explore relational wisdom that is repeated again and again in our New Testaments. In groups, we'll pair these lessons with overviews of various books of the Bible.
- May our everyday interactions become opportunities to reflect God's love to the people all around us. May we allow the gospel to transform how we treat others!
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■ ICEBREAKER

- Would you feel more out of place at a formal event or a costume event?

■ SCRIPTURE

- **Daniel 1**
- Reading included in this week's teaching video.
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LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. How do you see Daniel navigating cultural differences without making enemies?
2. Where do you see signs of God giving Daniel favor with strangers, and have you experienced anything like that before?
3. What do you think it was like for them, as outsiders, to be handed authority like that?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. In what situations does your faith make you feel most like an outsider in our own culture?
5. Where is it hardest for you to hold onto your convictions without becoming defensive or distant?
6. Can you think of a time when God gave you the opportunity to show hospitality to a stranger (or when you were the stranger)?

WRITING A NEW STORY

7. What are the characteristics of Christians you know who have a “winsome presence,” that we should seek to cultivate?
8. Who are the culturally different people we need to be hospitable toward in our community’s context?
9. How can we best navigate the balance between being a “friend of sinners” like Jesus, but also living a life set apart like Jesus?

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

God, thank You for welcoming us with grace. Help us live faithfully among others in a way that reflects Your kindness and truth. Amen.

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