

Week 1: How are we doing?

Sometimes we get to places in our lives where we ask the question, “What difference does it make?” We can get there with our diets, our parenting, our habits, and our communication. We can even get there with our faith. But when Jesus showed up, he didn’t intend on business as usual. He came to make a difference. And he came for the whole world to feel that difference. So that begs the question, “What difference does it make?”

But in order to best answer that question, we need to first *Define the Relationship*. What would God say if you asked him, “How are we doing?”. Until we answer it, our relationship stalls.

Discussion Questions

1. Give an example of something you signed up for, purchased, or added to your life in order to make a difference (e.g., gym membership, InstaPot, exercise app). What difference were you hoping it would make? Did it work? Why or why not?
2. When we become indifferent toward something or someone, we lose interest and view it or them as having no value to us. Can you think of a time when you became indifferent toward something or someone in your life? What caused that?
3. *Defining the Relationship* means defining the state of our relationship to understand where we stand with each other. Why is it important to do this with the people in our lives? What criteria do you use to define the relationships in your life?
4. Adam stated, “*It’s easy to wonder where we stand with God because we have a front-row seat to our own lives.*” What do you think he means by that? What in your life causes you to wonder about your relationship with God?
5. Read Romans 4:25–5:2.
 - Our relationship with God should not be defined by our mistakes, regrets, or shame, but by our relationship with Jesus. Once our relationship with God is defined by Jesus’ love for us, we can move forward. What behaviors or thoughts have you used in the past to define your relationship with God? Has this been helpful or harmful? Explain.
 - Romans 5:1 tells us that we now have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Peace is not a feeling; it’s harmony between two parties. In our relationship with God, peace is not simply the absence of negative thoughts, and feelings. It’s knowing that God desires something *for* us, not *from* us. What do you think it looks like to live in a relationship with God defined by this kind of peace? How would living in this kind of peace change your attitude toward God? Toward others?

Changing Your Mind

How different would your relationships look if they were based on peace—on harmony between you and the other person? As you engage with your spouse, your friends, and your co-workers this week, seek to define your relationships in the same way that God defines his relationship with you.