



SEPTEMBER THEME

MORE THAN FRIENDS

SCRIPTURE Matthew 22:37-40

BOTTOM LINE Does this relationship value me, others, and/or God?



MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:

**THINK
ABOUT THIS**

This month in StuMin our theme is More Than Friends. At the heart of this series are strategies for bringing our faith into our significant relationships. While we'll spend a lot of our time focusing on dating, much of what we talk about can be applied to friendships and other relationships. Tonight we are going to have a conversation about how to decide whether or not to get into a relationship or stay in a relationship. We call it the "valued test." It is based on Matthew 22:37-40 and uses three simple questions to help us make big decisions in our relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Large Group Interactions

- **How do you know?** - In groups of two or three, how do you know if you should enter into or stay in a relationship?
- **How do you value?** - In groups of two or three, what are some people or things that you value? How do you show that value?
- **How do you love and value yourself?** - Have a recorder gather responses on provided post-its and then bring them to the front and place them on the white paper.
- **How do you love and value others?** - What would we expect to find in a relationship that values others? What beliefs and behaviors would we find? Gather responses on post-it notes then bring them to the front and place them on the white paper.
- **How do you love and value God?** - How does this relationship love and value God? Put your answers on your post-its and then bring them to the front and place them on the white paper.



Small Group Study

Connect

Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your “highs” and “lows” with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week. You can get paper for this activity at the leader bin cart or you can have the students use their phones. We suggest setting up a “group chat” using one of the following platforms: iMessage on iPhone, email, groupme, snapchat, instagram, or facebook.

Questions

- If you were to look at your relationships, could be dating or a friendship, what would you say your values are? A value is something that you believe to be true about something and that you demonstrate in your actions. So, I value honesty, and so I tell the truth to my friends and my significant other.
- What would you say that our culture tells you to value about relationships? Specifically, what does our culture tell us are good reasons for getting into or staying in a relationship with someone? Are there good messages and bad messages? How do you decide if they are good or bad?
- Do you know of people that are in relationships that shouldn't be? Why? Do you know of people that are in good relationships? What makes them good relationships?
- In the context of a relationship, what does it look like to value yourself?
- How can a relationship be used to value and love others?
- Is there a way that your relationships can value and love God? What does that look like?
- Read Matthew 22:36-40
- These verses come during a conversation that Jesus is having with religious leaders. The leaders were very concerned with maintaining certain rules about life, living, and especially relationships. In fact, they had 648 laws that they said people needed to live by in order to be right with God. Woah! They tried to expose Jesus as a poor teacher of these laws by asking him a tough question in verse 36. Jesus answers in verses 37-40. What does his response say about what he values in relationships?

Notes and Prayer Requests



EXTRAS

The Valued Test

What You Need: Responses from big group, pen, paper

What you Do: Write down three questions on your paper:

1. Does this relationship value me?
2. Does this relationship value others?
3. Does this relationship value God?

Think of a relationship in your life. It could be one that you'd like to be in, one you're in currently, or it could be a friendship. Ask these three questions of that relationship and then discuss your answers with your small group.

JUST FOR FUN

Family Feud Game

What You Need: Some kind of buzzer, split group in half, questions will be in your bin

What You Do: Split your group in half. They choose one participant from each group to answer questions each round. They get three strikes as a group. After which the other group gets to answer the question. They get one chance. Group with the most correct answers wins.