

This study is an excerpt from our RELATE Special Resource which includes a "Deeper Dive" session as well as many resources available exclusively to members of YLO!

Youthworker Guide

CAN YOU RELATE?

Artist:

FOR KING & COUNTRY
FORKINGANDCOUNTRY.COM

Album Title & Record Company:

RELATE – SINGLE
WORD ENTERTAINMENT

Video Title:

RELATE

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Playlist

This song is featured on "The Linc: Unity" Spotify playlist – which is the perfect way to remind your students what you've taught them in this session. To share it with them, click the live link on the web version of this study.

SESSION ONE

Theme

Unity, Prejudice

Objective

Students will discover the ingredients of unity, even in disagreement and diversity. They will find out what it means to be united in the Spirit of Christ and will be given ways to reach out to fellow believers and pre-Christian friends.

Warm Up

Hand out the Student Guides and the page of Polaroid snapshots. Give students some time to observe the images. In their Student Guide under *Seeing is Believing?*, have them write a one-word observation they would make for each photo.

Go around the room and have the students tell the group their one-word comments (without explanation) about what they see.

- Why is it important not to judge a person by appearance only?
- How does hearing a person's story help us to understand them more and see them as a real person?
- If we only had one word to describe a person, we have seen for the first time, why would that be frustrating?

Time permitting, share the stories behind the photos from the next page with the students.

- Did any of their stories surprise you?
- To which of these stories can you best relate?

Transition

We live in a divided world. Through sin, we experience separation from God and His creation, especially God's people. We see our friends, families, classmates, and people in general, "digging in their heels" along political, racial, cultural, economic and even theological lines.

Sadly, we have seen people who claim to love God but show more of what they are against than what they are for.

Today, we are going to discover the ingredients of unity, even in disagreement and diversity. In this time together, we will discover what it means to be united in the Spirit of Christ and relate with others better as an outcome.

The Video

Invite your group to the *Elevator Ride* section of their Student Guide. Play For KING & COUNTRY's music video, *Relate*, twice.

The first time, have students watch carefully. The second time, have them write their observations.

Transition

- What surprised you about this video?
- How did all these scenes illustrate the title of the song, *Relate*?
- Describe what you think may be the symbolism of the elevators.
- What was the significance of the elevator-glass breaking?
- What is important about seeing everybody out of their elevators at the end?

The writers say, *"I've been real, I've been fake. Been a sinner, been a saint. I've been right; I've been so so wrong."*

- How is a confession of our shortcomings important to how we relate with others?

Bible Study

Read **Ephesians 4:1-6**

Read this together four times with four different voices as a group. Be sure your readers offer it slowly and with feeling. To make this even more meaningful, have copies of the scripture (all in the same translation) and distribute them to every member in the group. This will be useful in their Student Guide exercise.

Give everyone about five minutes to complete the activity on their own in the Student Guide section, Elements of Unity.

- What did the writer mean by "calling?"
- Why is it important to know this "calling" is for everyone?
- How do the character traits in verse 2 help a person to live out verse 3?
- On a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best), how would you rate the following groups at living in unity:
 - People you know?
 - Your community as a whole?
 - Your region?
 - Your country?
 - The world?
 - Your church?

CAN YOU RELATE?

- What is the importance of all the “ones” in verses 4-5?
- What is meant by “one body?”
- How do these verses all fit in with the message of the song, *“I don’t know what it’s like to be you, you don’t know what it’s like to be me, by the grace of God we’ll see each other’s heart?”*

Wrap Up

As Christ-followers, it is imperative that we don’t simply talk about unity. Building relationships is something we are called to do. It was once said, “People don’t care what you know, until they know that you care.” Our goal is to move toward better relating with our classmates, community friends, and all of God’s people.

Have students turn to the Student Guide section, *We Can Relate*.

- What are three ways you might better interact with people who are different than you?

Listen and Love

Two of the most important foundation pieces of relating with others are to listen and love. As we listen to God and others, we hear truth and stories. As we love God and receive God’s love for us, we can better follow Jesus’ words to “love our neighbor as ourself.”

LISTENING AND LOVING OTHER BELIEVERS:

- Respect and learn about believers who attend other churches.
- See how you might plan youth activities at different churches or with different groups.
- Be willing to ask questions about what other believers think about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and social issues.
- Listen and love even if you disagree.
- Remember, we can all meet at the foot of the cross and follow Jesus together.
- Pray for them.

LISTENING AND LOVING PRE-CHRISTIANS:

- Be reminded all people have been created by God.
- Remember that Jesus died for all people.
- Be patient with others as they make choices to start or not start on the journey with Jesus.
- Pray for them.
- Ask the Lord for an opportunity to share the Good News with them.



The Stories Behind The Pics

These are the stories behind just a handful of the many faces you see in the *Relate* music video by For KING & COUNTRY.

Zayden: Latchkey city kid having to get himself home from school on the metro.

Hannah: Lives with anxiety and just wants to shut the world out.

Jacques: Semi-pro slackliner and part-time partier living it up on the beach. Secretly struggling with loneliness and depression.

James: Being held in juvenile detention while awaiting trial. If convicted, this will be his third strike. He’s wondering if he’ll ever be free again.

Chris: Skateboarder and high school youth leader. Used to be addicted to drugs, now uses skating to connect to youth at church and in the community.

Tatiana: Getting bullied at school and struggling to fit in.

Emily: Two-time Paralympics gold medalist. Teaches the next generation of disabled athletes to not let their limitations define their dreams.

Desirae: Competitive volleyball player and all-around athlete. Sports are her life.

Chance: Domestically abused kid in hospital waiting room alone.

Charis: Sits at a diner late at night after a party feeling like life is empty.

