

## Village Guide

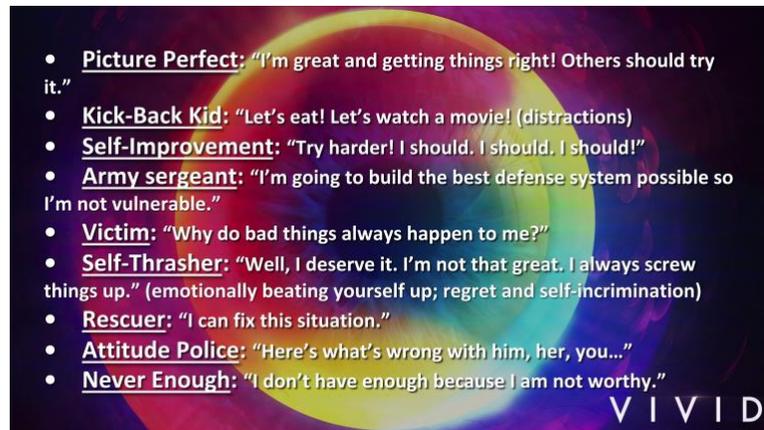
**Current Series:** Vivid

**Texts:** Genesis 1.26, 2.15, 3.8

**Core Value Focus:** Transformation

### Big Ideas from the Message:

- One reason God created humans is to enjoy intimate, healthy, and continuous relationships with them.
- Humanity was created as part of God's shalom project. Shalom is the Hebrew word that means peace, harmony, or welfare.
- God designed humans to have 4 interconnected relationships (which the word 'shalom' captures for us): to God, to others, to creation, and to the self.
- Sin = "culpable disturbance of shalom." (Cornelius Plantinga Jr.)
- Too often we focus on the Christian story as though it starts with Genesis 3 (sin and shame) rather than God's relational posture towards us as image-bearers (Genesis 1-2).
- Shame alienates us from God's posture of love.
- "[shame is]...the intension painful feeling or experience of believing that we are flawed and therefore unworthy of love and belonging." (Brene Brown Daring Greatly, page 69)



- If we are created for a relationship with God, then it follows that this God enjoys spending time with us.

### CONNECT (5 min)

- Question chosen for open group discussion or someone pre-invited to share their story. (Optional)

### HEAR (5 min)

- Spend some time in your group sharing what you recall from Sunday's message. Give a loose theme or subject of the sermon to jumpstart everyone's thoughts and recollections. (Example: "Who was there on Sunday? Could you recap the sermon content for us?" What struck you, and what questions did it leave you with?)
- Read Genesis 1.26, 2.15, 3.8. What did Kurt say that this passage reveals about God? About us? Do you see anything differently or that wasn't mentioned in this particular sermon?

**TALK (20 min)**

*Note: This format is intentionally less linear in an effort to generate discussion. It is not meant to be followed left-to-right, nor do all the questions need to be asked. As a facilitator, stewarding good discussion means modeling **true listening**, which also means a conversation without an agenda. Use your discernment to see what your group needs to talk about.*

Conceptual	Practical Implications	Spiritual Formation
Scripture	Regular Life	Transformation
<p>Based on the passages in Genesis and the overall sermon, why could it be important to discuss the 4 relationships of shalom rather than to marginalize one against the other?</p> <p>This series is rooted in the idea that “God is love” and that we are invited to see this God more vividly than we have thus far. What changes when we start with the story of sin and shame (Genesis 3) versus starting with God’s intention and posture towards humans (Genesis 1-2)? What version of the story did you hear in various Christian contexts you’ve been apart of?</p> <p>If God indeed created humankind with the need for relationships, but also out of a desire to be in relationship with us, what does say about how we read the Bible as a whole? How might reading the Scriptures, attended to God’s desire to be in relationship to us, help us understand the purpose of the Bible? Other ramifications?</p>	<p>We often struggle more with one of the 4 relationships of shalom. Which relationship has been the most natural for you to lean into? Which one is the greatest challenge?</p> <p>How does your picture of God influence the way you lean into relationships with other people? How does this change when your picture of God is informed primarily from Genesis 3 (sin and shame) rather than starting with who God created us to be?</p> <p>What inspires you about God designing you to relate to creation? How might this open up possibilities for bringing goodness to our world? How might ignoring this relationship bring about harm to our world? What if we only focus here: What could the downfalls be?</p>	<p>Take a few minutes of silence to think of what your current experience of life these past couple weeks have been like. (Give a few minutes for reflection before asking the question). What might Jesus affirm about your identity as an image-bearer?</p> <p>As you imagine Jesus desiring deep and meaningful relationship with you, what does he have to say about the shame in your inner-self? How does shame hold you back from knowing the version of yourself that God sees? How does the grace of Jesus give us courage in the face of shame?</p> <p>Can you imagine one step you might take this week to open yourself up to a life of shalom? (Keep in mind the way shame narrates a ‘counter-story’ against God’s intended life for you.)</p>

(Space for your own questions or notes)

**LIVE (20 min)**

- How might this conversation impact you this next week? What are you taking with you?
- How might we pray for each other based on this conversation and other highs/lows in life?