**Journey: Relating to Jesus Session 1**

Welcome to Relate - a journey of learning how to relate to Jesus.

I have a friend, Edgar, who happens to also be a pastor - what are the things that he and I can do we develop our relationship?

So how do we develop a relationship with Jesus? We are going to visit journey through 5 stations to explore ways to relate to Jesus:

**Station #1: Read what God has written**

SOAP is a structure you can use for your daily devotions:

\* **S**cripture – read a passage slowly and look for a thought that you connect with.

\* **O**bservation – ask what it means, write it out in your own words.

\* **A**pplication – ask how it relates to your life and write down your thoughts.

\* **P**rayer – write out a prayer to God and ask him you help you grow in the truth.

Activity: Read through Psalm 32:1-5 using the SOAP approach to relate to Jesus.

**Station #2: Talk to God**

Learning How to Pray: If prayer is new to you, you can start by writing a letter to God and then reading it to Him. The following headings can be used:

1. Adoration - I love you because…

2. Confession - I am sorry for…

3. Thanksgiving - Thank you for…

4. Supplication - Please help me…

**Station #3: Be with God’s friends**

Select two “One Another” commands from this list and do them to someone in the group:

\* Serve one another

\* Be kind to one another

\* Forgive one another

\* Teach one another

\* Encourage one another

\* Spur one another to good deeds

\* Confess your sins to one another

\* Pray for one another

**Station #4: Do what pleases God**

Here are some ways in which we can please God:

\* Be baptised in water: if you have not been water baptised then find a leader and talk to them about it.

\* Get filled by the Holy Spirit: if you have not been filled then find a leader and talk to them about it.

\* Let Jesus be the boss of your life: If there is an area of your life that Jesus does not control and surrender it.

\* Confess your sins: Think of a sin you have not confessed and ask God to forgive you.

**Station #5: Talk about your relationship**

A. Write out the story of how you got saved:

(1) What was your life like before you met Jesus?

(2) How did you give your life to Jesus?

(3) How has Jesus changed your life?

B. Who can you share your story with this week?

**Closing Prayer:** Ask God to help you use these new skills to develop your relationship with Jesus in the coming weeks and months.

**Journey: Relating to Jesus Session 2**

Welcome to Relate - a journey of learning how to relate to Jesus.

If you had a friend and you wanted to improve your relationship with them, what would you do?

So how do we develop a relationship with Jesus? We are going to visit journey through 5 stations to explore ways to relate to Jesus:

**Station #1: Read What God Has Written**

We are going to learn how to read the Bible actively by reading a passage and asking question about what we have read:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (Proverbs 3)

Here are the five questions to ask:

1. What is the Sin I must Avoid?

2. What is the Promise I can Claim?

3. What is the Example I can Follow?

4. What is the Command I must Obey?

5. What is the Blessing I can Enjoy?

**Station #2: Talk to God**

We are going to use the graffiti wall to help us to pray:

1. God is… On the graffiti wall write down some answers to this sentence: To me God is…

2. God I praise you because you are… Pair up and spend a few minutes praising God for who he is.

3. Thank you God for… In your pairs spend a minute each thanking God for something he has done for you.

4. God my friend needs a miracle… Ask your partner for a need they have and pray that God will do a miracle for them.

**Station #3: Be With God’s Friends**

The Bible says that we are to encourage each other to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25).

1. Paper Words: Take a piece of paper and write your name on the top of the paper. Then pass it to the person on your right. They write a word of encouragement along the bottom of the page and then fold it up to hide what they have written before passing it on to the next person in the circle. Keep going until each person has written on each piece of paper.

2. Reflection: Spend time with your own page reading through what has been written to encourage you.

3. Brainstorm: How can we make this exercise part of our lives and experience in our youth ministry?

**Station #4: Do What Pleases God**

We are going to a game called “Follow My Leader”. Whatever your leader does you need to follow them – only do what they do, only speak when they speak, only go where they go, etc.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How is this game like following Jesus?

2. What does it mean to obey Jesus?

3. In what area do you need to start obeying Jesus?

Leader Notes: Lead the group downstairs into the car park – and make your way through some cars, then do 10 squats, then start walking up the stairs pausing to say the Lord’s Prayer line by line (with the group repeating what you say), then in the passage way next to the kitchen hug each person (encourage them to hug each other too), go to the kitchen and drink a cup of juice (make sure they do the same) and then walk back into the youth room and sit down in the place you started. Then ask them the questions to debrief the exercise.

**Station #5: Talk about your relationship**

God draws lost people to himself when we pray for them.

1. Name Cards: Pick up one of the cards with 5 names on it and read through the 5 names.

2. Prayer: Pair up and take turns choosing a name from the list and praying. Ask God to…

A. Show them His love

B. Help them know that that need God in their life

C. Send a Christian to show and tell them about God’s love

**Closing Prayer:** Ask God to help you use these new skills to develop your relationship with Jesus in the coming weeks and months.