

Welcome to the *Created to Relate Group Guide*—a study filled with insights into our design and purpose!

Created to Relate describes the essence of human life and answers how and why we were created. This book brings clarity and new insight into the design of the human body, soul, and spirit. Its dissection of the human heart is groundbreaking. *Created to Relate* reveals the ultimate reason for our existence: to be joined to our heavenly Father in a trusting, loving, and fruitful relationship.

1. Two Realms Sustain Us

Humanity began in the heart and mind of our heavenly Father as a desire to parent offspring. God desired to have children who would grow and develop under His loving care into His image and likeness—into reflective resemblances of His heart. So He created a natural time and space universe, a system of containments full of variables and developing progressions, as a place to birth and initially develop His offspring through the processes of experiential learning.

Discussion questions

1. Why did God desire to create mankind?

2. Why did God create the material universe?

3. When God speaks and creates, does Scripture mean there was no making or finishing process?

4. What is a heaven? Discuss the various heavens.

5. Who are angels and what is their purpose?

6. Discuss the relationship between time and eternity.

1. Two Realms Sustain Us, cont.

Discussion questions

7. What are some of the activities of cause and effect?

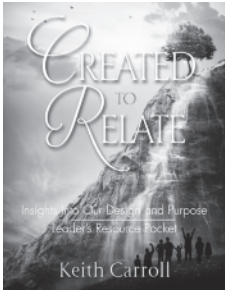
8. Why does God allow contrary activity in our lives?

9. Discuss how darkness comes into existence. How does evil exist?

10. When bad things happen, should we get angry with God?

11. Are we created to experience life just in the natural realm?

12. Why is the big picture approach important?



2. Body and Spirit Link Us

God's first human offspring came into existence as God formed a body from the created natural realm and breathed or infused the physical body with an essence of His Spirit. The combination of our body and spirit links each of us to the influence and experience of both the natural and spiritual realms. Our five senses of sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing are tools that facilitate our body's interaction with the natural reality and our spirit's interaction with the spiritual reality.

Discussion questions

1. What are the three basic components that comprise every human being?

2. What are the two foundational sides of every human being?

3. Discuss some of the comparable activity of our two realm links.

4. What are the two unseen or non-physical components in our human make-up?

5. What is the component in each of us that connects us to our heavenly source of life?

6. We all began as a thought in God's heart! When does our personal consciousness begin?

2. Body and Spirit Link Us, cont.

Discussion questions

7. Why do our five senses have two functional sides?

8. Why does our body appear to contrast our spirit?

9. Scripturally, what is the difference between our body and our flesh?

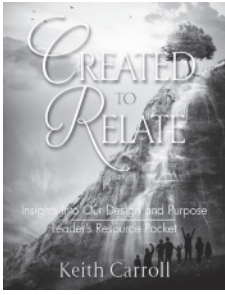
10. Why did God create male and female?

11. Discuss how ignoring or nurturing our body and spirit can affect the quality of our life.

12. Could our natural DNA (Genetic Code) actually have a spiritual side?

13. What enables each of us to relate to God and to spiritual realities?

14. Are you a spiritual person?



3. Conscious Soul Informs Us

When God fused spirit into the first human body, consciousness began. This third component in our “what” make-up is the combined activity of our mind, will, and emotion. The soul provides our personal awareness of self, others, and both realms of reality. Our soul consciousness observes, interprets, and absorbs what our mind thinks, emotion feels, and our will comes to understand. The soul is our developing perception of reality. Our soul is what rejects and accepts God’s oversight.

Discussion questions

1. What three components make-up “what” we are as human beings?

2. Our soul consciousness is a blend of what three functions?

3. Share a few examples of the interaction between our mind, will, and emotion.

4. Why is our will visualized as the crown of our consciousness?

5. How is our personal belief system formed?

6. Discuss how our formed will reacts to various situations.

7. Compare the influence of our mind to our emotion.

3. Conscious Soul Informs Us, cont.

Discussion questions

8. Should our emotions, feelings, or desires be discounted or ignored?

9. Are sadness, fear, shame, and guilt mental thoughts or emotional feelings?

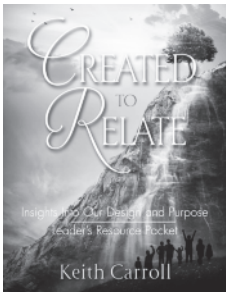
10. Why is the agreement of each soul member important?

11. What should we do when an emotion or reason begins to falter in a commitment?

12. What part of our being needs to be reconciled to God and each other?

13. As developing children, how do we become more like our heavenly Father?

14. Discuss why we should review our beliefs and perceptions of God, ourselves, and each other.



4. Expressive Heart Reveals Us

The heart of mankind refers to the expressive activity of our full being: body, soul, and spirit with its five senses and soul consciousness. Heart is the expressive projection of our “what” components that identifies “who” we are as a person. Scripture connects our heart to the full range of human activity as a combination of our expressive character, attitude, and personality (CAP). God values our expressions because they demonstrate how close we are to His heart.

Discussion questions

1. A human being is an integration of “what” three parts?

2. What is the added value produced by the function of our three-part being?

3. What does God see when He looks beyond “what” we are?

4. What does the acrostic “CAP” represent?

5. Compare “who” we are with “what” we are.

6. What kind of influences impact the development of our expressive heart?

7. How does our “hidden” heart become visible?

4. Expressive Heart Reveals Us, cont.

Discussion questions

8. Read and discuss the heart expressions of Galatians 5:13-16, 22-25.

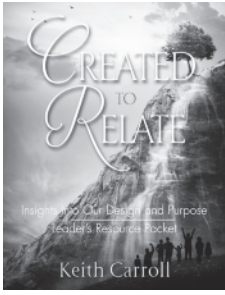
9. What do people see in our expressions? What is our heart countenance emitting to others?

10. In God's eyes, what is more important than our body, soul, or spirit?

11. Discuss how our expressive heart is renewed.

12. How shall we describe "who" we are?

13. How can we share God's heart with others?



5. Relational Concept Connects Us

Everything is relational: the natural and spiritual realms, what we are as beings, our expressions, our beliefs, and truth itself. No part of our function is independent of the influence of others. Sinfulness is a result of our first parent's decision to separate. The real counter to self-centeredness is relationship, which moves us from a "me" to an "us" perspective. God's love is an expression of His relational heart. We are intended to relate to each other as siblings, as family members.

Discussion questions

1. What words are used in Genesis 1:26 which refer to God as a relational Being?

2. How does God relate to His human offspring?

3. What is the first negative statement in Scripture?

4. What is the primary concept Scripture wants to teach us?

5. We are all "offspring" of one heavenly Father. What makes us active "children" of God (John 1:1-4, 9-12)?

6. While everyone has a level of self-consciousness, when does it become unhealthy?

5. Relational Concept Connects Us, cont.

Discussion questions

7. Discuss how the words “reflection and resemblance” can be better than “image and likeness.”

8. Apart from all the activities we consider sinful, at the bottom line, what is sin?

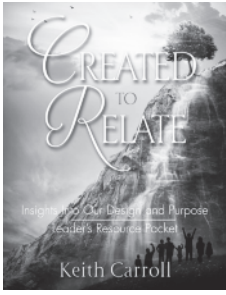
9. How do we experience eternal life in this world?

10. Why does Scripture use different names for believers?

11. When we are weak or discouraged, what does Scripture say is our remedy?

12. Should we experience close relationships with God? With one another?

13. Discuss the importance of a relational approach/focus in life. What activity encourages maturity?



6. Father's Fellowship Nurtures Us

God sent His word in the life of Jesus Christ, to reveal two insights: God is our Father, and that we are intended to respond to Him as children who learn to reflectively resemble His heart. God desires to dwell among us as a presence, so He can lead and guide us into the full truth of His CAP. The spirit of life in us comes from God and enables each of us to receive His insightful guidance. Our interaction with God fuels our ability to grow into His image and likeness.

Discussion questions

1. Which perception of God was lost and He wants to restore?

2. Discuss what Scripture means by our “adoption as sons.”

3. What view of God is best for us: Creator, Deity, Almighty, Lord, King, Judge, or Parental Father? Why?

4. While God is the Alpha and Omega, what is more important than He “who was” and “is to come”?

5. How do we realistically partake of the Kingdom of God that is “at hand”?

6. What is meant by the phrase “in His name”?

6. Father's Fellowship Nurtures Us, cont.

Discussion questions

7. Discuss how our "hearing and seeing" God can be a part of our daily life.

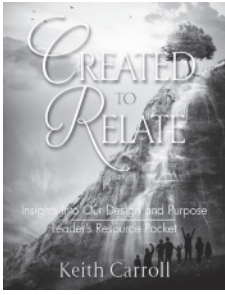
8. Why do we not always receive what we pray for?

9. What should our response be when "a belief" complicates a relationship?

10. Why does our "truth" and "reality" vary?

11. What is meant by, "You who are spiritual"?

12. Discuss who are the called and chosen ones.



7. Will of God Directs Us

We are all endowed with free will so we can make choice. God's spoken, written, and incarnate word declares and reveals His will. The will of God for our life is demonstrated in the relationship Jesus had with Father. God desires that we respond as children and learn to be spirit-led: tutored, taught, and disciplined to reflect and resemble His heart. We are invited to learn of Him and receive the love, peace, and joy that His eternal perspective brings. We experience the will of God to the degree that we choose to submit and partake of His Father-to-child fellowship.

Discussion questions

1. What in our beginnings did God declare to be His primary will for our lives?

2. Where can we observe the will of God articulated and demonstrated?

3. What is it about God that we can reflectively resemble?

4. What is the difference between our response to God as offspring and as children?

5. Discuss how God reveals His will to us individually.

6. Discuss the Scripture's perspective about how we receive maturing spiritual life in this world.

7. What phrase does the New Testament use to identify the quality of our fellowship with God?

7. Will of God Directs Us, cont.

Discussion questions

8. Read John 5:24; 3:36; and 1 John 5:11-13. Then discuss how and when we experience eternal life.

9. Discuss how past experience (history) can restrict our ability to hear what God “is” saying today.

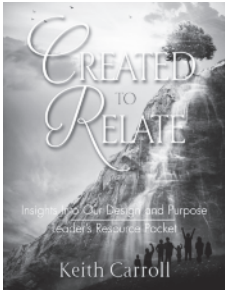
10. How can the will of God be supreme and we have the freedom to choose or refuse?

11. How do we actually experience the will of God

12. Read Galatians 5: 22-25 and discuss the fruit of Spirit.

13. Discuss how and when we experience eternal life.

14. Share the experiences you’ve had when God seemed to speak to/with you.



8. Purpose of Life Destines Us

No one is purely a natural or a spiritual person. We are all birthed into this life to partake of both realms of reality. As such, we are called to know and love God as Father and love one another as siblings. We want to understand that our created design and primary purpose is to become mature children of God during this life. The clearer this perspective is, the more intensely we will seek God's presence and learn of His ways. We can be godlier people and become better expressions of His heart.

Discussion questions

1. Why do we exist and live on the earth?

2. Is any person just a natural being or only a natural person?

3. What two perceptions did God seek to restore to us two thousand years ago?

4. What are we "created to be"? Who is God "making and forming" you and me into?

5. Discuss how the pattern God gave us in the life of Jesus Christ demonstrates how we are to respond to the people around us.

6. If a caring love is the primary motivation behind all God does, what should be our primary motivation?

8. Purpose of Life Destines Us, cont.

Discussion questions

7. Discuss the scriptural difference between belief and faith.

8. How well is our spiritual life functioning and maturing?

9. Are we consciously choosing to love and care for one another?

10. Since we are all God's kids, are we sensing and being "family"? How well do we love and care for one another?

11. Who can know, understand, and walk in the ways of God?

12. What are good ways to articulate our purpose in life?

In Conclusion

Life is the means God has chosen to birth us into existence and progressively make us into His image and likeness. To become what we were created to be, we must submit to the process of becoming disciplined children. We all have a measure of the Spirit of God as part of what we are as a being (body, soul, and spirit) and each of us has five spiritual senses that enable us to see, hear, feel, and sense spiritual realities.

Our soul, however, is our consciousness, a combination of the function of our mind, will, and emotion. What we think, feel, and believe develops our growing perception of reality.

Our heart is the expressive feature of our composite being; it is who we are as a person. This is a combination of our character, attitude, and personality (CAP). Everything is relational, from what we are, who we are, and our reason to be.

Everyone can communicate with God and receive His insightful guidance. The fellowship of God's presence is necessary for us to excel as expressions of His heart. God's will is supreme and we partake of His will by submitting ours to His. We can choose when and to what degree we receive and respond to His guidance. We are expressions of God (as offspring) and are designed to become reflections and resemblances of His heart (as mature children). Our development as God's children needs the interaction of our heavenly Father and the people God places in our lives. We are *Created to Relate*—to God as Father and to each other as family.



This completes our study of *Created to Relate—Insights Into Our Design and Purpose*. Please fill out fresh “What I Believe Questionnaire” and “State of Relationship Questionnaire” forms. Then, compare them with the ones you filled out before reading the book. What insights does this give you about your growing understanding and developing relationships?

We hope this study has moved you along life's journey toward maturity. But don't stop here. Continue to learn and grow into better reflective resemblances of our heavenly Father. You will find the second book in this series very helpful, *The Christ Culture*.

