



spiritual adult

DISCIPLE ME

TRACK 3: DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS

BEING APPROACHABLE

ICEBREAKER: WAX POETICALLY

Take a moment to think about this: If you were sitting next to someone you didn't know very well, what topic could you easily talk about for 15 minutes without feeling awkward or stuck? It might be something simple - food, sports, your kids, your job, a hobby, a show you love, or even the weather. There's no pressure to be deep or impressive; what in your world could you "wax poetically" about?

- What about this topic makes you so passionate or knowledgeable?

STUDY: CLEARED FOR APPROACH

As we grow spiritually, something interesting can happen. Our knowledge often increases faster than our humility. We learn more Scripture. We gain clarity. We've been shaped by truth and refined through seasons of growth. And all of that is good. But maturity isn't ultimately measured by how much we know. It's revealed by how accessible we are to the people around us.

Spiritual adults aren't just shaped by Christ personally; they begin to shape the environment relationally. The question isn't only *what* God has done in us, but *what it feels like* to be around us. One of the clearest ways we influence others is through approachability. So, before we go any further, let's pause with this question:

When someone spends time with me, do they feel safe - or sized up?

READ ROMANS 15:7 - *"Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory."*

Before we go any further, it's worth noticing that different Bible translations use slightly different words for this same verse. Some say "welcome," others say "accept," and some say "receive." Each word carries a slightly different shade of meaning, but they all point in the same direction. The Greek word used here is *proslambanō* and it carries the sense of **receiving someone toward yourself** - bringing them close, not merely tolerating them.

This verse starts with an important word - **"therefore."** That's our cue to look back at what Paul has already said, because it helps us understand what this verse is really pointing to.

READ ROMANS 15:1-6 NLT

- How do verses 1–6 prepare us for the command to “welcome one another” in verse 7?
- What kinds of behaviors make a mature believer feel safe to approach - or hard to approach?
- Who might God be asking you to carry rather than correct right now?

Paul doesn't give us this command in a vacuum. When he tells us to welcome one another, he's pointing us back to the way Jesus lived. Jesus didn't just teach about humility and welcoming others - He embodied it. Again and again, we see Him move toward people others avoided, make space for those on the margins, and lower Himself so others could step closer. His approachability wasn't accidental; it was intentional. And it's that posture - before any program or personality - that becomes our model.

ACTIVITY: CONNECTING THE TEXT

Read each description and focus on how Jesus interacts with people in that moment. Draw a line from how Jesus engages to what it produces.

John 4:4–18	Jesus welcomes children that others tried to turn away
Mark 10:13–16	Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners
Luke 7:36–50	“Come to me, all who are weary...”
John 1:35–39	Jesus receives the woman who approaches Him
Mark 2:15–17	Jesus notices and welcomes Zacchaeus
Matthew 11:28–30	“Come and you will see”
Luke 19:1–10	Jesus engages the Samaritan woman

DISCUSS:

- What patterns do you notice in how Jesus consistently approaches people?
- What seems to matter most to Jesus in these interactions?
- Which interaction feels most challenging for you to imitate - and why?

CHALLENGE: BREAK THE BARRIER

This week, choose one person and intentionally help them feel safe and welcomed. Take one concrete step to lower the barrier - initiate a conversation, ask a genuine question, listen without fixing, share a struggle, sit with someone new, or encourage without advice. Measure your maturity not by your confidence, but by how safe the other person feels. The more Christ shapes you, the more accessible your life should become to others.