



eating
with
enemies

4-WEEK STUDY

PURSUING UNITY IN
A DIVIDED WORLD

WEEK 3

FINDING THE RIGHT HILLS TO DIE ON:
HOW TO KNOW WHEN IT SHOULD REALLY MATTER





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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Secondary texts from this week: Acts 15:36-41, Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, Romans 16:7

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To learn when to reconcile and when to walk away

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is one kind of food that you can't stand?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this week's sermon, Pastor Doug said that "sometimes drawing a line and establishing boundaries is the most loving thing you can do." What are some areas of your life that you struggle to establish boundaries? What have been the consequences of not establishing healthy boundaries?
2. In his book, *Finding the Right Hills to Die On*, author Gavin Ortland describes four categories of theological truth (called doctrines)—**first rank doctrines**, which are essential to the Gospel itself, **second-rank doctrines**, which are urgent for the health and practice of the church and may lead to separation among Christian churches and denominations, **third-rank doctrines**, which are important, but not enough to justify separation or division, and **fourth-rank doctrines**, which are non-essential to the Gospel. Using these categories, **how would you categorize the following doctrinal issues and why:**

(1) the divinity of Christ; (2) women's roles in church ministry; (3) how Christians should relate to government; (4) eschatology (Biblical teachings on end times); (5) baptism; (6) same-sex marriage
3. Pastor Doug used the metaphor of *porch people*, *living room people*, and *bedroom people*. Did you find this image helpful or confusing? How does this image help you distinguish "difficult people" from "toxic people?"
4. Have someone in the group read **Matthew 18:15-17**. What does this passage tell us about how we are supposed to pursue reconciliation with someone who has wronged us? What does it tell us about how to respond if the person we confront refuses to repent?
5. Have someone in the group read **Romans 16:7**. How do you think this passage should be applied in the lives of Christians today?
6. Have someone in the group read **1 Corinthians 5:9-13**. In this passage, Paul is talking specifically about church discipline (when church leadership holds someone accountable for persistent, unrepentant sin). What might be the consequences of *not* taking these steps?

