

## **Sermon Guide**

### **You & Me - Part 3: Close the Gap**

#### **Hebrews 12:14-17**

“Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. You know that afterward, when he wanted his father’s blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears.”

#### **What I Am Responsible For In My Relationship?**

##### **1. Work at peace (v. 14)**

It’s always easier to not talk about it, but it usually takes conflict to have peace. I have to choose to de-escalate situations. What’s your tone? It’s hard to have peace and criticism. I want peace because I love you. Do you want a resolution or do you want to prove a point?

##### **2. Give grace (v. 15)**

You have the choice to be offended today or the choice to give grace.

##### **3. Watch out for bitterness (v. 15)**

What is the story I keep telling myself and maybe telling my friends? Have I perfected it?

#### **How do you close the gap in your marriage?**

1. Pray together
2. Sleep Together
3. Dream Together

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Share a story about an argument you had with someone that you laugh about now.
2. Talk about someone you know that always assumes the best about others.
3. Do you struggle to give grace in your relationships? Why do you think that is?
4. What relationship bitterness story do you keep telling yourself and your friends?
5. Are you someone who avoids conflict? Do you want to argue so you can prove your point? What attitudes about conflict do you need to change?
6. Where in your relationship are you convinced you are “better than” and they are “less than”? How can your group be praying for you to begin to reconcile this perspective?