

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 04



Let's Talk

Where have you noticed God at work in you over this sermon series?

Let's Study

Read Philemon 1:16.

As a refresher to last week, recall what Paul is asking Philemon to do in regards to Onesimus' return. Briefly review together what the implications are of doing this.

What would it look like if Philemon forgives Onesimus but did not reconcile with him?

How is forgiveness different from reconciliation?

Read Philemon 1:17-25.

How could Philemon do more than what Paul has asked of him?

In the letter to Philemon, Paul inserts himself into the middle of the conflict between Philemon and Onesimus. Paul modeled the good news, believing that it held the power to unite against incredible odds.

How is Paul's example like Jesus?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

What does it mean that Christ gave us the ministry of reconciliation?

How could reconciling with others give an opportunity to speak about Christ reconciling us to God?

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Let's Apply

Pastor Jon mentioned 4 steps in a reconciliation process used by Prison Fellowship: taking responsibility, confession with repentance, forgiveness, and making amends. Discuss why both offender and victim need to do their part for reconciliation to be possible.

In your experience when has it been helpful to have a 3rd party involved in a reconciliation?

Thinking of a time when you have been harmed by someone's actions, what form of amends would have been meaningful to you?

Are you aware of a conflicting situation or relationship that feels difficult to reconcile? What is one way you can humbly step into the middle of this conflict to promote love, equality, and healing mercy?

Is there a broken relationship in which reconciliation seems impossible? If it was possible, what miracles/Kingdom results would you hope for in your life, family, church, or community?

Let's Pray

Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our example, but even more we thank you that we are reconciled to you through him. God, as we think about a broken relationship in need of restoration, we ask that you give us eyes to see the other person the way that you see them. Give us the ability to forgive as you forgive. Show us our part in the process of reconciliation. We pray for your will to be done. Amen