

Bridging the Gap: Reconciled to Each Other

December 13, 2020

Scriptures: 2 Cor. 5:15-19; Col. 3:12-13; Luke 6:27-28; Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15

Bottom Line: Enter into the process of reconciliation in your relationships: forgive others, pray for them, and go reconcile.

2 Corinthians 5:15-19

God's reconciliation with us is the model for how we reconcile with the people we're in relationships with. It's from a place of gratitude to God that we are encouraged to reconcile with others.

Colossians 3:12-13

Forgive others! You can't be reconciled to someone else while you're still harbouring negative feelings or debts towards them. Forgiveness sets you free, it's that simple.

Luke 6:27-28

Reconciling with others includes praying for them—a step we sometimes forget. Praying for someone who has hurt you changes your heart and enables you to partner with God in the work of reconciliation.

Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15

God says that reconciliation is actually urgent, and not reconciling with others keeps us from being able to participate in the life of the Church completely. It's not always an easy conversation to have, but it will benefit you and your relationships.

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What fears or anxious thoughts come to your mind before you approach someone to reconcile with them?
3. What things have you found helpful to do while having a reconciliation conversation?
4. Share an example from your own life (without naming names) where you reconciled with someone else? What did you have to do? How are things now between you and that person?