

## **Small Group Study Guide**



**April 10, 2016**

### ***A Confrontation or Conversation***

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father: Sometimes we are so stubborn—if someone does something to hurt me, I want to give that hurt back! We look at Jesus and are so amazed that he could pray to forgive those who crucified him. Can we really attain this kind of heart to forgive? Help us to realize the enormity of your forgiveness for our sins. Help us to receive your forgiveness and pay it forward to those who have wronged us. Amen.

#### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**

##### **Matthew 18:15**

*If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.*

##### **Matthew 5:23-24**

*So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.*



## **INTRODUCTION**

When there's bad blood in a relationship, the easiest thing to do is to let resentment and bitterness grow without addressing the issue. That's the path of least resistance. It doesn't make the conflict go away, but it avoids the relational mess of having to deal with the other person. Jesus calls his followers to a higher standard. He says that if we have a problem with another person, we should go and have a conversation with him or her.

Why should we go? Before making things right with God, you need to make things right with others.

When should we go? When you've been wronged take the first step. When you've wronged others take the first step.

How should we go? Go immediately, go directly, and go humbly.

## **QUESTIONS**

- 1) On a scale of 1–10, with 1 being “extremely uncomfortable” and 10 being “extremely comfortable,” how do you feel about confronting someone who has wronged you? How do you think that tendency has affected the quality of your relationships?
- 2) What are some reasons people avoid confrontation? Are most of those reasons motivated by self-interest or genuine concern for the other person?
- 3) Read Matthew 5:23-24 on page 1. Has your bad blood with another person ever affected the quality of your relationship with God? If so, what did you do?
- 4) Read Matthew 18:15 on page 1. When you think about following Jesus' advice in this verse, what is your gut reaction? What do you find challenging about what Jesus says?

## **FINAL APPLICATION**

If you have bad blood, don't wait another minute. Don't fool yourself into thinking that God is okay with your bad blood. He wants you to do all you can do to bring peace. Before making things right with God, make things right with others. Making peace with others clears the path to making peace with God. Imagine how God feels about that.

Is there someone with whom you need to have a conversation? What steps can you take this week toward having that conversation? How can this group support you?