



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 April 30, 2023
“First Steps”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for removing the obstacle of sin in our lives so that we could have a relationship with you. Lord, you call us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, but that does not come easy. So help us to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus in our relationships and work toward reconciliation when our relationships are broken. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Romans 12:9-10, 14-17 (NIV)

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 April 30, 2023
"First Steps"

INTRODUCTION

We are far better at assembling things than we are at fixing them, and that includes relationships. Our initial reaction to repairing relationships is to use one of these four approaches: convince, convict, coerce, control. However, that will not draw us close to anyone. In our relationships we are called to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. So what does that look like when a relationship is broken?

Repairing a relationship requires someone to initiate, regardless of who's to blame for the fallout. Decision #1 in reconciling a relationship is to get back *to* him/her, instead of getting back *at* him/her. This is the will of God. There's a simple prayer you can learn to help you take that first step: Heavenly Father, help me to see him/her the way you do. Help me to feel toward him/her what you feel.

QUESTIONS

1. Which of the four C's did your parents reach for first? Convince? Convict? Coerce? Control?
2. What's your initial reaction to the notion that reconciliation begins with us, regardless of who initiated the fuss? Is your response to a strained relationship usually "I will get back *at*" or "I will get back *to*"?
3. Read Romans 12:10 (on page 1). What key words stand out to you? Who could you show more honor to and in what way?
4. Read Romans 12:14-17 (on page 1). What key words stand out to you? What comes to mind in that passage as something you need to pay attention to?
5. If you had to fill in the blank, whose name would you write? "Heavenly Father, help me see _____ the way you do. Help me feel toward _____ what you feel."

FINAL APPLICATION

This week pray this prayer: *Heavenly Father, help me to see him/her the way you do. Help me to feel toward him/her what you feel.*