



# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 May 7, 2023

“The Man in the Mirror”



## OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for making the first move in restoring humanity’s relationship with you by removing the obstacle of sin. And now you call us to make the first move in our broken relationships with others, but we don’t always do that. Forgive us for making excuses to restore our broken relationships. Today we pray you give us the wisdom to know how to restore our broken relationships and then give us the courage to fix them. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

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

### Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup>“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

## INTRODUCTION

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 *May 7, 2023*  
“The Man in the Mirror”

Our first approach to reconciling relationships is to use one of the following approaches: convince, convict, coerce and control. When that doesn't work, we tend to fall into making one of three excuses: I don't care, I've already tried, and it's not my fault. But as Jesus' followers, reconciliation needs to begin with us regardless of who initiated the fuss. So what should we do?

Restoring or fixing a broken relationship requires self-awareness. Instead of focusing on what the other person's faults are, we need to look in the mirror. So the second decision we must make in order to pave the way for reconciliation is: “I will own my slice of the blame pie.” The more aware I am of what God has yet to do in me, the less aware I am and the less consumed I am with what he has yet to do in the people around me.

## QUESTIONS

1. Is it difficult to admit you're wrong? Why or why not?
2. What is the most difficult relationship you've ever had to repair? What did you learn from that experience?
3. Read Romans 12:9–21 (on page 1). What key words stand out? Do those key words bring to mind something in any of your relationships? Why?
4. Read Matthew 7:3–5 (on page 1) What key words stand out? Do those key words bring to mind something in any of your relationships? Why?
5. Is there anyone you feel the need to reconcile with? What percentage of the blame pie do you own? Are you willing to make the first move?

## FINAL APPLICATION

This week commit Romans 12:18 to memory.