



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 4 May 14, 2023
“The Posture of Reconciliation”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love, your mercy, and your grace. You've invited us into a different way of living that makes the world a different place to live in, and we want to be a part of that. But we don't always get it right in our relationships. So would you give us eyes to see the people around us in a different way and ears to hear? Would you give us the wisdom to know what to do, what not to do, how far to push this? And would you give us the courage to act? We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Romans 5:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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INTRODUCTION

Repairing a broken or strained or disrupted relationship is difficult. It is difficult because repairing a broken relationship requires humility - which does not come naturally; and fixing a broken relationship is a learned skill that many of us were never taught. Although it's not easy, Jesus followers are called to make that first move toward reconciliation. So what should we do?

There are four decisions we must make if we are going to have no regrets in our attempt to pave the way toward reconciliation:

- 1) I will get back to, not get back at.
- 2) I will own my slice of the blame pie.
- 3) I will make the first move regardless of who moved away first.
- 4) I will keep the door open and the welcome mat out.

QUESTIONS

1. If you surveyed all the relationships you have, are you typically the more mature or less mature person? Would the “other” person in all those relationships agree with your answer?
2. Read Matthew 5:23-24 (on page 1). What stands out to you and why? Why would it be important to be reconciled to another person before offering your gift to God?
3. Is there anyone you feel the need to reconcile with? What is really keeping you from making the first move toward reconciliation?
4. Which of these four decisions do you need to make?
 - 1) I will get back to, not get back at.
 - 2) I will own my slice of the blame pie.
 - 3) I will make the first move regardless of who moved away first.
 - 4) I will keep the door open and the welcome mat out.

What makes you say that?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 and Romans 5:10–11 (on page 1). Would you say you're reconciled to God? What makes you think that? How has God made reconciliation possible?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week commit Romans 12:18 to memory:

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”