



Ambassadors
of
Reconciliation™

Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation

A Webinar Bible Study

Handout for Lesson 5

Use this handout to prepare for discussion questions. You'll answer them in the chat box, in small group breakout rooms, or in a poll. This handout also prepares you for looking up a few Bible passages.

Homework Assignment from last Week

Read Jesus' parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32.

1. How did the son express repentance to his father?
2. How did the father demonstrate his forgiveness?
3. Of the father, the younger son, or the older son, with whom do you relate most of all? Why?

In your small group, discuss your answers. Be prepared for a poll.



You'll have 6
minutes for this
exercise.

Beginning Reflections

Be prepared to answer a couple of chat box questions.

What are some false substitutions for forgiving?

Bible passages to look up:

- Excusing – Romans 6:23a
- Punishing – Luke 6:36-37
- Earning – Ephesians 2:8-9
- Recalling – Jeremiah 31:34

How does God forgive me?

In the breakout room: Have different people in the small group look up each passage. Then, discuss the question.

- **Hebrews 9:22** – My sins are not excused; God's justice required blood
- **Isaiah 53:5** – My sins needed to be punished; Christ paid the full price
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – My forgiveness is not conditional upon my works; I am covered by Christ's righteousness
- **Romans 8:1** – My past sins will not be used against me because I am in Christ
- **What difference does God's forgiveness make for me in forgiving others?**



You'll have 6
minutes for this
exercise.

The struggle to forgive

A true story about overcoming unforgiveness

Be prepared to answer chat box questions for the next two sections:

Does forgiveness remove consequences?

When should I forgive?

Homework Assignment for Next Week

Read the Case Study and answer the questions. Be prepared to discuss them in next week's small group.

Amber, Nicole, and Kaitlyn shared everything. They played together on the college volleyball team. Between classes and practice, they always could be found together. The girls loved skiing in the winter and running in the warmer months. After college, each found employment in the same city where they attended church together. Nicole married first, then Amber. Kaitlyn remained single. But their friendship continued to flourish.

That is, until one day ...

Amber and Kaitlyn exchanged some texts where Kaitlyn complained about Nicole. Kaitlyn thought that Nicole was acting arrogant because she married first, and Kaitlyn felt like Nicole was putting her down for not having a boyfriend. Amber defended Nicole and wrote some curt responses to Kaitlyn, who wrote back with hurtful words. Amber forwarded the whole exchange to Nicole. Nicole and Amber exchanged a flurry of texts in which they grumbled about all of Kaitlyn's idiosyncrasies and how she must be jealous of them. It didn't take long before Kaitlyn learned about the other two "ganging up" on her. She responded with angry texts to both of these friends. Before long, they were posting negative things about each other on Facebook and "unfriending" each other.

Once inseparable, Amber and Nicole now avoided Kaitlyn. It wasn't difficult to steer clear of one another, except at church. So they separately concluded that the best way to not see one another was to stop going to worship.

1. What do you think grieved the three women most of all?
2. What was keeping them from forgiving each other?
3. How did their broken relationships affect their relationship to God?
4. What is the greatest insight you gained from this lesson on forgiving others?

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