

WEEK 5 - THE FINE ART OF RECONCILIATION AND MAKING THINGS RIGHT

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Leader Notes:

- Assign the Scripture passages (in 1.0) to group members. If you don't have enough time or participants to cover all, skip over the Luke passage.

- Make sure you keep enough time to role play making amends.

1. Bible Study: re-read all the Scriptures referenced during the sermon together.

Matthew 5.23-24

Proverbs 18.19

Ephesians 1.13-14

1 Corinthians 13.1-3

Luke 19.1-10

Romans 12.18-19

Romans 5.8, 10

Numbers 5.6-7

Discuss: What is the "heart of God's message" you hear in these verses?

2. Why is it important to make direct amends whenever possible?

3. Why is it important to also make indirect amends?

What connection do you see between indirect amends and repentance?

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4. Ken made a bold statement early in the message: “We are never instructed in Scripture to “ask for forgiveness” from another person we have wronged, but to make things right.”

Do you agree? If you disagree, share any biblical support for your position?

Read off and discuss the *Further Reflections* comments at the bottom of the ON YOUR OWN Mental & Emotional Health EXERCISES.

5. Pair up and role play the amends you have prepared and are considering making. Read it off as if it was for real. After reading off your amends, have your partner respond to the following questions:

5.1 Did the amends feel genuine?

5.2 If I was receiving this amends, how would I feel and possibly respond?

5.3 Are there any words or phrases I could say more effectively?

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6. Pray for each other for courage to follow through and the blessing of God on your obedience.

The “secret” to making effective amends is Do Not Expect Anything Back. It is good to hope for and pray for reconciliation but your blessing / reward is from God.

*Ken wasn't saying it is wrong to ask people to forgive us. His point was that asking others to forgive us puts the responsibility on the wounded party to make us feel better rather than on us to make the necessary changes but also to make things right.
