



Week #2

Series Goal: To help us manage the tension in every family between the _____ and the _____.

- **When it comes to family, don't believe the lie that says, _____.**

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 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. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIV)

- **Through Christ, God removed every obstacle to reconciling with us _____.**
- **Christian reconciliation is _____, not _____.**
- **When we don't forgive and seek reconciliation we are communicating: "You can be reconciled to _____ in spite of your sin. But you can't be reconciled to _____ because of your sin."**

Discussion Questions

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

1. How does society define love? How, if at all, do you think society's definition of love influences the way you define love?
2. Discuss what perfect love looks like. How is this demonstrated in your life?
3. What does it mean to no longer live for yourself? In what ways can this be seen in your life?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

4. What image does the word "ambassador" conjure up for you?
5. In what ways can you be an "ambassador" for Christ at home, your workplace, your school, and in your neighborhood?

Recommended Resources

- *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity*, by Reggie Joiner and Carey Nieuwhof
- *The Smart Stepfamily*, by Ron L. Deal
- *When Work and Family Collide*, by Andy Stanley
- *Building Relationships That Last*, by Freda R. Wilson
- *The 5 Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman
- *Forgiving Your Family*, by Kathleen Fischer

SESSION 2 | Reconciliation

Connect

In your small group, take 5 to 7 mins to connect.

- What are you thankful for this week? Where did you see God move in your life this week?
- This week we talked about reconciliation, grace, and forgiveness. Tell us about a time you were forgiven or you experienced reconciliation in a damaged relationship.

Opening Prayer

Have the facilitator pray for the study.

[Sample prayer: “God, thank you for inviting us into this community of faith to hear what your spirit has to say as we study your word. May we be attuned to the Holy Spirit that teaches and guides, and may we be empowered to follow through on such things as we might be invited to reflect on, or to do. May we be continually reformed into your image by your work in each of us. Amen.”]

Read the Passage

Have someone read the following passage aloud.

Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.[g]

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[h] was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[i] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

Family Matters

Discover Bible Study



30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.
31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Discover God’s Word | Reflection

- Summarize or retell the big idea of this parable in your own words.
- What in this text stood out to you?
- What does the passage tell us about God?

Moving Forward | Application

- How have you personally experienced God’s forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation in your life?
- While forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation matter, boundaries are also an important part of healthy human relationships — especially if and when someone has proven to be unsafe. How have you seen forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation work alongside boundaries?
- How can you live out what you learned in this passage?
 - Is there a relationship in your life that could use some forgiveness, grace, or reconciliation? What is the next step can you take this week to move things forward?

Closing Prayer

Have someone close in prayer.

[Sample prayer: “Jesus, thank you for your word that graciously speaks truth to each of us. May we continue to abide in and obey your word. May we continually be reformed in your image not just for our own sake, but for the sake of others and the world. Amen.”]