

Week 5: Reconciliation

Coaching Video: bit.ly/FCWeek5

INTRODUCTION (15 MIN)

Welcome (5 min)

Last week's theme was mutuality, experiencing unity as we share one another's joys and pains.

Share in Pairs: Did you do the action step(s) from last week? What was it like? How was God in work in you or through you?

Vision + Objective (2 min)

Having been reconciled to God through Jesus, flourishing communities engage in the hard work of being in right relationship with one another. Working to right the wrongs we've done, even when costly, leads us and those around us to flourish.

Ice Breaker (8 min)

Discuss: What situations or circumstances have seemed "beyond" reconciliation? When have you experienced or witnessed reconciliation? What made it powerful?

Pray to transition.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION (25 MIN)

Passage Background

- Luke's writing draws attention to the marginalized (women, Gentiles, sinners, etc.). Tax collectors were "a despised group of Jewish people who collected taxes for the government at a profit."¹
- Jesus is well into his ministry and foretold his suffering and death. In Luke 18, he tells a parable of a rich ruler who wanted eternal life but couldn't give away his wealth to the poor to receive it.

Read Luke 19:1-10

Observation:

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What were Zacchaeus' actions before and after meeting Jesus?

Interpretation:

- What is significant about Jesus publicly inviting himself to Zacchaeus' house?
- What do you notice about Zacchaeus' response to Jesus? What about Jesus' response in return (vs. 9)?

Application:

- What does this passage show us about the connection between following Jesus and reconciliation?
- Zacchaeus wanted desperately to see Jesus. Ultimately, he was seen by Jesus. That "yes" to Jesus changed his life. How do you relate to Zacchaeus? How have you longed to see Jesus but felt like you couldn't? Or, how has being seen by Jesus changed your life?

RESPONSE (20 MIN)

Activity (10 min)

Conflict is inevitable in communities. Navigating conflict well and reconciling is what is challenging. Think of a relationship or a recent situation where you experienced (or felt) conflict. On a piece of paper, try to break down what happened down into three parts:

- **Situation:** What's the context of this conflict? Where were you and who else was there?
- **Behavior:** What did this person do that impacted you? Think about their actions, tone, body language, etc.
- **Impact:** How did that behavior affect you? What emotions did it incite?

Take a few minutes to pray silently. Ask God to meet you and give you insight and compassion. Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to take any next step toward reconciliation?

¹ Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014), 787.

Action Steps (7 min)

- **Collective:** What reconciliation practices do you want to commit to as a community? (i.e. telling the truth, taking initiative to listen and ask how you may have hurt someone, extending forgiveness, using Situation-Behavior-Impact, etc.).
- **Personal:** If you have never said "yes" to Jesus and desire for that kind of relationship, where you are truly seen and known by God, share that with the community. What are the next steps towards reconciliation that you want to take in your relationship with God or with others?

Prayer (3 min)