

Session 5: Reconciliation

INTRODUCTION

Recap

Last session'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 at work in you or through you?

Vision + Objective

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.

Opening Discussion

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

Pray to transition.

PASSAGE STUDY

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 the chapter before our passage, Jesus tells a parable of a rich ruler who wanted eternal life but couldn't give away his wealth to the poor to receive it (Luke 18).

Read Luke 19:1-10

Observation:

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

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

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 nature of reconciliation and its connection to following Jesus?
- Zacchaeus wanted desperately to see Jesus. Ultimately, he was seen by Jesus. 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

Activity

Conflict is inevitable in healthy communities. Navigating conflict well and reconciling 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 parts²:

- **Situation:** What was the context? 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 step toward reconciliation?

Action Steps

- What is one reconciliation practice you want to grow in? Identify one to practice in the next few weeks (i.e. gracious honesty, inviting feedback, extending forgiveness, using Situation-Behavior-Impact, etc.).

Prayer

² Center for Creative Leadership. (2025, August 19). *Use Situation-Behavior-Impact (SBI)TM to Understand Intent*. <https://www.ccl.org/articles/leading-effectively-articles/closing-the-gap-between-intent-vs-impact-sbii/>