

Week 5 – Reconciliation

COACHING VIDEO: bit.ly/FCWeek5

Introduction (16 min)

DEBRIEF THE WEEK (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 at work in you and through you?

VISION + OBJECTIVE (1 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 have done, even when costly, leads us and those around us to flourish.

ICE BREAKER (10 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)

CONTEXT & 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 has foretold his suffering and death. In Luke 18, Jesus tells the parable of a rich ruler who wanted eternal life but couldn't give away his wealth to the poor in order 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 (v. 9)?

Application & Listening Prayer:

- What can this story teach us about reconciliation, both to God and others?
- How is God speaking to you and inviting you to respond?

Response (24 min)

ACTIVITY (15 min)

Conflict is inevitable in communities. Being able to navigate conflict well and reconcile is what is challenging. Think of a relationship or a recent situation where you experienced (or felt) conflict. Try to break what happened down into 3 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?

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

ACTION STEPS (5 min)

- **Collective:** What would it take for reconciliation to truly be a value of your community? How can you practice this, and what can you commit to as a group?
- **Personal:** Say "yes" to how God is inviting you to respond to Luke 19.

PRAYER (4 min)

¹ IVP Bible Background Commentary – New Testament, Craig S. Keener, 787