



## **Group Discussion Guide**

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# Reconciled Discussion Guide

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## Series Overview

If you want to know the real meaning of Christmas, this series is for you. We study how to reconcile yourself with God and with others. We also study how to help others reconcile with God.

## Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Reconciled**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

# 1-Reconciliation with God

The Why and What of Reconciliation: [2Cor 5:19](#)

## Icebreaker: A Few Minutes Left

If you had only a few minutes to live:

- What would be most important to you?
- What would bring you comfort?

## Discussion Questions: Thief on the Cross

- Read [Luke 23:39-43](#).
  - ▶ What did the repentant thief realize in his final moments of life?
  - ▶ What did the repentant thief confess ([Luke 23:40-41](#))?
  - ▶ According to [Luke 23:41](#), what did the repentant thief believe about Jesus?
  - ▶ What did the repentant thief believe that Jesus could do for him ([Luke 23:42](#))?
- Imagine the faith it took to see past the wood, nails, and blood to see a Savior. What did you have to look past to see Jesus as your Savior?
- What is the only way to enter God's kingdom ([Luke 23:42-43](#) and [Eph 2:8-9](#))?
- If deathbed salvation is possible, why would you caution people not to wait until then?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Lessons from the Thief

- As long as someone still has a mind and the will to choose life over death, it is not too late to proclaim the gospel ([Heb 9:27](#)).
- There is no way to earn salvation. There is nothing you could ever do or pay that would be enough. God requires faith. If you insist on doing or paying something, you are stating that what Christ did was not enough ([Gal 2:21](#)).
- When you turn your life over to Christ as your Lord and Savior, God immediately forgives you ([Col 1:21-22](#)).

### Application Exercise: Child of God

Read and pray back the following verses to God.

- [John 1:12](#)
- [John 3:3](#)
- [2Corinthians 5:17](#)

## 2-Reconciliation with Others

The How of Reconciliation, part-1: [Gal 6:1-5](#)

### Icebreaker: The Fixer

Tell about a time when you had to fix a relationship mess that someone else created. (You don't need to reveal the names of the other people involved.)

### Discussion Questions: David, Abigail, Nabal

Read [1Samuel 25:2-39](#).

- When someone insults you as Nabal did David, what is your initial reaction?
  - ▶ What can you do to control your anger?
  - ▶ How challenging would it be to apply [Matthew 5:38-39](#)?
  
- What did Abigail do to attempt to resolve the conflict between David and Nabal ([1Sam 25:18-31](#))?
  - ▶ In what way could you use similar techniques to serve as a reconciler ([Pro 14:16](#), [Pro 15:1](#), [1Pet 5:5](#))?
  - ▶ What advice did Abigail give David? How could this advice be relevant to those in conflict around you?
  
- David was grateful for Abigail's advice ([1Sam 25:32-35](#)). What can you do to be sure that you are open to the advice of reconcilers in your life?

## **Dig a Little Deeper: Be a Good Reconciler**

To be an effective reconciler, follow Abigail's example:

- Move with humility to defuse the volatile situation. Pay honor to the others. Envision yourself in their position.
- Speak the truth in love ([Eph 4:15](#)).
- Point out the facts. Gently share biblical principles from God's Word. Remind them that God is in control ([Gen 50:20](#)).
- Encourage them to allow God to work through them ([Rom 8:28](#)).
- Help them focus on the big picture rather than get caught up in smaller issues.

### **Application: Pray to Be a Good Reconciler**

Make a list of opportunities for you to reconcile with others.

Pray, asking God to help you:

- be a good reconciler.
- approach others with humility.
- allow Him to work through you as a reconciler.

## 3-Evangelism

The How of Reconciliation, part-2 : [2Cor 5:17-21](#)

### Icebreaker: What Does It Mean?

When you struggle with the meaning of a Bible passage, what do you do?

### Discussion Questions: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Read [Acts 8:26-39](#).

- Discuss times when the Holy Spirit has prompted you to go in a direction you had not anticipated ([Acts 8:29](#)).
  
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit encouraged you to interact with someone in:
  - ▶ discussing God?
  - ▶ studying the Bible?
  - ▶ talking about Jesus?How can you prepare yourself for those opportunities?
  
- Where did Philip begin his conversation with the Ethiopian man ([Acts 8:35](#))? What principle does that illustrate for discussing Scripture?
  
- What was the Ethiopian man's reaction to having accepted Christ as Savior ([Acts 8:39](#))? If you are a Christ-follower, describe your response when you accepted Christ as Savior ([1The 1:6](#)).

## Dig a Little Deeper: Receive the Word

To receive what God has for you in His Word, what does it take?

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Read His Word.             | <b>Acts 8:29-30</b> |
| Ask sincere questions.     | <b>Acts 8:34</b>    |
| Maintain a meek attitude.  | <b>Jas 1:21</b>     |
| Be receptive to the truth. | <b>1The 2:13</b>    |
| Apply what He shows you.   | <b>Psa 119:11</b>   |

### Application Exercise: Am I Receiving the Word?

How true are the following statements for you?

|  | not true ←→completely true |
|--|----------------------------|
| I read His Word at least five times a week.      | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |
| As I read His Word, I ask sincere questions.     | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |
| I maintain a meek attitude.                      | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |
| As I read His Word, I am receptive to the truth. | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |
| I apply what He shows me in His Word.            | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |

What changes will you ask God to help you make?

# 4-The Reconciliation

The Reconciliation: [2Cor 5:19](#)

## Icebreaker: Christmas Songs

Sing a few of your favorite Christmas songs.

## Discussion Questions: The Christmas Story

- In Luke, we find the answer to the question, “Who is Jesus Christ?” In the following passages, who identified Jesus as the Messiah?

|  |
|--|
| <a href="#">Luke 1:35</a> , <a href="#">Luke 2:10-11</a> |
| <a href="#">Luke 2:25-32</a>                             |
| <a href="#">Luke 3:22</a> , <a href="#">Luke 9:35</a>    |

- What difference has the birth of Jesus made to humankind [[John 3:36](#)]?
- What keeps people from reacting to the message of Jesus like the shepherds did [[Luke 2:8-17](#)]?
- How does becoming a Christ-follower change your purpose?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Prophecy about the Savior's Birth

God promised that the Savior would be:

- preceded by a forerunner who would prepare the way (**Mal 3:1**, **Mark 1:1-4**, **Luke 1:76-80**).
- a human (**Gen 3:15**, **Heb 2:14-18**).
- Jewish (**Gen 12:1-3**, **Num 24:17**, **Luke 2:21-32**).
- from the tribe of Judah (**Gen 49:10**).
- of the family of David (**2Sam 7:12-17**, **Isa 9:6-7**, **Jer 23:5-6**).
- born of a virgin in Bethlehem (**Isa 7:14**, **Mic 5:2**, **Luke 1:26-38**, **Luke 2:4-17**).

## Application Exercise: Celebrate Our Savior's Birth

Celebrate our Savior's birth with others. Here are a few ideas:

- Pick a Christmas song that makes you think about what Christ did for us. Tell others about the song.
- Write a song about the meaning of His birth and sing it to others.
- Create a work of art that expresses what you know about the birth of Our Savior. Show it to others and tell them what it means to you.
- Write a letter to someone about the true meaning of Christmas.

## 5-Are You Reconciling?

Are you reconciling with God and others ( [2Cor 5:20](#))?

**Icebreaker:**

**What Captures Your Heart?**

What does the quote mean to you?

*No beauty shines  
brighter than than of  
a good heart.*

### Discussion Questions: Do Not Love Things of This World

Read [1John 2:15-17](#)

- Where do you look for satisfaction ( [1John 2:15](#))?
  
- Which of the three types of temptation trouble you most ( [1John 2:15-17](#))?
  1. Lust of the Flesh: self-seeking desire for physical pleasure
  2. Lust of the Eyes: greed, materialism
  3. Pride of Life: flaunting riches, power, abilities, fame
  
- Describe how being a friend of the world causes you to become an enemy of God ( [Jas 4:1-6](#)).
  
- What does it mean to do the will of God ( [John 14:15](#), [John 15:10](#))?
  
- What motivates our delight and joy in God ( [1John 4:19](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: How to Test for Sound Faith

Look for the following indicators of sound faith.

| <i>Test</i>  | <i>Scripture</i>     |
|--|----------------------|
| The Moral Test: Obedience to God's Word                    | <b>1John 2:3-6</b>   |
| The Relational Test: Love for God's People                 | <b>1John 2:9-11</b>  |
| The Doctrinal Test: Belief in the Truth about Jesus Christ | <b>1John 2:20-27</b> |

### Application Exercise: What Am I Choosing?

The world operates out of ungodly thoughts, attitudes, motives, values, and goals (**1John 5:19, Isa 55:8-9**).

You love either the world or God. You must choose.

| I demonstrate my faith by:             | not true ↔ completely true |
|--|----------------------------|
| Obeying God's Word                     | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |
| Loving God's people                    | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |
| Believing the truth about Jesus Christ | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5          |

[notes]

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