

# CONFLICT(ED)

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

pursuing peace in  
a cancel culture

### DISCUSSION GOAL



*Discuss what it means to seek reconciliation instead of canceling. Discuss how you can overcome difficult situations and relationships. Discuss the beauty of the church when we can reconcile and forgive each other.*

### ICE BREAKER



Have you ever made snap judgements against someone, and it turned out that you were wrong? Or have you had that happen to you? How did it make you feel and what were the consequences of that?

### TEXT



*Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.*

### Matthew 18:15-20 ESV

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



*This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.*

Big Idea: Christian relationships pursue repentance and reconciliation.

Key Question: What does Jesus ask us to do when we've been wounded by someone in our church family?

1. Go to win personally. (v. 15)
2. Go to win communally. (v. 16)
3. Go to win congregationally. (vv. 17-20)

## DISCUSSION



- When do you find it easier to run from challenging relationships rather than seeking reconciliation? How does our culture validate the impulse to cancel each other?
- What might prevent you from going personally to a brother or sister who has hurt you? How does this passage encourage you to approach them, instead of waiting for them to come to you? What feelings does it bring up to consider approaching someone who has sinned against you?
- Why does getting others involved in addressing a sinning brother or sister matter? How does the increased pursuit of a sinner demonstrate Jesus' pursuit of us (read Romans 5:6-8 aloud as you consider your answer)?
- Verse 20 contains the promise that Christ will be present when we seek help from the church to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters. How does knowing this promise give you courage to pursue conflict resolution?
- Read Matthew 18:10-14. How are these passages connected? How does this week's passage give us further instruction to seek the straying sheep from our congregation?

## LIFE APPLICATION



Today we discussed how we should approach difficult relationships between brothers and sisters in Christ. Reflect upon the strained relationships in your life and pray that God would help you want to reconcile and redeem those instead of ignore and avoid.

As a group, consider ways to engage with your community to promote healthy relationships and conflict resolution.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



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