

# WEEK 9 DAY 4

## MAIN POINT:

Humbly owning your part in a conflict brings peace.

## KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

(Romans 12:17-18)

DRAFT

# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

**PRAYER:** Dear God, help me to see conflict as something that can draw me closer to you. Show me where I lack humility when engaging with others.

If you are in relationship with others, you will experience conflict. Wherever there are two people gathered together, there will be differences in opinion and practice. Differences can lead to conflict, but they can also lead to opportunities for growth. In *re:generation*, you will learn new ways to address conflict that can draw you closer to others and to God.

Past conflict in your life will often affect present day relationships. Maybe as a child you weren't taught how to disagree without erupting into anger. Perhaps, you weren't given permission to express your feelings, and now are fearful of voicing your concerns. If you learned to view conflict as a bad thing, you may try to avoid it all together, abandoning relationships along the way. These types of responses lead to relationships that are inauthentic and shallow.

Thankfully, the Bible says a lot about handling conflict in a way that both honors God and brings about restored relationships. It reminds you that your baggage influences the way you conflict with others. It commands you to address conflict directly rather than avoiding it. It guides you to speak gently, so as to not stir up anger. None of these things can be done without God's help. (James 4:1-2, Matthew 18:15, Proverbs 15:1, John 15:5)

How can you use these truths to help you during times of conflict?

- When conflict arises, evaluate yourself before engaging. What instances in your past may be informing your feelings in this conflict? Are you seeking understanding, or are you just wanting to be “right?” Are you only pointing out what the other person has done, yet refusing to own your part in the conflict?
- When you are hurt or offended, go directly to the person responsible. Don't fall into gossip or slander another's reputation; seek to resolve the issue. If he or she refuses to listen, bring someone else you trust who can help with resolution.
- When entering into conversations that may cause conflict, pray! Ask God to give you kind and gentle words. Remember entering conflict with a calm attitude is always better than immediately accusing or blaming others.

God calls you to be a peacemaker. Words and actions have the power to build others up or tear them down. So, during conflict, ask God to help you to be humble and, as far as it depends on you, remain peaceful.

**APPLICATION:** Think of an unresolved conflict in your past. Pray for God to reveal what your part is in the conflict and give you peace. Write down two ways you might better love this person in the future.