

RE-ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

RE-ASSEMBLY REQUIRED | PART 1

We all have relationships that are broken and could use some attention. Unfortunately, fixing or repairing a strained relationship is not intuitive. People spend months or years in a pattern of **waiting** to see what the other person would do... and **rehearsing** the narrative... or maybe simply **avoiding** the person or situation. There are a lot of different strategies we take to restore a broken relationship, but most of us have not been taught how to reassemble a broken relationship, and many of us have never seen it modeled.

This study is going to dive into this topic head-on. As you lean in with your group, remember that this discussion will likely be very emotionally charged, so be sensitive as your group processes.

CONNECT

Since many of us have never been taught how to reassemble a relationship, it's easy to fall into one or more of the strategies in the C4 Approach to Relationship Management:

1. **Convince.**
"If I put enough information in front of you, I know you'll see things my way."
2. **Convict.**
"I'm just going to remind you of all the things you've done or I've done for you until you feel shame and guilt and do things my way."
3. **Coerce.**
"I said I'm sorry. Why are you still upset?"
(Translated: "I've done my part. You should be fine now and we should be back to where we were. Since you're not fine, something must be wrong with you.")
4. **Control.**
"I'm sorry if I offended you."
(Translated: "You're too easily offended. What I said wouldn't have offended most people.")



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Discuss these questions with your group:

- When tensions arise in your relationships, what do you typically do? Do you reach for one of those four things? Or something else?
- Think about the people around you. Do you have friends or family members who are estranged from members of their families? From where you sit, what's keeping the feuds alive?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. As we talk about reassembling a broken relationship, it's important to know what a healthy relationship looks like. What would you include in that description?
2. Toward the end of the video, Andy explained that forgiveness is only half of the equation and that God was not content to stay there. Read Philippians 2:1–8. What stands out to you? How could applying some of the phrases you read help you take steps in repairing a relationship?
3. Think of a relationship in your life that is strained and could use some reassembly. What would change in your approach to that relationship if your goal was “no regrets” instead of reconciliation.
4. If you are estranged from a friend or family member, what's stopping you from taking steps to repair the relationship? The first answer that comes to mind may not be the real answer, so put the first answer aside and ask yourself, “What's stopping me from trying, really?”

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

As we go through this study, pay attention to the strained relationships that come to mind and make a list of them. Take time this week to pray and ask God, “What's stopping me from taking steps to repair these relationships, really?”



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PRAY

Before you pray this week, have each person share a relationship that could use reassembling. After each person shares, take time to pray as a group. Andy's prayer from this message (some adjustments made for context) may be helpful as a starting place:

Heavenly Father, Thank you for not forgiving from a distance, but for sending a Savior into this world to reveal what you are like, who you like, and who you love. And Father, I pray for the man or woman or the student today who thinks, I wish I had not heard this. This is too emotional. This is too hard. I'm not going to do it. I pray, Father, that you would do that thing that no preacher, no sermon can do... that you would draw them out into the open and again, give them eyes to see the way you see them and the way you see the other person. And we pray all of that in Jesus's name. Amen.

