

RE-ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

RE-ASSEMBLY REQUIRED | PART 2

The thing about relationships is that we are really only as happy as our core relationships are healthy. Broken relationships take a toll on us and put a limit on our other relationships and how satisfied we are in life.

In the previous session, we talked about how we typically turn to the wrong things because no one taught us how to reconcile relationships. We try to convince, convict, coerce, and control. But it turns out, all of those things feel like rejection to the person experiencing them so we try to not do them.

But deciding to not do one of those four things isn't enough to restore a relationship. Instead of deciding *not* to do something, we need to decide what *to* do, and today we're going to look at the first decision we need to make.

CONNECT

Before you dive into this session's content, discuss the previous week. We all shared a relationship that needed reassembly and were challenged to ask God, "What's stopping me from taking steps to repair this relationship, really?" What came to mind as you prayed that? Was it different than what you shared last week?

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. What's your initial reaction to the notion that reconciliation begins with us regardless of who initiated the fuss? Is your response to a strained relationship usually, "I will get back at" or "I will get back to"?
2. In this session, Andy said we need to reallocate our hate to hate what happened and the fallout of what happened, but to not hate the person. Have you experienced this before? What did you do to reallocate that hate?



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3. Think back to the relationship that you shared last week. At the end of the message, Andy shares a specific prayer that can be a first step in the process of reassembling a relationship: “Heavenly Father, help me see _____ the way you do. Help me feel toward _____ what you feel.”

Is there anything in you that pushes back against that prayer? Chances are, that’s where God wants to go to work on you. (Leader note: this was not included in the video you watched.)

4. Remember, sin breaks God’s heart because sin breaks people and sin breaks relationships. When God sees the person you are upset with, he is brokenhearted over the sin (by all parties) that led to the situation, and he is brokenhearted over the fact that the relationship is broken. So, pray to be more brokenhearted over the relationship than angry at the person.

How does seeing the person the way God sees them change your approach to that person?

FOR NEXT WEEK

When you finally feel what God feels about the person you have in mind, your drawbridge will go down and the welcome mat will go out. It doesn’t change the relationship, but something extraordinary will change in you. You will decide to not have those imaginary arguments in your head. You will take retribution off the table, even if it comes your way. You will stop secretly hoping they fail and celebrating that failure. You will get to a place where, if they are mourning, you will mourn, and if they’re rejoicing, you will rejoice. You’ll begin to have the same mindset as Jesus.

Over the next week, set aside intentional time to pray, “Heavenly Father, help me see _____ the way you do. Help me feel toward _____ what you feel.”

PRAY

Take time to pray as a group. Andy’s prayer from this message may be helpful as a starting place:

“Heavenly Father, it’s so much easier to talk about than to do. It’s so emotional for some of us, probably for all of us. And Father, for many of us, someone came to mind and we’re so irritated because we thought we had forgiven them and put them out of our minds and out of our lives once and for all—and it’s in the rearview mirror. But every once in a while, there’s that threat of anger, that threat of abandonment, that threat of a memory that stirs us up. So would you please give each of us the wisdom to know what to do with what we just heard and the courage to do it. In Jesus’s name, Amen.”

