

## How to Restore a Relationship

Pastor Don Brock

### Discussion Guide

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

#### Open

This week Pastor Don walks us step-by-step through a Biblical model for restoring relationships which focuses on how we can deal with each other in a spirit of humility. Conflict in relationships is nothing new of course, and in today's study we'll take a look at how two of the early church's leaders worked through their differences when they found themselves at odds with each other. To get your study started today, let everyone in the group share their typical reaction when they end up in a conflict with a friend - do they tend to confront the person? Try to wait it out? Give them the "silent treatment"? Something else? Share with the group...

#### BIG THOUGHT

Even when we experience conflict in our relationships, Jesus expects us to be loving and humble as we work toward restoration.

1. To understand the conflict between Paul and Barnabas, read Acts 15:36-38. Would you have been more likely to agree with Paul's view or Barnabas'? Why? What do you think Luke (the author of Acts) felt about John Mark's actions? (v. 38) Why?
2. Now read v. 39. Have you ever been in a "sharp" disagreement with another person due to the actions of a third party (see Acts 13:4-5,13 for a quick look at the backstory of Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark)? Share a bit about what happened if you can...

3. Read v. 40-41. Put yourself in Silas' shoes - what would you have felt when you were asked to go in John Mark's place? (v. 40) What clues can you find about the feelings of those who were sending the men out? (v. 39-40) In your opinion, what responsibility do we bear for how our conflicts affect the people around us?
4. Near the end of Paul's life, he sends a letter to his helper Timothy which mentions that Paul and John Mark eventually healed their relationship (see 2 Timothy 4:11). What attitudes or approaches have you found to be helpful when you've succeeded in repairing a relationship that was strained?
5. Now read John 13:34-35. How do you see these verses applying in the midst of a conflict with someone? Share your thoughts with the group...

#### Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for the way He wants to use your strengths and personality for His glory, and then ask Him to help you be loving when you have a disagreement with someone else.

#### Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Ephesians 4:32

Day 2: Colossians 3:12

Day 3: Galatians 5:22-23

Day 4: Luke 6:31

Day 5: Proverbs 17:17

Day 6: 1 Peter 3:8

Memory Verse: John 13:35



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