

# **Reconciliation (Participant Guide)**

## **Group Time**

### **Introduction**

Discrimination is part of our world and has been for ages, which does not come as a surprise to God. He warns about such things many times in the Bible. James 2:3-4 says: “If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ and you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,’ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?” Likewise, 1 John 4:20 reads: “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.”

As a result of discrimination in our world, such words as “politically correct” have become commonly embraced, and secular efforts have been made to thwart racial, socioeconomic and other forms of discrimination, segregation, hatred and bitter relations—with minimal headway. The hate and the hurt continue, sadly, even within some churches. Blessedly, God is in control and we need not lose hope. In the Bible, God has given us the guidance we need for real and lasting reconciliation as a church and nation. Let’s open our hearts and minds to him now as we learn his plan for us.

### **Discussion Questions and Leader Notes**

- 1.** What do you consider to be discrimination? Read Genesis 1:26-27, Malachi 2:10, Acts 17:26 and 10:34-35. What can you tell about God and humans from these verses?
- 2.** Read 2 Corinthians 11:14 and Ephesians 6:12. If our nation was founded primarily on biblical principles as well as a belief that all people were created equally, how did discrimination rear

its ugly head? Read John 14:6 and 1 John 4:1-6. How can we protect ourselves against Satan's deception?

**3.** Read Revelation 7:9-10. Describe the image of the church in this passage. Most likely we all desire this united church. However, all around us, people have wounded others and have been wounded. Read Ephesians 2:14-16. What hope do we have for a better world? Read Matthew 5:23-26 and 18:21-22. What actions must we take to begin bringing reconciliation to our world?

**4.** While forgiveness and mercy are the first steps in reconciling with others, there is still more. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17. What relationship wisdom can be found in these verses (i.e. What might these verses look like in action)? Read verses 18-21. What is the "ministry of reconciliation" and what is our part in that ministry? Read John 17:20-23. Connecting these verses to our topic of reconciliation, what will your take-away be from this study today? Share.

## **Taking it Home**

### **Going Deeper**

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### **Memory Verse**

John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

## Notes

The Perspectives Curriculum is  
written by Small Groups volunteers at  
Water of Life Community Church.  
[www.wolgroups.com](http://www.wolgroups.com)