

Personal agendas cause division .

Everyone thinks they're right .

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever **seemed right** in their **own eyes**. *Judges 21:25*

We are easily offended .

The Holy Spirit will nudge us toward reconciliation .

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in **harmony** with each other. Let there be no **divisions** in the church. Rather, be of **one** mind, united in thought and purpose. *1 Corinthians 1:10*

Ephesians 4:1-6

Reconciliation: bringing together , bringing unity ,
bringing healing .

1. The Holy Spirit will nudge you to keep short accounts .

Matthew 5:23-24

Go first if you are the offender .

Go first if you have been offended .

Whether you are or are not the offender, it's your responsibility to reconcile the situation.

It's not about changing the other person as much as it is about changing who I am. Doing the thing God calls me to do.

2. The Holy Spirit will nudge you to control your tongue .

Proverbs 17:27-28

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be **quick** to listen, **slow** to speak, and **slow** to get angry. *James 1:19*

But do this in a **gentle** and **respectful** way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a **good life** you live because you belong to Christ. *1 Peter 3:16*

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. *Romans 5:8*

Who is the Holy Spirit nudging you to reconcile with?

SG | Small Groups

Group Prep

In preparation for small group, read Ephesians 4, then answer the following discussion questions.

Introduction

Are you someone who gets frustrated when others don't agree with your opinion, likes having the last word in an argument, or likes to be right? If we're being honest, we all are, because we struggle with prioritizing ourselves over others. Being right is overrated, especially when when it comes at the expense of dismantling a relationship and losing influence in someone's life. If we want to influence others for God's Kingdom, we must learn to listen to the Holy Spirit's nudge when He guides us toward reconciliation instead of being right.

Discussion Questions

1. Share an example of when you were dead set on being right? How did this desire affect your relationship with the other person?

2. What stood out to you from reading Ephesians 4? In a practical sense, what does unity among believers look like, either based on Ephesians 4 or your own personal experience? What kinds of things have you observed that occasionally sabotage peace among believers? Which part of Ephesians 4 do you know you need to work on in order to be a peace keeper?

There are two things the Holy Spirit will nudge us in towards reconciliation with others:

Keeping short accounts. Read Matthew 5:23-24. What does it look like to live out this teaching from Jesus in real life?

“Go first if you are the offender.” Who have you offended recently and how so?

“Go first if you have been offended.” Who has offended you recently and how so?

Why do you think Jesus calls us to “go first” whether we are the offender or the offended?

Controlling your tongue. Read James 1:19-20 and Proverbs 17:27-28. In a practical way, how do we guard against losing our temper with others? How does the use of your tongue affect the influence you have among the non-Christians in your life?

3. What is the correlation between the unity Jesus desires for His church and the unity found between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Why should division have no place among believers? How does seeking unity with others advance the Kingdom of God?

Action Step

4. Who is the Holy Spirit nudging you to reconcile with, and what steps do you need to take to seek reconciliation? How will you guard against division with the people God has place in your life?

My action step is _____

_____.

I will encourage and pray for _____ to follow through, and their action step is _____

_____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for _____

_____.

Outreach: Groups in Action

Collect new and gently used hats, gloves and scarves. All sizes accepted. They will be passed out through The Refuge as the cold weather approaches.

Come on Wednesday night from 6:00-9:00pm and help stock Emmanuel's Greenwood Campus auditorium with connection cards for the weekend services. This is a need every week.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.