**TITLE: THE MIRACLE OF MERCY**

**SESSION FIVE: MERCY IS KIND TO ENEMIES**

**KEY VERSE: Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.**

 **James 1:19 (NIV)**

**The best way to eliminate an enemy is to turn him into a friend; and the best way to do that is to treat him with kindness.**

“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”

 **Luke 6:27 (NIV)**

**Peacekeepers avoid conflict and pretend it doesn’t exist. Peacemakers, on the other hand, resolve conflict and reconcile relationships.**

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

 **Matthew 5:9 (KJV)**

Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.

 **James 3:18 (TLB)**

**SEVEN STEPS OF RECONCILIATION**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .**

 “If you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is

 angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that

 person, then come back and offer your gift to God.”

 **Matthew 5:23-24 (CEV)**

**It’s important to be reconciled than religious.**

 While we were still sinners, Christ died for us . . . While we were enemies we

 were reconciled to God by the death of Son.

 **Romans 5:8-10 (ESV)**

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to

 drink . . . Do not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

 **Romans 12:20-21 (NIV)**

* **The only way to resolve a conflict is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

 If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly

 tell you.

 **James 1:5 (TLB)**

The right word at the right time is like precious gold set in silver.

 **Proverbs 25:11 (CEV)**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Pride only leads to arguments.

 **Proverbs 13:10 (NCV)**

 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Aren’t they caused by the selfish

 desires that fight to control you?

 **James 4:1 (GW)**

“Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the

 log in your own eye . . . First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be

 able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

 **Matthew 7:3-5 (GNT)**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The people who need love the most are those who deserve it the least.**

 **Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.**

 **James 1:19 (NIV)**

**God gave you two ears and one mouth. That means you should always listen twice as much as you speak.**

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests

 of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

 **Philippians 2:4-5 (NIV)**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Speak the truth in love.

 **Ephesians 4:15** **(NLT)**

**The truth is not enough. It’s not just what you say, but how you say it. If you speak offensively, it will be received defensively. You are never persuasive when you are abrasive. You never get your point across by being cross.**

You must no longer say insulting or cruel things about others.

 **Colossians 3:8 (CEV)**

Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and

 provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear

 you.

 **Ephesians 4:29 (GNT)**

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

 **Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The blame game is a waste of time. As long as you’re fixing the blame, you are not fixing the problem. As long as you’re attacking each other, you’re not attacking the issues.**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**There are some things we’ll never agree on because we’re all different. But you can disagree without being disagreeable. You can have unity without uniformity. You can walk hand in hand without seeing eye to eye. You can have reconciliation without resolution.**

 God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and

 self-discipline**.**

 **2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)**

**DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:**

1.) Some people hate conflict and do all they can to avoid it; others face it head-on. What is your typical response to conflict?

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2.) The Bible says, “Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness” (James 3:18 TLB). In what relationship do you need to plant a seed of peace? What would that look like for you?

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3.) Which of the seven steps of reconciliation is most challenging for you?

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4.) Pastor Rick said, “You can disagree without being disagreeable. You can have unity without uniformity. You can walk hand in hand without seeing eye to eye.” Talk about the different between reconciliation and resolution. How can you have one without the other?

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