

**Apologizing to Those You've Hurt October 21, 2012**

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

- What is the toughest apology you've ever given to another person? Why was this apology so difficult?

**With your Bible or YouVersion read Matthew 5:9, 23-24 and Romans 12:18.** These verses emphasize the importance of making peace with those you've hurt.

- How do you typically respond to those you hurt? Are you more of a peacekeeper or a peacemaker?
- Why do so many of us tend to be peacekeepers instead of peacemakers?
- Whom have you hurt that you need to apologize to immediately? What has kept you from apologizing to this person?

**Read Proverbs 11:2.** This verse tells us that the greatest enemy to peacemaking is pride, while the greatest friend to peacemaking is humility.

- How have you seen pride impact your ability to be a peacemaker in your relationships?
- What does humility look like in your life? How can you develop a more humble heart?
- Why is it so important to apologize with integrity?

- Describe a time when you apologized to someone with integrity. How did your apology impact you and your relationship with that person?

Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you become a peacemaker by apologizing with integrity.

- One of God's biggest desires for us is to be peacemakers. The Bible often talks about the importance of being at peace with each other. As you work to make peace with those that you've hurt by apologizing with integrity, read the following scriptures and allow them to empower you to become a peacemaker: Romans 12:18-21; Proverbs 6:2-4; 13:10; Matthew 5:1-48; Mark 9:50; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:18; 1 Peter 3:11.
- If there is someone you need to make peace with that you have wronged, take the next step of apologizing to them with integrity this week. As you prepare your apology use these guidelines: 1. Admit to specific actions and attitudes. 2. Don't make excuses. 3. Accept the consequences. 4. Change your behavior. 5. Ask for forgiveness.

**Talk It Over with God:**

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Confess to God those things you've done that hurt others. Ask for His forgiveness and strength as you apologize to those you've hurt.
- Tell God how pride has impacted your life. Ask Him to help you remove all pride from your heart.
- Ask God to develop within you a more humble heart. Allow Him to show you what humility should look like in your life.
- Ask God to help you apologize with integrity when you hurt someone.
- Commit to God that you will be a peacemaker and not a peacekeeper in all of your relationships.