

# Reconciler's Journey Worksheet and Discussion #1

## Taking a New Path

As an individual or a mentoring pair you can use these conversation guides to explore the confession and forgiveness area of our Worship Value. Our close relationship with God based on His gift of forgiveness of sin moves us to examine our relationships with others. We are moved to bring the same grace and desire to reconcile relationships following the footsteps of Jesus.

If you are using these individually make entries in a journal in places that call for conversation. Committing your thoughts in writing helps you focus and serves as a tool for a return visit to your thoughts. Follow through when the Holy Spirit nudges you to have a conversation with someone to verify what you hear God saying and commit to next steps.

If you are working together with a Discipled or as a Discipled you can use these conversations as presented together or agree to work as individuals on a specific section and set an appointment to address questions raised about next steps and share experiences from the outcomes of your steps.

If your small group has recurrently addressed issues that have a root in a damaged relationship, a hurt experienced or inflicted, or an opinion about others that becomes a hang-up for next steps, consider using these discussions 1 on 1 with the person in your group discipling conversation. This will be a time for focus, listening to God and each other, and allowance for the Spirit to bring movement.

Please print out the documents Slippery Slope and 7 A's of confession posted in the Toolikit.

### A Starting Point

**Write a Brief** describing the conflict you sense with someone. Sometimes we get shoved into a chain reaction pileup and sometimes we cause the tie up ourselves. Is this hard because of your misstep or another's? You're just getting these things out from under the rug... no judgement, correction, advice, or fixing. Keep it honest. You'll be revisiting this throughout this reconciliation journey.

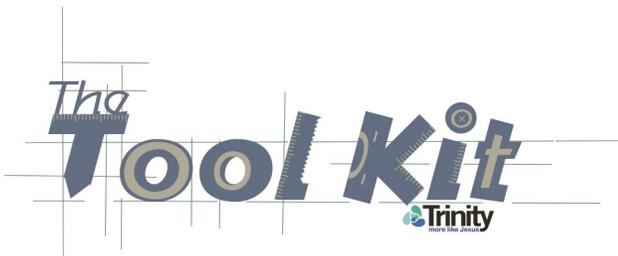
The discussion of conflict grows out of several texts. **Read each aloud with some thinking time in between listening to God speak through his word. Circle words, label themes, write out what you think God is saying.**

Genesis 3:1-21

Matthew 5:21-24

Romans 12:1,2

Ephesians 4:22-24



### The Old Path

Embedded in the story of the fall into sin in Genesis 3 is a question God asks, “Where are you?” Certainly, God knows everything, so we should pay attention here. ***When do you ask someone this question? How does the meaning change with different vocal inflections? When God asks this question, what do you learn about his nature and his relationship with Adam and Eve?***

In Matthew 5:21-24 Jesus talks about the hurdle anger presents to our relationship with others. ***What priority does he set on seeking reconciliation? Discuss the connections between our relationship with God and our relationship with others, between our worship of God and our reconciliation with others.***

Notice a loss of directionality in the Genesis 3 question *where?* and change in direction in Jesus’ call to *leave* the offering. The word repentance literally indicates a change of direction. ***How would turning towards God change the path of your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ (the person mentioned in your Brief)?***

### A Path with Firm Footing

In view of Romans 12:1-2, let’s consider how to present our daily responses to people as a spiritual act of worship.

Look at the Slippery Slope diagram from Peacemaker Ministries. Consider the responses on the right and left slope of the hill, attack responses and escape responses, and how they affect the relationship involved.

***Why do those responses present slippery footing for the relationship?***

***How do the peacemaking responses affect the relationship?***

***What’s your natural response when someone has mistreated you?***

***What turning action of repentance could put the relationship back on solid footing?***

***If your response does not bring glory to God, who does it glorify?***

### Making the Turn

Use Ephesians 4:22-24 to help you make the turn in your path. ***Review your Brief and make any additions or clarifications you now feel are appropriate.*** If another conflict has come to mind in the course of your reflections in this conversation that has a deeper impact on your worshipful relationship with God, go ahead and shift gears by writing up a new brief. ***Describe how you and the other party were on the Slippery Slope.*** (Read Matthew 7:1-5 for some Red Letter motivation to tackle this exercise.)

***Release your conflict to God in prayer and seek to give Him glory through your new path.***

***Which peacemaking response do you think is appropriate? How will you approach that? Consider where some confession may be involved. Review the Seven A’s of Confession document to help you make your plan. How does a Christian’s active repentance bring Glory to God?***

***In what way will you keep Ephesians 4:22-24 in mind this week; meditation, personal paraphrasing, posting, memorization?***

Make a date for a conversation with your Small Group Leader, Discippler, or Coach to discuss your discoveries in **Taking a New Path**.