

#reconcile

August 10 & 11, 2013

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9 NIV)

Consider & Discuss

- 1. What do you think are the main causes of interpersonal conflict?
- 2. Do you agree that we're always partly at fault in every conflict? How would you support your position?
- 3. What do you think are the biggest obstacles to being a peacemaker?
- 4. What advice would you give someone who is struggling to forgive someone else who has hurt them deeply?
- 5. Do you think forgiveness always requires complete restoration of the relationship? Why or why not?
- 6. How would you explain the relationship between the vertical (i.e., God and us) and horizontal (i.e., people with each other) aspects of reconciliation?
- 7. What suggestions do you have for someone who wants to become a better peacemaker?

Live It

- 1. Ask God to bring to your mind any relationships in which you need reconciliation. Then ask Him to give you the strength, wisdom, and grace to begin the process of reconciliation.
- 2. Pick one of Clay's 8 suggestions for becoming a better peacemaker and begin to work on it this week. Don't forget to ask God to help you to grow in this area!
 - Decide what's most important.
 - Don't sweat the small stuff.
 - Don't sweep it under the rug.
 - Look in the mirror.
 - Go first.
 - Ask for forgiveness.
 - Forgive completely.
 - Look to the Ultimate Peacemaker.