



Dgroup Discussion Guide for January 8, 2018 Radical L.O.V.E.: Reboot Your Relationships

Scripture: Matthew 5:23–24

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIONSHIP

“the closer our relationship with our family, the greater our influence.” It is in building a relationship with each member of our family that we can have an influence in their lives. We can do it when we affirm, communicate, and spend time with them.

However, some parents tend to do the opposite. They constantly criticize their children, give unreasonable rules, play favoritism, shout at children out of bad temper, and become too busy to listen and communicate. They pretence to be good Christians in church but at home they are not. All these provoke children to lose heart and get hurt.

We know that children are wounded when they turn quiet, withdrawn, critical, sarcastic, or disrespectful. Worst yet is some children put themselves in danger, leave their home, leave the church, or even denounce their faith. When we see any of these symptoms, it is time to lovingly reboot the relationship.

REBOOT YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

God wants us to live in harmony. However, conflict in a relationship is inevitable because people are diverse. When conflict arises, our default mode is either to avoid or to attack; to pretend nothing happened or to gossip about the other person. But conflicts can actually be a blessing especially when we learn how to lovingly reboot relationships. So how do we do it?

God's Will (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

It is God's will for people to be reconciled to Him and to each other. God gave us a ministry of reconciling people to Him because He is the model of reconciliation. God puts emphasis on our loving relationship with one another because this is the evidence that we are His followers (**John 13:35**). The best way a family can be an effective witness to the world to the world is by showing the love they have for each other.

Initiative (Genesis 13:7-15)

We must make it a point to take the initiative to resolve any conflict. Let's not wait for the other person to make the first move. Abraham took the initiative to resolve a possible conflict between him, Lot, and their herdsmen. He also gave Lot the right to make the first choice of their properties. For Abraham, a relationship is more important than any material or economic gain.

Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22; Mark 11:25)

There is no better way to resolve conflict than to forgive, or to ask for forgiveness, We must not wait for people to come to us and ask for forgiveness. Sometimes we need to let go of the right to be heard or to be understood, even the right to be right. We must be willing to forego our rights in favor of reconciling and bringing peace to the relationship. Relationship is more important than rights.

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hatred. It is the power that breaks

Trusting God (Genesis 13:14-15)

We should follow God's way even if it seems that we are at the losing end. We need to trust God. Abraham seemed to be on the losing end when he let Lot make the first choice of the land, but Abraham chose to trust God. He trusted God and held on to His promises. In the end, it was Lot who lost everything and Abraham who gained even more. To trust God like Abraham, we must believe in our heart that blessing and security is not dependent on land nor geography, rather it is dependent on the Lord.

If we wait until we feel like being forgiving, we might never be able to forgive. If we cannot forgive others, it just means we have not fully experienced God's forgiveness. But because we are sinners who have been forgiven by God, we can forgive others. (**Ephesians 4:31-32**)

Forgiveness may cost us but God's divine forgiveness carried an even greater cost. It took the sacrifice of Jesus' life as payment on the cross for our sins. How can we not choose to forgive generously? Trust God, be patient and be humble, and let God work in restoring and rebooting our relationships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **DROP, GO, COME** What should you do when you remember somebody has something against you according to Matthew 5:23-24?
2. **FORGIVEN**. How does being forgiven by God help you to forgive others and reboot your relationships with them?
3. **I WILL REBOOT**. In the present status of your family, what will you do to reboot your relationship with them? Be specific.

APPLICATION:

Reboot Relationships. Start with your family.

Here are simple steps that we can use as a guide to reboot relationships. Ask your family the following questions (beware of being defensive):

1. How have I hurt you?
2. How can I improve?
3. Will you forgive me?

Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. – Corrie ten Boom

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.