



# REASSEMBLY REQUIRED

06.04

## FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

### INTRODUCTION

Life is made up of relationships, which is why it hurts so much when they fall apart. Sometimes it feels like there's no way to put things back together. Welcome to the *Reassembly Required* series where we'll find out what God can do with broken pieces starting with forgiveness and reconciliation.

### DISCUSSION

1. When was the last time you had trouble physically reassembling something? What made the process so difficult? If you had instructions, did you choose to use them? If you did, did they actually help you?
2. While physical objects can be frustrating to rebuild, the varying emotions, approaches, and expectations in rebuilding relationships can be even messier. Pastor Jesse helped us define:
  - **Forgiveness** - choosing to release a person from their debt of guilt with you
  - **Reconciliation** – an intentional process of rebuilding and restoring a relationship after it's been broken. Forgiveness doesn't always lead to reconciliation.How do these biblical definitions encourage or challenge your existing understanding of these topics?
3. **Read Matthew 18:23-35.** How does viewing forgiveness through a financial lens help you understand relational forgiveness? What challenges might you anticipate - internally or externally - as you begin taking steps toward forgiving someone who "owes" you?
4. **Revisit and read Matthew 6:9-15.** The command to forgive others when they sin against us is clear. But the challenges you may have articulated in the previous question can often make it feel difficult, if not impossible. Rather than searching within ourselves, Pastor Jesse taught us that our choice to forgive often comes at the end of a journey with God – by being reminded of how much God has forgiven us. Is reflection and connection with God a regular part of your life? How might this kind of time with him impact your difficult and painful relationships? Do you have any examples of this impact already?
5. Do you have any relationships on a road to reconciliation right now? How did the process start? Why do you believe you've been able to move forward with this relationship? How have you seen God work in you and them? How can the evidence of your story help encourage others in your group to engage in this work of forgiveness?

### APPLICATION

We all have someone in our lives we need to forgive. As you begin to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation:

- **Be reminded of your own forgiveness.** God forgave us while we were still his enemies (Romans 5:10). Allow the reality of God's love and sacrifice for you to grow his story of forgiveness in your heart. It will transform and reorient your heart.
- **Ask God to reveal your true feelings and wisdom to navigate past hurt.** Don't be surprised if you find it hard to spend time considering forgiving someone who's hurt you. Invite God to help you see the situation clearly and simply talk about it with him.
- **Remember, it's a process.** We are messy people, so forgiveness and reconciliation can be messy, too. Remember forgiveness isn't just an event – it's a continual choice that has the opportunity to lead to reconciliation.