



## **Resolving Everyday Conflict - Discussion Guide**

### **Session 6: Follow the Spirit of Gentleness**

**Passage:** Galatians 6:1-2

**Introduction:** In this session we will consider how pursuing peace in our relationships, at times, requires us to address the sins of others. Instead of looking for ways to attack or escape, honoring God in the midst of conflict means approaching those who have sinned against us in ways that gently and carefully seek to restore the relationship.



#### **Into the Word**

Why is it important to understand that people get “caught” in sin? How might this affect the way we approach those who have sinned against us? **(pg. 75)**

Compare: Genesis 4:7

Note: The Bible also teaches that we are fully responsible for our sin.

**Read Matthew 5:23-24** Why is it important that we initiate a conversation with someone with whom you are in conflict even if we believe the conflict is not our fault? **(pg. 77)**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “Nothing is so cruel as the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from sin.” Do you agree? How can confronting sin be loving?

Consider: Proverbs 27:6

What is gentleness? Why is gentleness necessary for true restoration in relationships?

Consider: Galatians 5:22-24



#### **Into the Heart**

What does Paul say our goal should be when addressing those who have sinned against us? What other reasons might we have for addressing their sin? **(pg. 75)**

Which do you find more difficult in the midst of conflict: taking initiative or approaching gently? How does the Gospel motivate us to change our approach?

Consider: Matthew 11:29, Philippians 2:3-8



#### **Into the World**

**Consider a recent conflict.** How might the other person respond if we choose to address their sin? How might we be tempted as we address the sins of others?

**Read Matthew 18:15-17** How does Jesus’ model help us keep restoration as our goal? How does Jesus’ model help us approach the other person gently? How does Jesus’ model help us resist temptation?