

Relationship Success

Lesson 5: Reconcile Sincerely

This course follows Jim Tucker's Relationship Success class audio found on the Relationship Success page of Connect the Nations. Please read this lesson while listening to the audio, or just listen and answer the questions.

Vocabulary: (yellow = vocabulary; green = idioms)

concept	to grit	to nurture	solo
freedom	incident	affirmation	tour
to bask	to drop	to laugh	dormitory
reconciliation	hook	uptight	booth
to dare	marriage	to sop	revival
mad	fresh	plate	van
to skip	to restore	banquet	to release
manipulative	weird	choir	ground
evil	deliverance	to beg	

Discussion:

Now, okay, check this out. Forgiveness is not a feeling. Okay, would you say that with me? "Forgiveness, not a feeling." You don't wait to feel it. You can't. Forgiveness is not forgetting. Have you ever heard the term, "Forgive and forget"? It is not a scriptural **concept**. There's nothing in the Bible that supports that. We don't have that power. What pressure to put on people to say, "Just forgive and forget." You can't. It just doesn't work like that. I hope that gives you some **freedom** right now. "Well, if I really did forgive them, then I would forget. I don't know what is wrong with me!" Oh, my goodness. No! There is nothing wrong with you. But God can take the pain away from the memory. When you really begin to **bask** in his love, and his grace, and his peace, he can take the pain away from the memory.

Forgiveness is the beginning of **reconciliation**, but forgiveness is not reconciliation. Have you ever forgiven somebody, but you still don't have a close relationship with that person? Would you raise your hand if that's happened? Okay. Why is that true? How can that be? If you've really forgiven them, then why can't you have a relationship? You see, forgiveness only takes one person. Reconciliation takes two.

One of the worst examples I've ever heard is a young lady. She was thirty-something years old. Her dad had abused her. You know, her dad had sexually abused her. And he'd never owned it. He'd never said anything. And then finally, years later in life, he finally – kinda, sort of – acknowledged it. But she didn't want her daughters to be around him. And she was saying, "I know that I need to forgive him." And I said, "So, what makes you think you haven't forgiven him?" "Well, if I forgave him, we would just go over to their house. And he's asked to let our kids come over, and they'll take care of our kids and everything while we go out on a date." And I said, "No, there's nothing wrong with you. Don't you **dare** trust him." But does that mean that she hasn't forgiven him? No, that's just wisdom. That's just wisdom. You don't do that. There are people in my life today that I love deeply, that I've given to, that I don't have a relationship with because relationship takes two people: reconciliation.

What is forgiveness? What is reconciliation? What are the differences between the two?

Do you have a relationship where you have forgiven a person, you've tried to reconcile, but the other person didn't want to reconcile or understand your desire? What else can you do to respond to this person in a healthy way? Discuss ideas.

There's a time when you just have to say what needs to be said, but it's coming from a heart of forgiveness – not just that you just are **mad** at somebody. Is it important what we're saying tonight? The love of God, the love that we're talking about, will forgive, and will ask for forgiveness. I can't tell you how many times I've walked people through the D.O.A. thing. Y'all remember that? That stands for Defend or Attack. And you can tell there's so much unforgiveness. There's so much bitterness. And I say, "Can you do this?" And they will start doing the A.O.D.: Ask for what you're needing, Ask what the other person needs, Own your stuff, Make deposits. The hardest thing for people is owning their own stuff. So, often they want to **skip** all the way to make deposits. And they wanna skip saying, "I'm sorry. I was wrong. Here's what I did that hurt you. I know this hurt you. I was being a jerk. I was just... I wanna heal this. I see what I did."

So, I wanna ask you to do this real quick. Everybody out loud say, "I was terrible. I hurt you. It was really bad. I was disrespectful, dishonoring, **manipulative**, sick, **evil**, mean." Some of you are **gritting**, like, "Oh, Jim, you're going for it, aren't you, really?" Because see, sometimes that's what the person really needs. Are you with me? There are times, I mean... You can think of people in your life right now. If they just would own their stuff. If they would just say, "This is what I did to you." But so often people wanna skip that.

One man that I know that cannot, he just cannot ever own anything. But he has a lot of money, and his way of dealing with something, his way of making a deposit is to give people money. Okay? Just own the **incident**. Heal that, talk about it. Listen to me. Feel with me. Empathy. Feel the pain that I felt over that. Really care.

[Tracy:] It's that kind of thing that sometimes someone can say, "If that was offensive to you, I'm sorry. If what I did was offensive, I'm sorry." So often, that's what we need to do. Sometimes when you need to say, "I'm sorry. I was wrong." You know, that's it, and you just own it. Don't ever say this to somebody, "If I offended you, I'm sorry." **Drop** it from your vocabulary because what they are thinking is, "If? What do you mean, 'If you offended me? I think you're demon-possessed, and you are saying, 'If?' And, no, it's not... It won't work. Why does it not work? Because you're not giving anything, right? "Give and it shall be given unto you...Pressed down, shaken together, running over" (Luke 6:38) will people give to you.

When's the last time you really owned your stuff? Describe.

When's the last time you know you should have owned something, but you didn't? Describe.

Now, this precious couple, he was so used to handling it that way. He had said, "I'm sorry," but it was just about like that: "I'm sorry! I'm sorry! What do you want me to do? I'm sorry!" She needed deposit. She needed the kind of humility... If you remember Matthew chapter five, when Jesus said, "If you come to the altar, and there you remember that someone has something against you..." Not, "You have something against them. You remember," he said, "when you come to the altar, and there you

remember someone has something against you, you go to them. Make it right. Then come back to the altar." Go back, make a deposit, own your stuff, ask 'em what they need. Make a deposit.

So, it got so bad in the room that – Tracy was with me – and, so I said to her, I said, "Ma'am, would you mind if I talked to your husband by himself for just a minute? And you and my wife go, and y'all just talk a minute? I'd just like to talk to him by himself." And she said, "Okay." So, she leaves, and we're sitting there in the office, and I just looked at him and smiled at him. And it was so sweet what he said. He looked at me, and he said, "I'm not doing too good, am I?" And I said, "No, sir, you're not." And I said, "You got a great heart." I said, "But you gotta understand, all you're doing is defending yourself. You've made no deposits about this issue. You're not owning anything. There's no empathy in what you're saying. And the reason she keeps bringing up what happened nine years ago – which was something that had happened with another woman – the reason she keeps bringing it up is because you've never healed it."

And he goes, "Really? But I said, 'I'm sorry.'" And I said, "Yeah, but that's about you. Saying 'I'm sorry' doesn't fix anything. It's really about you. You want off the **hook**. Just saying, 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry.' That's it? That's it?" So, I said, "Look, I know your heart is right. You really wanna heal her. You wanna give here. You want this thing to be done." And I confronted him. I said, "Where do you think it comes from, that all you do is defend yourself?" But I just waited for his answer, and he said, "It's pride, isn't it?" I said, "Yeah, it is. It's pride." I said, "Do you wanna repent?" And he put his head down like he was gonna pray. And I said, "No, no, no, no, no. We're not gonna pray right now." And I said, "Do you wanna to repent?" And he said, "Yeah, yeah, I do." I said, "Ok, I'm gonna give you chance to get this right. I'm gonna set you up, and you're gonna get this right. And you're not gonna defend yourself or anything when she comes back. And if I have to give the words to say, I'll give the words because your heart is right. You really wanna get this." And we did ask the Lord. We asked the Holy Spirit for help.

So, I went and got them, and they came back in. Tracy and her came back in. And I looked at her, and I said, "Your husband is about to do something that's gonna bring a miracle to your **marriage**." And she said, "Really?" I said, "Yeah, you are going to be amazed because this man of God has just really repented of his pride. You're about to see a miracle in your marriage." And he's lookin' at me like... And I said, "Oh yeah, because here's what's gonna happen." I said, "Now, I have to help him. I know his heart's right. This is a new language for him. His heart is right. It really is. He doesn't know this language. So, if I have to help, I'm gonna help him. So, right now, I want you to say again to him what you said about what happened nine years ago, and he is not going to defend himself. Are you?" And he said, "No!" And I said, "His heart is really right. This is a man of God, and he is gonna do this."

And first I wanna tell you, he did. He owned it. He gave her exactly what she was wanting: "I can tell this is **fresh** to you. I hurt you. I've never healed it." And he gave her everything. Here's the point: Give what is needed. You know, don't just say, "I'm sorry." When you go to the altar, and you remember someone has something against you, don't let it be about you. Heal it. Heal it. And watch what happens, and God will heal you. God will **restore** you. He will heal you.

Take a minute to think about a situation where you didn't own your stuff. What would owning your stuff look like? If you cannot think of a time, then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that you might have forgotten.

Discuss what owning your stuff might look like.

Let me end with this, I went to nine elementary schools, four junior highs, and six high schools. If you wonder why I'm weird, I'm weird. That's why! Is anybody else here weird? You know you're weird? Raise your hand if you know you are weird. Okay, how many know you may be more weird than the person sitting next to you? You might be. How many think they're more weird than you are? I'm weird. I have insecurities. I have things in me. And I'm amazed how God has healed, and brought deliverance, helps me to speak. But it all started when... with my dad, that uh... I don't have memories of nurturing, I don't have any memories of just being held and loved. I never had that. I didn't have words of affirmation, I didn't have...

Well, I grew up being called a stupid idiot. We kinda laugh about it now, you know, because when I get together with my sisters. I just, I was so nervous and uptight and everything. And my dad was just...he just had issues. He wanted to do right, you know? But I remember just longing for peace, just longing for... to be loved... to be, just to have it said, "I love you. I love you." But what I got was... I never knew when I was going to get knocked across the room. You know, I really didn't. I didn't know... I remember one time I – just over a piece of bread – I had a piece of bread that I used to sop something up, you know, on the plate. Bam! Backhanded.

And uh...So, I was very nervous, very uptight. And I couldn't talk. I had such a bad speech impediment, couldn't read a scripture out loud. I mean, when I graduated from high school, we had this little high school graduation thing. And I was set up with a date. I was sitting across the table from her at this, you know, little banquet deal. I remember when they said, "And Jim Tucker is graduating from Madison High School. He's going to the Southwestern University, and he is going to be a preacher." And this girl looked at me and said, "How are you gonna be a preacher? You can't even talk." And I thought, "She's got a point, you know? I mean, it's a point."

And I did. I went on, you know. I didn't know what I was gonna do. Then in my second year of college, God began to put this message in me: The Power of Forgiveness. My Dad never asked me to forgive him. He never owned anything. Listen, don't wait. Don't wait for the other person to get it. Let God, let God heal. Don't walk outta [out of] here tonight going, "Well, I like what Jim talked about, so I'm gonna wait for that person to own their stuff. And..." Nah. You won't have healing that way. You'll be judging the rest of your life.

Before we listen to Jim's story, are you waiting for anyone to own their stuff? Take a minute to think about that and share what comes to your mind.

I'll never forget it. God began to deal with me. It was my turn to preach. I was in the choir. The choir director would not let us out of it. His name is Mr. Carlton, and I'll never forget it. And I went to him, I begged. I pleaded. I said to him, "Mr. Carlton, I can't. You know? I can't." And I'm stuttering through that. "You know, I can't. I could sing." I was fine to be in the choir and sing and sing solos. I was fine with that. But I couldn't introduce a song because I couldn't get the words out. He said, "No, I really feel like God wants you to speak."

We were doing a tour of the Rocky Mountain District of the Assemblies of God, and it was my turn. So anyway, I worked on this message for weeks before. And uh... But during that time, the Lord spoke to me and said, "Forgive your dad. Love him." And I have to tell you, I thought, "He's never asked me to forgive him. He doesn't even own anything. He's never said, 'I'm sorry' for anything." And the Lord said, "Forgive him. Choose, like I have loved you." Now, I want you to get this: Sometimes God will speak to

you to do what you would do with that person if you totally forgave them. Do what you would do by faith. And uh... All I knew was I had to call my dad and bless him.

In our **dormitory** there was this little telephone **booth**. This was back in the day when you made collect calls. Anybody in the room remember that? So, I'll never forget – I knew what the Lord wanted me to do: to call and bless my dad. I got in this little phone booth in the men's old dormitory. And I got on the phone, and I said, "This is a co..." And it took me forever to get the words out. "This is a co...co...collec...collec...co..co" And I couldn't get the words out. I still remember this so vividly. And the operator was, you know, waiting for me to get my words out. And my dad picked up what was going on, and he said, "I'll take the call!" I don't think he said, "I'll take the call" He said, "I'll take the _____ [blank] call."

And I told my dad that evening on the phone. I stuttered through it all. But I said, "Dad, I just want you to know that I was just thinking about what you put into my life. You taught me to work hard." I said, "Dad, I get raises all the time. I get promoted all the time because you taught me to work hard. You taught me to respect authority." And I remember exactly what I told him. "I respect authority because of what you taught me." And I told him a couple of other things of what he put into me. He got real quiet on the phone, and I could tell that he was crying because – Okay, check this out – he knew he did not deserve that. He was simply being loved from Daddy God through me to him.

Now I tell you what happened. We ended our phone conversation. It ended great. I hung up the phone, and something happened in me. I mean, I was like lighter. I was like having a personal **revival**. I didn't know what was going on. And then, two weeks later I had to speak. I had worked on this message. I actually stole it from Billy Graham. I really did. I honestly did. I took it off a record that he had back then. Billy Graham had a record out, and it was a message on Samson. I took that message. I improved a little bit, you know? But no, I'm kidding. And I got up that night in Cortez, Colorado. And for the first time in my life – in front of the choir, in front of everybody – the words came out. It was unbelievable.

For over a half an hour I spoke. I read a scripture out loud. The words came. The choir was lookin' [looking] at me in shock. They knew I couldn't talk. I'll never forget: This one guy, his name is Jerry Rotan, he was sitting right over here on the end. I'm up on the platform, and he's lookin' at me. And he did this in front of me. He went, "Jim, you're talking!" And I'm thinking, "Jerry, I know this is amazing me as much as anybody." I ran out of there that night, gave a little altar call thing, went out... I'll never forget it. I went out to the **van** that the choir was using. We had these two vans. I laid on the floor of the van, and I just cried out to God. I said, "Jesus, thank you! You healed my mouth! I talked." And the Lord spoke to me, and he said, "I didn't heal your mouth. I healed your heart. I healed your spirit." See, I had to forgive and give to get the healing. I could have spent the rest of my life waiting on my dad to do it. God did it. As I loved him, he loved me as I loved my dad.

Think of a person who is difficult for you to love. Perhaps you have pulled away from them or are struggling to forgive them. By faith, what you would do with that person if you totally forgave them?

God wants to heal you too. Forgiveness is powerful. It's so powerful. **Release** it. And I just wanna pray with you. Would you bow your heads for just a minute? I was going to pray and let you go. Ask the Lord what is he saying to you tonight. We covered probably too much **ground** tonight, but just what's God

saying to you? What's he's saying to you? I just wanna ask you right now, if you're here this evening, and you'd say, "I need to do that with somebody. I need to release somebody in my life." It can be a child, somebody you work with, a friend, a mother, or a dad. "I need to release them, forgive them."

There might be reconciliation. God may lead you to go to them and bless them and heal it. I don't know, but you just listen to God. But if that is you tonight, if you'd just say, "Pray for me. I need to do that. I need to release somebody that's hurt me." Would you just lift your hand? And I'm just gonna pray with you. God bless you. Thanks for your honesty.

So Lord, I just thank you for each one of these, and we just believe you for a miracle. God, I even believe you for healing the relationship. You heal it, God. Heal the wounded heart. Help us, Lord, tonight to take the principles of your Word and apply it. If there's somebody we need to go to and say, "Would you please forgive me? I hurt you." Whatever it is, give what is needed, own it. May we be that person, that we be the healer. Thank you for it, Lord, that you led the way, in Jesus's name. Amen. Amen.

Take a minute of silence and ask the Lord what he is saying to you through this lesson. Take a minute to share what he reveals to you.

Close in prayer over the situations that were shared.

This Week:

Write in your journal:

1. Think through relationships where you have had conflict. Are there any people you need to forgive? Write down their names.
2. Among these names, are there any relationships where you have not attempted sincere reconciliation? If not, make a plan to reconcile with these people. Prepare words of gratitude, blessing, and gentle honesty. Consider how this conversation will build up and help the person. Talk to a Christian friend who can help you with what to say.
3. Are there any situations where you need to own your stuff? Make a plan to do that this week.
4. Think of a person who needs this lesson and share it with them this week!