

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Middle-High School

DATE: 9/13/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5: 21-26

LESSON: From Murderers to Reconcilers

INTRO

This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.

- **Read Matthew 5:21-22.** Summarize in your words the argument Jesus makes here regarding murder, anger, insults and the heart behind all of these things.
 - Are you the kind of person who is more likely to “rage out” or “rage in”?
- **Read Ephesians 4:26-27 and Hebrews 12:14-15.** How does leaving anger undealt with give the devil an opportunity?
- **Read Hebrews 12:14-15.** Have you ever seen someone get eaten up with bitterness in a way that causes their relationships to fall apart? What did that look like in their life?
(Parent note: If your students are struggling to think of examples, share examples from your own life to help them see what this can look like.)
- **Read Matthew 5:23-24.** Jesus shifts the focus from dealing with our own hearts and the anger in us, to preventatively working against drama by becoming reconciling peace makers.
 - Is there anyone you are currently angry with, bitter or resentful toward?
 - If so, what steps can you take right now to be reconciled with them?
 - How does this kind of radical humility, reconciliation and peacemaking reflect what God has done for us in the gospel?