

# DO NOT SHARE SCREEN YET READ THIS FIRST

Today we are on Zoom. I know it can be hard to focus. I ask each of us to set aside distractions, give attention, and prayerfully consider what God has for us today. As a shepherd, I recognize we are going to talk about some sensitive areas where God is working in our lives. The God of Peace wants us to be equipped for conflict. Let's open with a brief story...

They could not have been more different. One the manly outdoorsman. The other the quiet indoorsman, momma's boy. He had not seen his brother in decades. The last time was when he had double crossed his brother out of the inheritance. They went their separate ways. He was convinced that his brother, should they ever meet again, would grind him into dust. He had said as much. His brother's hatred blossomed into a death threat. Seeing no other option, he fled to live with family out of state.

There is a silver lining. Prior to burying their father, they had come to peace after many years of separation. God had prospered each of them. And God personally dealt with the deceiver, giving him a lesson in humility he would never forget.

God's love and justice was satisfied in both lives. We find this timeless story of forgiveness in Genesis 25 through 36.

In fleshly term Esau had every right to kill his brother Jacob. There was no reason to see how these brothers would ever reconcile. But God did a miracle.

Perhaps like someone you may know, they've gone separate ways, threats exchanged. And that's where some of us are stuck, in fear and anxiety and dread, like Jacob and Esau were.

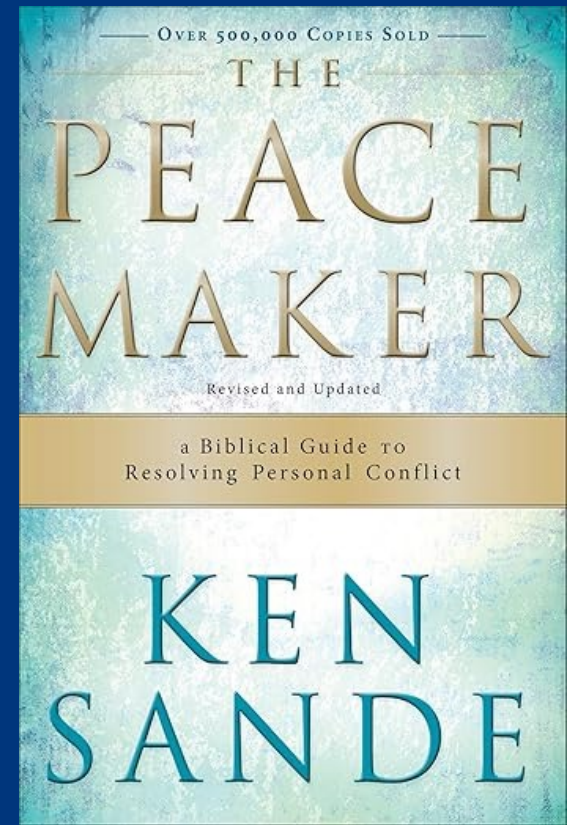
There is hope. And that's what we will talk about today.

As Paul said in Romans 15:4 "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

# April 11 Spring Workshop

Relational Wisdom &  
Relational Peacemaking

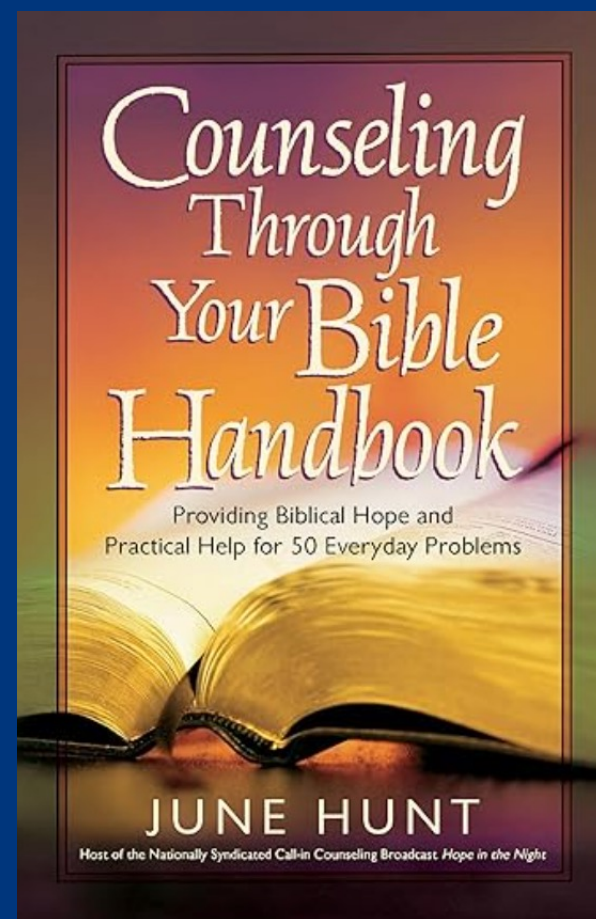
Save the date



# Counseling Through Your Bible Handbook

Providing Biblical Hope and Practical  
Help for 50 Everyday Problems

June Hunt



# Ken Sande – 4 Gs

Join us as we unpack the 4 Gs of Biblical peace making:



Glory to God



Get the log out of your own eye



Gently restore



Go and be reconciled



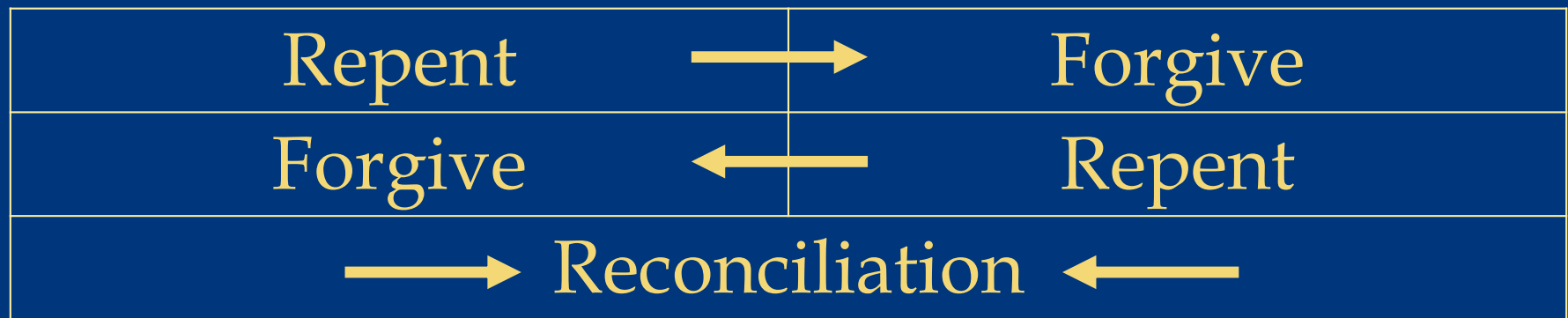
# I Forgive Others As Christ Forgave Me

Equipped for Conflict – Part 6

# Repentance, Forgiveness, Reconciliation

Christ commands it.

# Repentance, Reconciliation, Forgiveness



# Repentance

As the one who sinned



## Luke 17:3-4

Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him.

# How to receive correction

- Avoid blame shifting
- Avoid emotional fleshly responses
- “How can I glorify God in this?”

## 2 Corinthians 7:9-11a

As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you...

# Seven A's of Confession

Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, p. 126ff.

- Address everyone involved (Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:8-9)
- Avoid if, but, and maybe (don't make excuses; Luke 15:11-24)
- Admit specifically (both attitudes and actions)
- Acknowledge the hurt (express godly sorrow for the way you affected someone)
- Accept the consequences (Luke 19:1-9)
- Alter your behavior (commit to changing harmful habits; Eph. 4:22-32)
- Ask for forgiveness

# Forgiveness

As the one sinned against  
It's not a feeling. It's a decision.

**Forgiving isn't easy...especially when you don't feel like it. You have the pain that penetrated too deep, and now resentment has taken root. As you think about your offenders, you choose to live in a "ditch of demand" lined with stones of spite and boulders of bitterness. Yet God commands us to forgive... just as He forgives us.**

June Hunt, Counseling Through Your Bible Handbook, p. 185

# Matthew 6:9–15

[9] Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

[10] Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

[11] Give us this day our daily bread,

[12] and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

[13] And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

[14] For if you forgive  
others their trespasses,  
your heavenly Father  
will also forgive you,  
[15] but **if you do not**  
**forgive others their**  
**trespasses, neither will**  
**your Father forgive**  
**your trespasses.**

# Mathew 18:21-35

Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:32-35

Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”



# Luke 6 Love and Mercy

Luke 6:27–36

[27] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, [28] bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

[35] But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. [36] Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Some think forgiveness is excusing sin and saying that what was wrong is now right. Well, that is totally wrong!

— Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation. It takes two for reconciliation, only one for forgiveness.

— Forgiveness is not letting the guilty off the hook. It is moving the guilty from your hook to God's hook.

June Hunt, Counseling Through Your Bible Handbook, p. 185-186

## Genesis 50:19-21

But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

*When you perceive that the person who has wronged you is being used as an instrument in God's hand to help you mature, serve others, and glorify him, it may be easier for you to move ahead with forgiveness.*

Ken Sande, The Peacemaker, p. 216



# Mercy for the repentant & Remember the true enemy

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

[5] Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure – not to put it too severely – to all of you. [6] For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, [7] so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. [8] So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. [9] For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. [10] Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, [11] so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

**For judgment is without mercy  
to one who has shown no mercy.  
Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

James 2:13

*When wronged, beware temptation to pride and self-righteousness.*

# Colossians 3 Complaint?

Patient. Forgive. Love. As the Lord has you...

[12] Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, [13] bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. [14] And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.



**We have no right to demand  
guarantees and withhold  
forgiveness from a repentant  
person.**

We forgive others as Christ forgave us.

Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, p. 215

**“How would you feel if God said to you, ‘I forgive you; I just don’t want to have anything to do with you again’?”**

Ken Sande





# 4 Promises of Forgiveness

Ken Sande, p.209 – “as Christ has forgiven you”

- I will not dwell on this incident.
- I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

# Reconciliation

The process of repairing trust and relationship

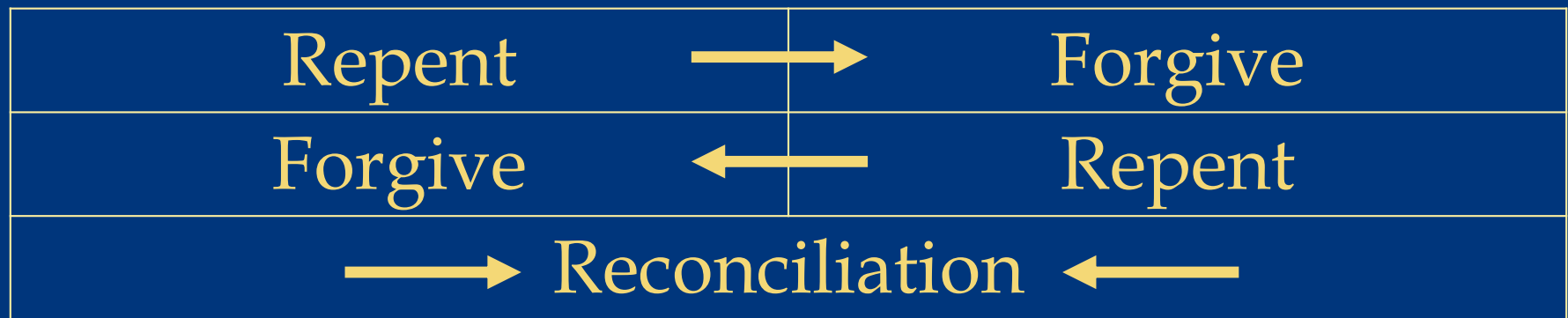
To replace hostility and separation with peace and friendship

Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, p. 219

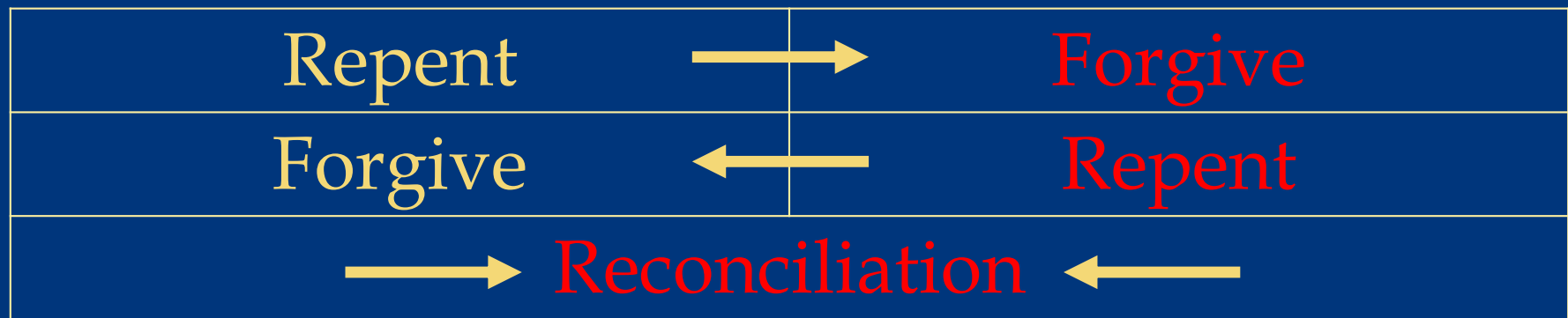
## Matthew 5:23–24

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

# Repentance, Reconciliation, Forgiveness



# Repentance, Reconciliation, Forgiveness



If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:18

# Recognize Your Limits

Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, p. 254

Do all you can to be reconciled to others, but remember that you cannot force others to do what is right. If you have done everything within your power to resolve a conflict, you have fulfilled your responsibility to God and may stop actively trying to solve the problem. If circumstances change and you have new opportunities to seek peace with an opponent, you should certainly try to do so. In the meantime, however, it is not necessary or wise to waste time, energy, and resources fretting about someone who stubbornly refuses to be reconciled.

**Reconciliation is restoring a relationship based on restored trust. It requires repentance and is to be extended only when earned.**

June Hunt, Counseling Through Your Bible Handbook, p. 338

# Comfort, Healing

Rich Douglass

- Forgiveness is unconditional but trust is not
- Prior to the request for forgiveness the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the hurt one is comfort, relationship doesn't heal
- When repentance comes in and forgiveness is given, the ministry of the Holy Spirit changes to healing
- Loving them as he loved us while enemies



# Pray for restoration

2 Corinthians 13:7-11

[9] ... Your restoration is what we pray for.

[11] Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Christ Our Example

**Father, forgive them.**

**Surrounded by criminals, scoffers, mockers...**

**Satan voiced through them...**

Luke 23:34

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. [35] And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” [36] The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine [37] and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”



# How to respond to the unrepentant?

1 Peter 2:18–25

But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

# Philippians 4

## Peace of God – God of Peace

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

# Points

- Christ commands us to forgive. (Matthew 6, 18; Luke 17:3-4)
  - I forgive others as Christ forgave me. (Matthew 6, Colossians 3:12-17)
  - Reconciliation can begin when we each repent to one another and exchange forgiveness. Pray and aim for it. (Matthew 5, 2 Corinthians 13:7-11)
  - If our brother refuses to repent, then we do our best to live at peace (Romans 12:18).
- Look to Christ
  - Love
  - Mercy
  - Repent
  - Forgive
  - Reconcile

# Points

- Beware the warnings against unforgiveness and showing no mercy. (Matthew 6, 18; Luke 6; James 2:13; 2 Corinthians 2)
- I love my enemies as Christ loved me when I was his enemy. (Luke 6)
- God is using this for my good. (Genesis 50:19-21)
- Christ is my example to follow. (Luke 23:34, 1 Peter 2:18-25, Hebrews 12)
- **Look to Christ**
- **Love**
- **Mercy**
- **Repent**
- **Forgive**
- **Reconcile**

# Equipped for Conflict

*Stop  
screen  
sharing*

As elders and shepherds it is our job to equip the flock.

The title of this series is "Equipped for Conflict".

We have covered all the popular passages on dealing with our own sin and the sin of others.

We have looked at the steps Jesus and Paul laid out for us in peacemaking.

We have adopted the relational commitments document as part of our membership agreement.

We have been equipped with scripture, and multiple books to help you apply that scripture. Book list in sermon notes today.

All the slides and notes are on the church website under the sermon series.

We are happy to work with you as you apply this. Join us April 11.

God can do it.

I love you. I am praying for you.



# Forgiveness, Mercy, Love, Kindness!

What love could remember, no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

Prayer

# Benediction

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.