

# Reconciler's Journey Worksheet and Discussion #2

## Giving Way

### A Snapshot of Your New Path

*Tell what you've come to understand and what you've experienced from your plan to approach conflict with repentance and confession that grew out of the session Taking a New Path. What did you notice about your first response to new conflicts that arose recently?*

*Review the elements of your Brief that involve a hurt inflicted on you, someone else's action at your expense. Expand your description of that hurt to explain the impact on yourself.*

### Guidelines for Your Journey

Let's look at the issue of our own behavior in a relationship. Often as we examine the hurt of a relationship, we insist "It's not my fault!" We insist on our rights in the relationship when God invites us into the responsibility of relationship. Here are several texts for consideration. *Read each aloud with some thinking time in between listening to God speak through his word. Circle words, label themes, write out what you think God is saying.*

Philippians 4:2-9

Matthew 7:12

Psalms 103:8-10

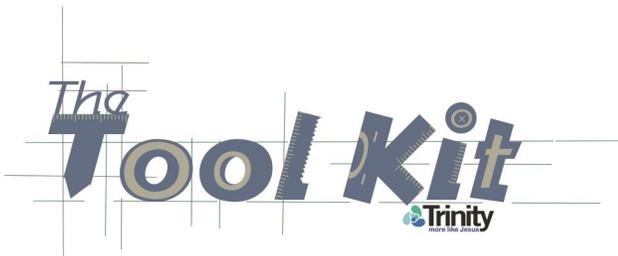
Matthew 18:15-17

### Complications on the Path

Some people approach the Gold Rule as My Golden Right to be Treated the Way I Want to Be Treated. Rather, in Matthew 7:12 Jesus is teaching about our Golden Responsibility. We are to see others as God sees them and recognize the value he has given to every individual in the vast total of humanity. We do unto others according to their full value endowed by their creator, the same full value we have. It is our response-ability that the Holy Spirit wants to shape.

Refer again to the Slippery Slope peacemaking responses: Overlook, Reconciliation, Negotiation, Mediation, Arbitration, Accountability. The first three are steps you can take to address conflict where the hurt involves only your own injury. "But how do I go about overlooking this?" you may ask.

*Look again at Philippians 4:2-9 verse by verse and list the directions given. Explain what would be involved in practicing each one. Which would you mark as most difficult to practice?*



## Rules for the Road

*Personalize Psalm 103:8-10 in your own words using your name. Use the word overlook.*

When we have been injured by the words or actions of another, knowing the graciousness of God towards us, we can put a higher value on the relationship than on our own injury. The 4 Promises of Forgiveness are about reshaping our responses based on God's love for the other person involved as well as his love for us personally. We choose to Overlook the injury. Notice, forgiveness is about choosing our response to the injury, not our response to the other's show of repentance or confession. If you don't get this, consider how much confession took place before Jesus responded to humanity's rejection by dying for our sin. Forgiveness embodies a generosity that tears down the barriers to ongoing relationship, though this may be a slow process.

### 4 Promises of Forgiveness:

- I will not think about 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 allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

*Which promise calls for a shift in attitudes, which for a shift in words, and which for a shift in actions? How were attitudes, words or actions affected by the conflict?*

Philippians 4: 8 gives some steps toward living the 4 Promises of Forgiveness. How does our practice of Overlooking become a testimony to the truth of Jesus' life and ministry?

## Starting Your Journey

Write out your statement of forgiveness concerning the situation in your Brief. Acknowledge the impact the other person's attitude, words, action had on you. Be specific how you will overlook this because of the value you place on the relationship and how you will practice the principles of Philippians 4:8. Writing this statement out will be your own first step and indeed may restore the relationship on your part. Finding a sensitive time and place to make your statement to the other person will impact the way you both approach the relationship in the future.

If the injury to the relationship calls for the Reconciliation step, that is the offense is too serious to overlook because others are involved and there are issues to be resolved with loving correction, carefully construct your statement to make your perspective clear while seeking to understand their perspective. Review your plans to have this conversation with a trusted Christian, your coach, a Small Group Leader, or Discippler. They can give you prayer support and help you through follow-up steps (Matthew 18:15-17) of Negotiation, Mediation and Accountability if needed.

Make a date for a conversation with your Small Group Leader, Discippler, or Coach to discuss your discoveries in **Giving Way**.