

the  Venues  
Connections  
"Let's Be Friends Again"  
8.13.17

*Who was your best friend as a kid?*

*How did your family handle conflict when you were growing up?*

*Have you had an experience like David in Psalm 55:12-14 and Job in Job 19:10?*

Joyce Meyer gives this advice: "Run to the throne, not to the phone."

*What does that even mean?*

*What benefit is there to spend some time with God before you deal with the conflict?*

Read Matthew 18:15

*What are the steps of reconciliation given by Jesus?*

Read Matthew 5:23-24

*What are the similarities/differences in these two scenarios?*

*Who does Jesus say is to initiate the reconciliation? What is your response to that?*

- That's not fair. The one who started the conflict should take the first step.*
- This following Jesus stuff is hard.*
- Whatever it takes to make it right.*

Jesus says to talk privately or "alone together."

*What happens when we don't follow Jesus' advice and we triangulate?*

Jesus says to "reconcile" or "make things right."

*What do you have to do to make that happen?*

John Wayne's character said, "Never apologize, mister, it's a sign of weakness."

*Do you agree or disagree with the Duke?*

*What are the characteristics of a good apology? a bad apology (a non-apology apology)?*

Read Acts 15:39

*What does this verse tell us about conflicts?*

Read Matthew 5:9

*Discuss everything that comes to your mind about that verse. What does "Blessed" mean? What kind of value does Jesus place on making peace? What does it mean if we won't attempt to make peace?*

Close by reading Romans 12:9-18. Read it in a few different versions. Paul is summing up what it looks like to follow Jesus. *List the characteristics. Which ones speak most to you?*