



Welcome

SERIES: IT'S PERSONAL
Message: Converting Conflict
Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Reconciling God, thank You for taking the first step to reconcile us to Yourself through Christ, choosing to forgive us completely rather than keeping a scoreboard of our failures. As we move through this day, wash away the fear and pride that keep us from pursuing peace in our relationships, and teach us what it practically looks like to drop our grudges against others. Give us the courage and humility to be true ambassadors of Your kingdom this week, letting our everyday words, attitudes, and actions reflect Your heart to a divided world. May our lives be a clear, living message of Your grace, pointing everyone we meet back to You. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If you were officially appointed as the ambassador of a real or fictional country tomorrow, which country would you want to represent and why?

INTRODUCTION: God didn't just save us to give us a ticket to heaven; He gave us a job to do right here on earth. In a world that is deeply fractured and quick to write people off, we are reminded that we have been hand-picked to be Christ's personal ambassadors—bringing peace, dropping grudges, and stepping into the messy spaces of broken relationships. Don't treat this lesson as just another piece of information to study, but as an invitation to real transformation. Let's convert the conflict in our lives constructively.

BIBLE STUDY: Read 2 Corinthians 5:18–20: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. **Face the Reality:** Reconciliation implies that a relationship was broken and needed fixing. In our everyday lives—whether with family, coworkers, or neighbors—reconciliation is usually messy and uncomfortable. What stops us from taking the first step to fix a broken relationship? How does remembering that God took the ultimate first step toward us change our motivation to pursue peace with others?
3. **Drop the Scoreboard:** It is easy to say we forgive someone while still keeping a mental "scoreboard" of how they've wronged us. God specifically chose not to count our sins against us. What does "keeping score" look like in a modern relationship or friendship? How can we practically practice "not counting people's sins against them" when someone genuinely hurts or annoys us this week?
4. **Carry the Message:** We live in a deeply divided culture where people are quick to write each other off over politics, lifestyle choices, or personal disagreements. If your daily life (your social media posts,

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your conversations at lunch, your attitude in traffic) was the only "message of reconciliation" people saw, what would they think God is like? How can we be people who bring peace to tense environments rather than adding to the noise?

5. **Live as an Ambassador:** An ambassador lives in a foreign country to represent the interests, values, and character of their home country—not their own personal opinions. In what specific areas of your life (e.g., your workplace, parenting, finances, or hobbies) do you find it hardest to act as a representative of Christ rather than just acting on your own desires?

LIVE IT OUT CHALLENGE: What is one practical way you can live more intentionally as Christ's ambassador over the next seven days?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications. Remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel!

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR: CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial by Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)