

Reserve 107

Reconciliation on the Prairies

Study and Discussion Guide

Themes for this study guide found in the document: Mission in Context: Transformation, Reconciliation, Empowerment. The Lutheran World Federation. 2004 <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-mission-context-transformation-reconciliation-empowerment>

Reconciliation: God's mission is reconciliation through relationship (Page 34)

Within scripture we find one of the goals of God's mission is reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19 states "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself ... and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation" We are reconciled to God through Christ, and Christ reconciles us to one another through his saving love and grace. We are, then, called to extend this sense of reconciliation (extending forgiveness and grace) to our relationships with others. Christians become ambassadors of God's mission for reconciliation and right relationship. When we talk about faith we are talking about being in relationship. It is God's mission to reconcile us with Godself, one another and creation.

Reconciliation is about relationship, hope, and the promise of the future. It is not an event or an obligation but an opportunity. In your relationship with others do you ask, "what do they want now?" Is that a helpful question or does it derail God's work and mission of reconciliation? What did this look like between the Lutherans, Mennonites and the Young Chipewyan First Nation? How might you show reconciliation in your relationships?

Church as witnessing community

"The church, as a witnessing community, points to the in-breaking of God's reign in Christ in the world, using all the spiritual gifts (charismata) that the Holy Spirit has generously bestowed upon it. According to 1 Corinthians 12, the church is endowed with spiritual gifts for the strengthening of the communion/fellowship (Koinonia), for the proclamation of the gospel (Kerygma), and for service and healing (Diakonia). As a witnessing community, the church cannot participate faithfully in God's mission without these gifts, lest mission become a mere human enterprise. A church in mission is a gifted (charismatic) church for a transforming, reconciling, and empowering mission" (page 46)

- What are some of the spiritual gifts that were revealed in the Lutheran and Mennonite churches in the video?
- How did God break into this potential conflict/situation so that they were all able to work together?
- What situation in your community is God calling you to look at more deeply? How can you face the systemic injustices and realities and grow into your identity as a witnessing community?

Reserve 107

Reconciliation on the Prairies

Study and Discussion Guide

Exploring right relationships

Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect

We read in scripture about how the early church wrestled with issues of right relationship with one another and with the wider community. Through those same teachings, God continues to challenge the church to struggle with issues that have to do with living in the world in right relationship.

- What does facing the truth mean? In the video what truths were faced? How were these truths used to build relationships?
- Healing and reconciliation are central to our faith, as they are transformative and redemptive. In the transformation of the hurt we become whole, in right relationship, we encounter the holy. What needs healing in your life? In the life of the church?
- In the video we see glimpses of transformation. How has this transformation affected the relationships between the Young Chippewayan, Mennonite Community and St John 's Lutheran?
- How does reconciliation move us to become whole?
- How does right relationship bring us closer to others and God?

Closing Prayer: