



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**October 19/22, 2017**  
**Seven: Alignment – Spiritual Warfare**  
**BIG IDEA: Reconciliation is spiritual warfare.**

## GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

**My Story.**

An encounter with Jesus leaves a story to tell. Share yours at [valleycreek.org/MyStory](http://valleycreek.org/MyStory).

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## KEY VERSE

...I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

Who causes an emotional response in you when you see them? This week, choose to encourage rather than criticize. Pursue rather than avoid them and pray for their victory

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

God has been so good to us over the last seven years. He has been gracious, faithful, kind and has given us so much revelation and insight into who we are, who He is, and what we are created to do. Over the next seven weeks, God is inviting us to reflect on all the good revelation God has given us. We don't just want to know what He has said, we want to live it and be able to teach it. We are going to take a moment to stop and enjoy the good things He has already shared with us.

When we are aligned with God, with one another, and have a clear vision, we move forward in unity. We experience supernatural protection and power when we are unified. Power follows unity and reconciling brings heaven to earth. Satan wants to divide, so our response is to choose to be united through reconciliation.

1. God wants us to be in alignment with Him and others so we can experience the power and protection of unity. **(Amos 3:3; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)** Alignment isn't natural and unity isn't normal; it takes intentionality.
2. Satan cannot divide God, so he tries to divide who God loves most – His people. If we forgive and reconcile, we resist his plan. **(2 Corinthians 2:5-11; James 4:7)**
3. To counter the enemy's attack, we are given the ministry of reconciliation. **(2 Corinthians 5:18)** Every time we reconcile, we bring heaven to earth, and unity releases the miraculous. **(Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-33)** What Jesus did for you is always greater than what anyone else will ever do to you.
4. The kingdom of darkness is all about chaos, division, and rebellion. When we agree with darkness we empower it to rule in our lives. **(2 Corinthians 13:1)** The kingdom of God is about order, submission, and unity. **(James 3:14-18)** We must stop fighting each other and absorb the qualities of the kingdom of God. **(Matthew 12:25)**
5. Four ways we can use the spiritual warfare of reconciliation:
  - a. **Have healthy expectations.** We can't expect from others what we can only get from God. Unhealthy expectations are the birthplace of offenses. **(Philippians 4:19; Mark 10:45)**
  - b. **Ask God where (not if) we need to reconcile.** **(Luke 17:1)**
  - c. **Go first.** The highest form of worship is to reconcile with someone else - it destroys the power of darkness and glorifies God. **(Matthew 5:23-24; 2 Samuel 14:28, Romans 12:18)**
  - d. **Give up our rights.** We can be "right", or we can reconcile. We can win the argument or we can win their heart. We must focus on what Jesus did right instead of what others did wrong. **(Philippians 4:2-3)**

## DISCUSSION

1. Which of your relationships has the most unity? Why? (See point #1-3)
2. How have you placed high expectations on other people and what has been the result of that in those relationships? (See point #5a)
3. Who in your life is God inviting you to reconcile with? How can the people around you support and encourage you to do so? (See point 5c)
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**