



God's Reconciliation: a café-style discussion

AIMS

- to think about where we are in relation to parable of the prodigal son
- to think about brokenness in the world and in our community
- to think about where forgiveness is needed and how to forgive

RESOURCES

- Digital projector, speakers and laptop for the Powerpoint presentation
- A large map of the area, tea lights and matches
- Flip chart and pens
- Refreshments

The Powerpoint presentation is available to download from the AMD team. If possible set up your meeting room café style. Start the pre-session with refreshments at the tables.

Start the session proper with a worship song or prayer.

1. Read Luke 15:11-32

Ask the participants to consider silently where they are in this story.

Running away? Living far away, having a good time? Sensing your need of the father? Turning around to come back? On your way home? In the arms of the Father? Watching jealously? Learning to take your place in the family? Some other place?

Give time for this.

Now around the tables discuss where they think most people in their local community might place themselves if asked the same question.

2. Feedback to whole group.

Show slide one.

3. Ask the participants to discuss around their tables and note down their answers to the following questions.

- What areas of brokenness do you see in the world today?
- What areas of brokenness do you know of in your local communities?

4. Feedback and make notes on the Flipchart. In silence think about

- The areas of brokenness within your Parish and where forgiveness is needed.



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5. Ask the participants to discuss around their tables and note down their answers to the following questions.
 - Identify places in the world where are people in conflict?
 - Identify places in our communities where people may be in conflict. Think carefully about the situations that you know exist within your communities that might cause conflict of this nature. Eg planning applications, shop closures, hardship.
6. Feedback and make notes on the Flipchart. In silence think about
 - Where there is conflict with others in your life. How might that conflict be resolved?
7. Ask participants to take a tea light and place it on the map where they believe forgiveness and reconciliation is needed. Light the tea lights and take time to pray.
8. Ask everyone to think about why we often find it hard to say sorry. Ask: 'What stops us?' Answers can be called out or you could encourage discussion in small groups e.g. too stubborn; hate admitting you got it wrong; wanting the other person to say sorry first.
9. What makes saying sorry easier? Ask participants to call out answers. Again write answers on flip chart.

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10. Ask participants to look at both pictures and think about how each one makes them feel.
11. Re read Luke 15: 20 and 24. Keep a time of silence.

Acceptance, forgiveness and reconciliation are powerful and important components of God's Kingdom.

12. Using the tea lights as a basis for action, note their positions on the map and plan a day to come together to plan how God's People could work as agents for change in the Parishes.

Finish the session by sharing the Grace together.