

A H I G H L A N D S CHRISTMAS

Big Idea

On Christmas Eve, 1914, enemy soldiers left their trenches and joined together in the battle zone to celebrate Christmas together. These soldiers ate together, exchanged gifts and even played games together. This became known as The Christmas Truce. In this week's message Pastor Chris discusses how this truce could happen in the middle of a bitter war. It took someone who was willing to drop their weapons, take the first step and focus on what united them rather than what divided them. When that finally happened the soldiers changed and were unwilling to fight each other next day. Today, we can take these same steps to call a truce in our own relationships. The Biblical word for truce is reconcile, which means to bring the balance to zero. Through Jesus, God brings our balance to zero. Just as Jesus' mission was to reconcile us, our mission is to reconcile with those in our lives. Whether they can receive it or not, because we are reconciled, we can reconcile with others.

All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. -2 Corinthians 5:18 MSG

Discussion

- Are there any relationships in your life that are broken or damaged? How could you take the first step towards reconciliation?
- During the Christmas Truce, soldiers laid down their physical weapons. The weapons we use today may not be physical, but can cause great damage. What are some weapons that you have used in the past that can be laid down in order to bring reconciliation? (Some examples may be deceit, manipulation, anger, silence, revenge, etc.)
- Through Jesus, we are reconciled or forgiven for past present and future sins. Though we continue to sin, as Christians our balance remains at zero. Knowing this, how does that help you to take a step toward reconciliation in your relationships knowing your actions might not be reciprocated?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for sacrificing His son, Jesus, so that we can be reconciled to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas where you can grow closer to God. Pray for any broken or damaged relationships in your life. Ask God to heal any wounds from damaged relationships and to guide you as you take steps toward reconciliation.

Next Steps

Take one practical step toward healing relationships that have been broken or damaged. Begin to identify ways in which you can move forward with an attitude of reconciliation.

Leader Tip

If you have an encouraging story about a healed relationship in your life, briefly share it with the group. Some relationship wounds can run deep. Be prepared to pray with anyone who might need it.