

'Restored' Luke 15:11-24; Ephesians 4:31-32: Matthew 18:21-22

If you need restoration in a relationship . . . go to that person <u>directly</u>.

If you need restoration in a relationship . . . go to that person <u>immediately</u>.

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MY APPLICATION

The following questions this week reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family and friends.

- 1. Why do you think our natural tendency is to retaliate when we're wronged, even in small ways? What makes restorative relationships so difficult to pursue in those moments?
- 2. Paul challenges the Corinthian church to handle their disputes within the Christian community rather than taking them to secular courts. What would it look like today for the church to take seriously the responsibility of mediating conflict among believers?
- 3. Jesus prayed for unity among His followers so that the world might believe in him (John 17:21). In what ways does the way we treat fellow Christians either support or hinder our witness to the world?
- 4. Paul says it's better to be wronged than to cause division in the church (1 Corinthians 6:7). Can you think of a time when choosing to absorb a wrong led to healing or peace in a relationship? What makes that kind of response so Christlike?