



Week Two: Get the Log Out – Study Guide

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It's that time of year again; time for all the reminders of "did you get your flu shot?" Wouldn't it be nice if we could just get a shot to remedy our spiritual ailments as well? For example, if you got a case of the plank eye, you could just get an injection that would make forgiveness so much easier. So, what is plank eye? It sounds disturbing. I remember hearing this phrase used years ago from our senior pastor Mike Madding as he described the challenges of apology and confession to one another as we work to get the "log" out of our own eye. This week in *Get the Log Out* we will look further into confession, apology and taking personal responsibility.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) After conflict we are left with the steps we need to take toward peace and restoration. Part of this is the dreaded apology. Do you recall a recent apology? Describe how you apologize to others. Does it come easy, or is it very difficult?

- 2) If someone apologizes to you for something they have done, do you tend to make it more difficult for them to apologize, or easier? Does it depend on the degree you are hurt?

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Into the Bible

- 3) Read **Matthew 7:1-5**. To work toward peace and forgiveness with one another we have to get real with the *truthful* details of the situation. If not, we are really trying to resolve a problem with lies or untruths. What does it mean to be a hypocrite in verse 5? What does the log/plank represent in verse 4? Explain how this first step of identifying the truth in your own heart is needed in order to proceed with conflict resolution.

- 4) Read **Matthew 5:23-24**. Upon realizing that you have conflict with someone, whether it is you with them, or vice versa, how quickly are we instructed to respond? Does this go against what you may have been led to believe about just letting tension pass and allowing time to heal the wound? How so?

- 5) Read **2 Corinthians 7:8-10**. Going to a friend for correction is extremely difficult, however when it is done properly, and with right motives, it is a form of Godly love. More than likely the Holy Spirit has already revealed this to the person if they are a believer, as He is pretty awesome at His job of teaching and correction. Looking back, the times I have been more open to correction are times when I had already felt it from God. Now the tough part, what if you are the one a friend is coming to? Are you open to correction? In verse 9, what made Paul rejoice? How is repenting different from acknowledging?

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How Does This Apply?

- 6) In the process of making peace with someone, you have things that are in your control and things that are not. Let's look at some things we can control. Elaborate on these six points:
- a) What does it mean to address EVERYONE involved? Have I kept it as tight as possible, that only those who NEED to know are involved?
 - b) What does it mean to admit the wrong specifically with exact details? Not just a general "I'm sorry"?
 - c) What does it mean to apologize with sincere sorrow?
 - d) What does it mean for me to accept the consequences of the attempt?
 - e) Have I altered my behavior to align with my apology?
 - f) Am I allowing time? To build trust again, to allow for change and God to work.
- 7) What if someone keeps wronging you? Is there an end to our forgiveness? Read the parable in **Matthew 18:21-33** for more insight. Some abusive situations may be toxic for us to continue in a close relationship. Discuss how we might forgive while distancing ourselves.

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Prayer Focus

This series, we are praying for the "It Starts Now" event starting the weekend of November 16 and 17. Specifically, please be praying for:

- 300 Salvations
- 200 Neighborhood Experiences
- 200 Baptisms
- 1,000 First Time Guests

Also, please continue to pray for the new Statesville Campus location, for the funding needed for renovations and the opening on November 17.

Increase Your Learning on Your Own

- 8) Read **Matthew 5:21-22**. As we discussed briefly last week, Jesus compares our anger with one another to murder. If we hate someone in our hearts, we have essentially resolved to remove that person from any capacity of compassion and caring; we need them to be dead to us. This is a BIG deal to Jesus. Looking at verse 22, does this mean that the believer would lose their salvation if they said some words in anger? If not, what does the statement, "... and whoever says 'You Fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire" mean?