SERIES - THE WORLD'S GONE MAD — Week 2 - Mad at Us

BIG IDEA

God matures us as a community when we extend grace.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:23-24, 2 Corinthians 5:14, 18-19, Ephesians 4:3

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Conflict is part of human existence; there is no avoiding it. Allow the icebreaker to give people the chance to name things that they would rid the world of if they could. Move into the discussion of how conflict in the world is inevitable, and the Jesus call of Jesus to unite.

BIBLE STUDY

Read the scriptures today and reflect on what instructions Jesus is giving his followers. Discuss how he intends for us to make every effort to reconcile and work toward unity in the church. There are no instructions for assigning blame and calling "the other person" to make amends. God gave the greatest of examples – he gave the world his son so that we could be reconciled with him.

LIFE APPLICATION

We all experience conflict and have had our fair share of fights. Arguments are going to happen, but how we respond is what Jesus wanted his followers to focus on. Christ sought peace and extended grace to others at every turn, regardless of the conflict or infraction. Jesus brought together a group of individuals, in his disciples, that came from very different walks of life. It was not their differences that he focused on, but their strength when they were unified. He taught his disciples to go forward, teach others, and to love others to bring more unity and greater peace.

Use these discussion questions to allow group members to reflect on their anger, the conflicts that exist in their circles of community, and how they might work toward reconciliation. Examine how we can make every effort to bring about unity in our church community by using Jesus as our example.

CHALLENGE

Conflict is inevitable, but how we respond as Christ followers will make the difference. We are called to both "GO" and "LOVE" and to accomplish that, we must join together. Focus on where you can extend grace to help create unity and further the Jesus Mission this week.