

INTRODUCTION

From the mistreatment and genocide of Native Americans to the painful legacy of African American slavery, journey through history to explore the roots of America's major wounds and how these acts of injustice and oppression still affect us today. Violence, crime, racial hatred, poverty, greed increase in our communities daily. How are we to respond as Christians to these historical wounds?

Learn how the Church has at times contributed to the pain, but also discover the healing role Christians can now take part in through repentance and reconciliation in order to break down barriers to evangelism and fulfill the Great Commission.

This dramatic, two-part documentary series is hosted by John Dawson and is based on his best-selling book, "Healing America's Wounds." John is founder of the International Reconciliation Coalition and is a leading visionary at the forefront of a rapidly growing worldwide reconciliation movement. As an urban missionary in Los Angeles for over 25 years, he has seen first-hand the devastating effects of racism on his community. This unique perspective enables him to offer practical insight that can be applied in any church or community.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Leader's Study guide was designed to be used along with the viewing of the video material in small group settings, Sunday school classes, church gatherings, interest groups etc. It highlights the main points of the video and can be used to write down thoughts and ideas.

The video and study guide is divided into episodes:

EPISODE 1: Broke Walls, Wounded Spirits

EPISODE 2: How to be a reconciler

Each has sections with titles noted graphically throughout the presentation. The video can be stopped at any of these points in order to give the group the opportunity to process the material by answering a series of questions provided in this guide. The answer keys are included at the end of each episode.



John Dawson

Study Guide

OVERVIEW EPISODE 1: BROKEN WALLS , WOUNDED SPIRITS

Reconciliation is a key to evangelism and revival. America's cities are the greatest gatherings of ethnic and cultural diversity the world has ever seen. The wounds of the world are in America, and we have our own unfinished business, particularly with Native Americans and African Americans. The American Church can be an example of all the peoples of the earth reconciled to one another.

The Spirit of God is pouring out in a river of grace for the healing of the nations. The ministry of the church is going beyond its walls. It's time for the church to operate in the ministry of reconciliation that God has given us . . . to BE AGENTS OF HEALING .

VIDEO SECTIONS

TELL ME WHERE IT HURTS:

1. Name 3 recent events in the United States of America that demonstrated that we still have unfinished business, wounds that still fester today. _____, _____, _____

2. Racial reconciliation is crucial for America. If we don't deal with racial conflict now, according to experts we may face _____

UNITING IN PRAYER:

1. God is putting a focus on reconciliation as we unite in prayer. He has already given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Write Biblical Reference: _____

2. How does reconciliation fit in with the larger picture of what God is doing in the church today?

3. List the 5 types of Corporate Prayer and define according to explanation given in the video:

4. Focusing on *Conviction* , list the key 4 aspects needed:

RIVER OF GRACE:

1. Has the 'dream' of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. been reached in its fullness?

2. What does Nelson Mandela say to the church about reconciliation and healing?

3. Why is his statement important?



VIDEO SECTIONS

PLACES OF CONFLICT:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ROOTS AND BEGINNINGS

THE HOST PEOPLE OF THE LAND:

EPISODE 1:

BROKEN WALLS , WOUNDED SPIRITS

1. List three large conflicts or broken relationships in the United States of America today according to the video: _____

2. What other broken relationships exist in our society? _____

3. Open Discussion: How does God view our mistreatment of Native Americans, African Americans, other people groups etc.?



1. What 2 motives were evident in the founding of Jamestown?

2. Due to mixed motives what was the result in treatment towards the natives?

1. The Pilgrims already had 12 years of religious freedom in Holland. They came as missionaries and believed God was directing them every step of the way **True or False**

2. Many tribes believed in the Creator or Great Spirit. Knew stories of the flood and creation before there were ever missionaries. No accident that the Indians were here; they were established by God. **True or False**

3. Relationship between the Pilgrims and Indians was model of mutual respect and dependency. **True or False**

4. Regions in America are not affected by the legacy of our treatment of Native Americans. **True or False**

The Sand Creek massacre stands as symbol to Native Americans of U.S. treatment of them. This is a major hindrance for Native Americans in accepting the Gospel. Church involvement with atrocities, broken treaties and the Manifest Destiny contributed to the wounds.



VIDEO SECTIONS

THE STAINS OF SLAVERY:

EPISODE 1: BROKEN WALLS , WOUNDED SPIRITS

1. How long did Slavery last in the United States of America?
2. Two thousand years before Christ, slavery was a way of life. What was the main difference between slavery then and the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade?
3. How was slavery justified by a Christian nation?
4. Discuss:

“As I see it, 11:00 am, Sunday morning, remains the most segregated hour in America still. The difference is that now we know it’s wrong and we say so.” - Rev. Ed Silvoso, Director, Harvest Evangelism.

Racism is still deeply entrenched in our society, but we face the opportunity to see healing take place.

1. Prayerfully consider the place where you live. Identify the wounds, the injustices that have their roots in the past.
2. Prayerfully consider the steps of obedience that you and fellow intercessors could take.

In the next video we will go through the steps of reconciliation and you will observe examples of reconciliation and repentance.



*More
Black men are in
prison than in college
*1:3 Black men in their
twenties is either, in jail, pa-
roled, or on probation.
* More than 60% of families
with children are headed by
single women.

WHAT IS YOUR UNFIN- ISHED BUSINESS?



EPISODE 1 BROKEN WALLS, WOUNDED SPIRITS

ANSWER KEY

SECTION: TELL ME WHERE IT HURTS

1. The Rodney King Beating, The Los Angeles Riots, and the O.J. Simpson Trial.
2. Racial Wars

SECTION: UNITING IN PRAYER

1. 2 Corinthians 5:18
2. Open Discussion
3. Worship, Intercession, Spiritual Warfare, Blessing, Conviction
4. Confession, Repentance, Reconciliation, Restitution

SECTION: PLACES OF CONFLICT

1. Native peoples and immigrant peoples...the legacy of Columbus, Black and White relations...the legacy of slavery, gender to gender
2. Race to race, class to class, culture to culture, religion to religion

SECTION: UNFINISHED BUSINESS /ROOTS AND BEGINNINGS

1. a. Christians motives for establishing the colon
b. Insatiable lust for gold and material wealth
2. Colonists Committed spiritual abuses by forcing Native Americans to convert to Christianity in order to obtain gold.

SECTION: THE HOST PEOPLE OF THE LAND

1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. FALSE

SECTION: THE STAINS OF SLAVERY

1. over 250 years
2. The African people were treated as chattel not as humans, their identity and dignity were stripped in order to justify the treatment. Just as theories arose dehumanizing Native Americans, so did myths proclaiming the inferiority of Negroes.

OVERVIEW EPISODE 2 HOW TO BE A RECONCILER

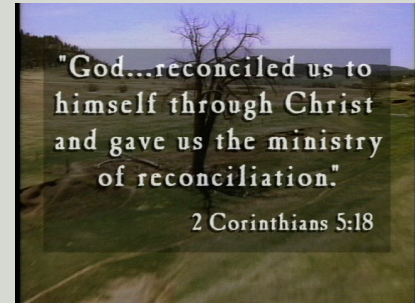
The greatest wounds in history are not necessarily caused by individuals but by one group wounding another group. Our identities are attached to the groups we represent. Animosity and bitterness from wounds can fester for generations, hindering acceptance of the Gospel. Unless somebody identifies with the sins of our nation or group, stands in the gap, confesses these things, and asks for forgiveness, we'll never see healing. We are not necessarily guilty of any of these sins, but we are to be just like Nehemiah who was righteous and yet said, "I and this people have sinned." God is looking for people who will take their identity, stand before Him, and stand in the gap.

VIDEO SECTIONS

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION:

Read and Discuss:

1. 2 Corinthians 5: 11- 6:2
2. Nehemiah 1



Take
Your
identity
and Stand in
the Gap

FOUR STEPS OF HEALING:

Name and Define the 4 steps of healing:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

WHAT'S YOUR IDENTITY?

1. Some of the most important tools God has given you as a reconciler come from your own identity. Take an inventory on yourself:

Gender _____
Generation _____
Native Language _____
Subcultures _____
Socioeconomic Class _____
Religious History _____
Religious Affiliation _____
Family Name _____
Movements, Ideologies, Institution that have touched your family line _____
Location (region, city, suburb, neighborhood) _____
Vocation _____
Family Roles _____

2. Prayerfully ask God how He would like to use your identity.

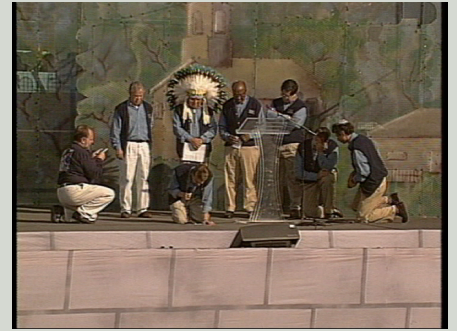


EPISODE 2 HOW TO BE A RECONCILER

VIDEO SECTIONS

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD:

The United States, like any other nation, doesn't deserve to be healed. But Jesus deserves the reward of His suffering. Reconciliation and the healing that follows is part of Jesus' ministry, part of what reveals His reality to the world.



1. Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 2: 9 A royal Priesthood is a job description for every believer.

2. As Intercessors we need to:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

THE CURSE OF GOD:

1. Read and Discuss Deuteronomy 27- 28 and Lamentations 3:44

2. As discussed in the video, Examine these two examples in your context:

- a. "Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother."
- b. "Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary mark"

If we have done this on a corporate level, as a people we will end up with the absence of God's needed favor. If that is part of the story of your state, we have some work to do there according to the word of God.

STAND IN THE GAP:

1. Read and Discuss Ezekiel 22:30

2. What was the problem in this biblical context?

- a.
- b.

God is looking for volunteers to stand in the gap now .



EPISODE 2 HOW TO BE A RECONCILER

VIDEO SECTIONS

IDENTIFICATIONAL
REPENTANCE:

A GENTS OF HEALING:

“THAT THE WORLD
MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU
HAVE SENT ME” JOHN
17:21

“Identificational repentance, I believe is the most powerful equipment that God has given us for completing the Great Commission in our nation and around the world.”

- C. Peter Wagner, Fuller Theological Seminary

Identificational repentance consists of the four healing steps - confession, repentance, reconciliation, restitution. It has the depth of repentance that we would participate in if we had just done something terribly wrong in the last few minutes.

1. Name 3-4 biblical examples of people who applied Identificational Repentance, discuss how they did this:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

1. How do you personally become a reconciler?

- a. Begin with prayer. God will lead you in your own steps of obedience.
- b. Begin a reconciliation initiative or join one already in existence.
- c. Find believers within an offended group and listen to them.

Reconciliation is not a plan that we impose; it's a response to the hurts and needs of a hurting people.

1. Why do we get involved with reconciliation?

- a.
- b.
- c.
2. What is our goal?
3. What's the main historic hindrance to that goal?
4. When will the world see Jesus?
5. What type of people is God looking for?



“If you come to God and you worship him, and your brother is offended against you, leave your gift at the altar and go and be reconciled to him.”
Matthew 5:24



EPISODE 2 HOW TO BE A RECONCILER ANSWER KEY

SECTION: FOUR HEALING STEPS

1. Confession: Stating the truth; acknowledging the unjust or hurtful actions of myself or my people group toward other people or categories of people.
2. Repentance: Turning from unloving to loving actions.
3. Reconciliation: Expressing and receiving forgiveness and pursuing intimate fellowship with previous enemies.
4. Restitution: Attempting to restore that which has been damaged or destroyed and seeking justice wherever we have power to act or to influence those in authority to act.

SECTION: A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

2. a. Stand in the gap before the Lord.
 - b. Identify with the sins of the people, the human condition
 - c. Confess those things before God
 - d. Present the blood of Jesus to cleanse us and to cleanse the land.
 - e. Invite the Spirit of God to come back.

SECTION: STAND IN THE GAP

2. a. No one was in fellowship with God to know what He was thinking.
 - b. His mercy was not able to be expressed because He found no intercessor.

SECTION: IDENTIFICATIONAL REPENTANCE

1. a. Nehemiah
 - b. Daniel
 - c. Moses
 - d. Jesus

SECTION: AGENTS OF HEALING

1. a. Begin with prayer. God will lead you in your own steps of obedience.
 - b. Begin a reconciliation initiative or join one already in existence.
 - c. Find believers within an offended group and listen to them.

SECTION: JOHN 17:21 “THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME”

1. a. Demonstrates God’s love.
 - b. Dethrones Satan from ancient strongholds.
 - c. Triggers the harvest
2. That people are reconciled to God and each other
3. The sectarian spirit within the church.
4. When the united church carries the ministry of reconciliation beyond its walls.
5. Intercessors, Prophetic Ministries, Ambassadors of Reconciliation, Researchers, Strategic Planners, Training Ministries

RECONCILIATION: A LIFESTYLE

Reconciliation is about adopting a whole new way of life in which we pursue intimate relationship with hurting and alienated peoples of society. Proximity - we need to be near each other so that we can honestly confront memories of hurt. Prayer journeys and reconciliation events communicate the depth of our conviction and our commitment to follow through as agents of reconciliation.

America is a nation of outreach, refuge, example. The world gets discouraged if America fails to fulfill its redemptive purpose. It's time for us to pray and to believe that God can do all His purposes through this land.

Let's take the steps of obedience that He is calling us into. Let's take the path of reconciliation that will lead to the Healing of America's Wounds.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Anderson, David A. *Gracism: The Art of inclusion*. Canada: Intervarsity Press 2007 International Reconciliation Coalition Booklet:

Dawson, John. *Healing America's Wounds*. California: Regal books from Gospel Light 1994

Dawson, John. *What Christians Should Know About Reconciliation* California: International Reconciliation Coalition 1998

Helmick, Raymond G. S.J. and Rodney L. Peterson. *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*. Pennsylvania: Templeton Foundation Press 2002

Mckinney, Bishop George D. *The New Slave Masters*. Canada: First Printing 2005

Mckneil, Brenda Salter and Richardson. *The Heart of Racial Justice: How Soul Change leads to Social Change*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press 2004



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