

# P E A C E M A K E R



WEEK OF OCTOBER 2ND

"God has willed that we should see and find His living Word in the witness of a brother or sister, in the mouth of a human."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

READ: MATTHEW 18:15-21

What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today's passage?

Draw about it or write a response to God using the space below.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." (vs.17b.)

How did Jesus treat Gentiles and tax collectors?

Reflect on the quote at the top of the page, how does the emphasis of being a living, breathing, en fleshed witness to others impact our approach to resolving conflict and the communication of debts or concerns?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. Where might there be an invitation to you in this passage? Where do you feel resistance?

## PRACTICE:

Confession. We are prepared and equipped as conduits of God's Grace and become better able to embody the compassion of Christ to one another through the reception of Grace ourselves. As we receive Grace we become a fuller expression of that same Grace to one another. Our capacity to reconcile ourselves with one another, and to be a witness of Christ's ministry of reconciliation to the world, we must first recognize that we are sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God.

Using the space below, write a prayer of confession. This could be as simple as a list or as complex as a letter to God or someone else.

Conclude with a prayer:

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

