

# TOUGH TALKS

WEEK 2

## DAY 1: READ HEBREWS 12:1-4

Before we ever engage in tough talks with others, we must make sure our compass is centered accurately on Jesus, the perfecter of our faith. Let's remember the humility and long-suffering, righteous love of our God, who endured, triumphed and seeks our rescue. Before we engage in tough talks with others, let's first strive to imitate Jesus before ever opening our mouths.

## DAY 2: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Jesus had many hard talks with us. How does this passage challenge us to model the humility and love of Jesus in the way we resolve disputes, address sin and strive for unity and reconciliation? Jesus is the highest, most righteous, blameless model for us, so before we ever begin to instigate tough talks with others, let's remember to keep our eyes on Him and our actions like Him.

## DAY 3: READ MATTHEW 18:15-20

When someone sins against us, we're told to address this person directly and privately. Scripture doesn't promise us that others will receive what we say, but we must proactively strive to see our brothers and sisters restored. What tough talks do you need to have with others? How can you intentionally seek their restoration today? As you're prompted with these situations, ask the Holy Spirit to saturate your heart and mind with His gifts to help you begin these tough talks and hopefully see them restored. He will provide.

## **DAY 4: MATTHEW 7:1-6**

When we forget to take on the humility and righteousness of Christ, our tough talks suddenly don't seem so tough to those around us. Let's not be hypocrites or speak out of our limited, fleshly perspectives. Instead, let's submit ourselves in obedience to the Father and His word, humility in love for others like Jesus and eagerly as vessels ready for the Holy Spirit to use for God's glory and the rescue of others. Today, ask the Lord to reveal any hypocrisy or desires rooted in our limited perspectives.

## **DAY 5: READ HEBREWS 12:5-13**

Whether the Lord disciplines us directly or someone else brings a tough talk to us, let's remember to apply the same Christ-like humility and recognize God's restoring hand in discipline. When our flesh bristles at the confrontation, let's remember God's desire to see us healed and thrive on His righteousness, producing beautiful, lasting spiritual fruit to satisfy the rest of this lost, languishing world. Are you currently rejecting a tough talk someone has had with you? Pray and ask the Lord to reveal the parts of your heart that have not received His loving discipline.

## **DAY 6: READ HEBREWS 12:14-17**

We've been charged with a holy mission to see everyone restored to a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As we strive to be obedient to His calling, let's not exchange our humbling crosses for punishing whips and further pollute the image of Jesus, discouraging others from finding rescue in His blood. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God. How can you do that today?