

## Small Group Questions: It's Not Over: Making a Relational Comeback

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### Read

Acts 9:26–27, Acts 13:13, 15:36–41; Proverbs 18:19; Romans 12:4–6; Matthew 5:23–24; 2 Timothy 4:11; and Ephesians 4:1–3

### Reflect

In Acts, we see that even strong and faithful believers do not always agree. Paul and Barnabas disagreed strongly with each other on whether to bring John Mark on their next missionary journey. Since John Mark had deserted them on an early trip and returned to Jerusalem, Paul did not want to bring him along this time. So Barnabas took John Mark to Cyprus while Paul went with Silas to Syria and Cilicia. However, later Paul tells Timothy to bring John Mark with him, saying he is helpful to the ministry. What can we learn from this story?

Pastor Greg Surratt discusses how we can overcome the challenges of Christians not seeing eye to eye:

1. Sometimes godly people will disagree.
  - a. In this season, how are you responding/reacting to those you disagree with?
  - b. Why do you think Paul told Timothy to bring John Mark with him later?
2. Diverse people really are better together.
  - a. Paul, Barnabas, John Mark and Timothy each had different gifts and ways of sharing the Gospel. What do you think those gifts were? How were they stronger together than apart?
  - b. Take a minute to think of those around you with different backgrounds, gifts, and ways of thinking. How can you further the Kingdom more together than apart? How does it extend the reach of the Church?
3. Everybody wins when there is a relational comeback.

Practical steps for healing a damaged relationship.

- a. Which of the following is the most challenging for you, and why?
  - i. Be honest.
  - ii. Be prompt.
  - iii. Be realistic.
  - iv. Be forgiving.
- b. Who do you need to restore a relationship with?
- c. If you have taken this step and healed a relationship, what did you learn? How has it impacted you and the other person?
  - i. In what ways are you stronger together in accomplishing what God has for you both?
  - ii. Even if the relationship is not close, and your views are still often at odds, what have you learned from reaching out and taking that step of forgiveness?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?