



HOW DO I LOOK?

FIGHTING FOR

We all have experienced the temptation to see someone who has failed or someone who has hurt us as a non-person. But taking responsibility for the people in our lives means fighting that temptation. And it means doing what we can to fight for that person.

DISCUSSION REFLECTIONS

1. Growing up, did you live in a household that seemed to enjoy confrontation? Or was it more marked by “keeping the peace”? Do you now prefer addressing issues or are you someone who tends to avoid conflict at all cost? Please share.

2. When someone wrongs us, our natural inclinations can be to look away, dismiss it, disqualify the person, or dog-pile them and get others involved. Is there one of these inclinations that you have wrestled with more than others? Can you give an example? What was the end result?

3. The two sources of responsibility are one’s role and one’s relationship. Are there any roles that you have that give you the responsibility to correct others? Do you have any relationships that oblige you to take the responsibility of correction? If so, what are they? If not, why not?

4. To look like a Christian and to fight like a Christian in relationships, Jesus tells us that our methods must be personal and private, personal and patient, and personal and persistent. Can you think of an example when either you have corrected someone or someone has corrected you by using these methods? What fruits came from handing it through a Christian worldview vs. a "worldly" worldview?

5. As St. Thomas Aquinas says, "But if we find that we are guilty of the same sin (as the one who hurt us), we must not rebuke him, but groan with him, and invite him to repent with us." What strikes you most about that instruction? Please discuss.

6. Sometimes we can fight for a person and lose. Have you ever wounded a relationship or misused your responsibility and corrected poorly (or were received poorly)? What have you learned from that?

GOD IN REAL LIFE

This week, when you find yourself correcting someone, look **at** them and fight **for** them.

Take courage.
Be patient.
Be there to love.

TO THE HEART

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."
2 Corinthians 5:19