

# LANDMINES

## Landmines 2 :: *Going Back* :: John Woodall

### INTRODUCTION

The newlywed couple is a picture of love. Two people, filled with idealistic hopes and dreams, convinced that nothing will ever change. But things do change and instead of a picture of love, the landmine of *moving on* has created a picture of isolation and separation. But this doesn't have to be the case. By learning how to avoid this landmine we'll discover how to keep our relationships from drifting apart.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The landmine of *moving on* involves moving past an offense without going back to reconcile it. Do you, or does someone you know, have the tendency to do this? Can you think of an example when you or someone else simply ignored a relational wrong?
2. Read Matthew 5:23-24. When there is something not right in a relationship that we have, we can't ignore it and pretend that everything is right when we worship God. We must go back to right the wrong before moving on. Why do we have a tendency to simply bypass wrongs committed? What is the danger if we do?
3. Reconciliation begins with gentleness. Read Proverbs 15:1. What effect on the relationship does gentleness have? Why do we tend towards harsh words instead of gentle words?
4. Humility is an essential part of reconciliation. What does it look like to be humble when addressing a wrong? What effect on the relationship does humility have?
5. Forgiveness is the third component of reconciliation. Why is it important to forgive one another? When is the last time you forgave someone?
6. Can you think of a situation in your life when someone didn't simply *move on*, but they came back and set things right after offending you? When have you had the chance to do this for someone else?

### THINK ABOUT IT

If someone were to call your spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, son, or daughter and ask if you have any unresolved wrongs between you, what would he or she say?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How will you reconcile the wrong that this person has against you this week?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.* Matthew 5:23-24