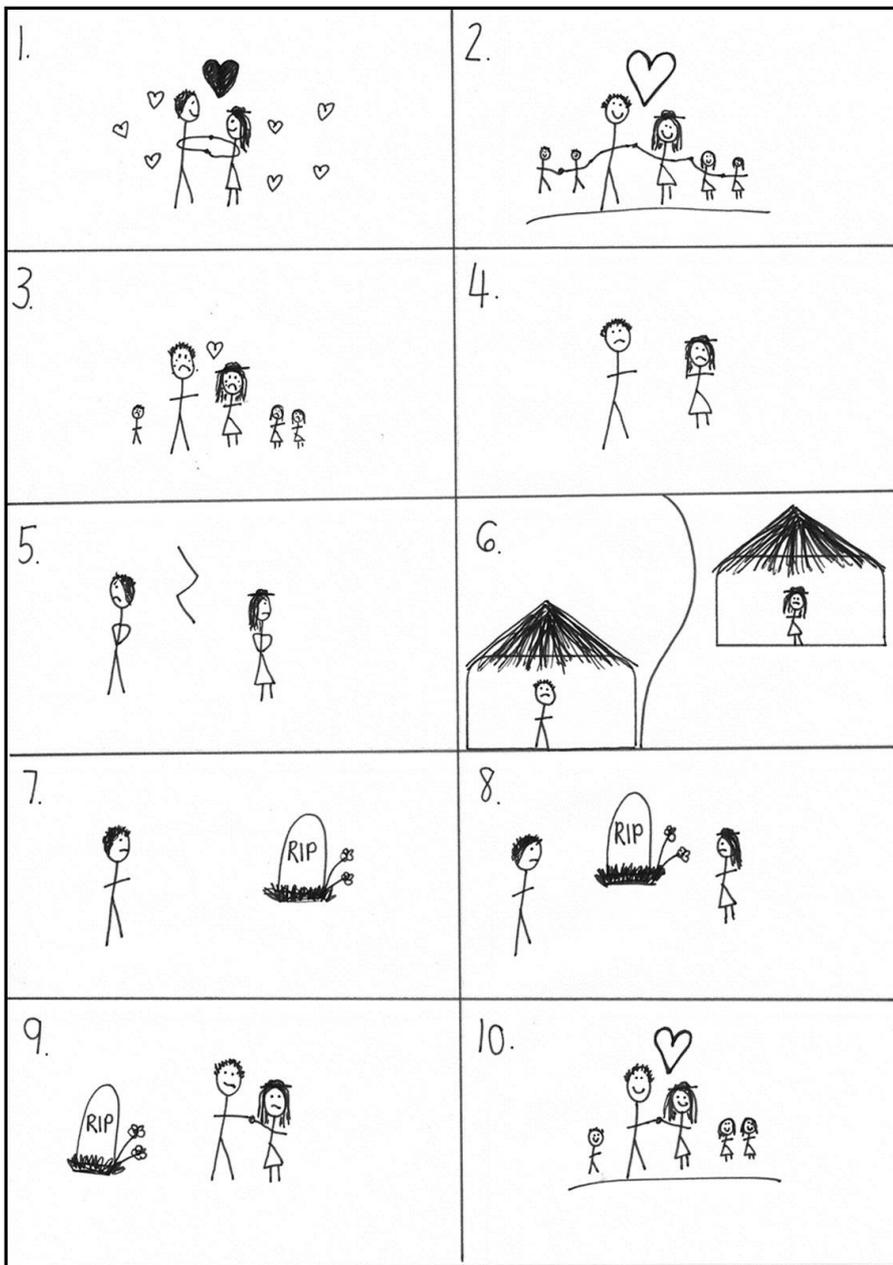




#homedevos 16.2

JESUS, OUR MEDIATOR

Story: (Tell this story of reconciliation in your own words, using the pictures in your own unique way.)



- 1) A young man and young lady fell in love and got married. They really loved one another and enjoyed life together.
 - 2) As time went on, they had children. Four beautiful children. A happy family, a home filled with love, harmony, and laughter.
 - 3) A very tragic thing happened. Their one son died in an accident.
 - 4) They each one grieved in their own way and could not comfort one another. Without noticing a gap was formed between them with a little irritation here and a little irritation there which they did not resolve.
 - 5) This gap grew bigger as more and more unresolved irritations, misunderstandings and things came between them. However hard they tried, the gap grew just bigger and bigger.
 - 6) It got so worse that they eventually separated, and the man went away and stayed in another city.
 - 7) One day he had to go back to the city where his wife stayed for business. He also went to the grave of his son.
 - 8) While thinking of the good times they had, he heard footsteps behind him. His wife! Their first reaction was to turn around and walked away from one another.
 - 9) Instead, they took hands, and there at the grave of their son they were reconciled.
 - 10) He moved back to his wife and their relationship was restored. A united family living in love, peace, and harmony. Enjoying one another.
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We see in this story three things happened: two people had a good, loving relationship, the relationship was broken and then they were reconciled again.

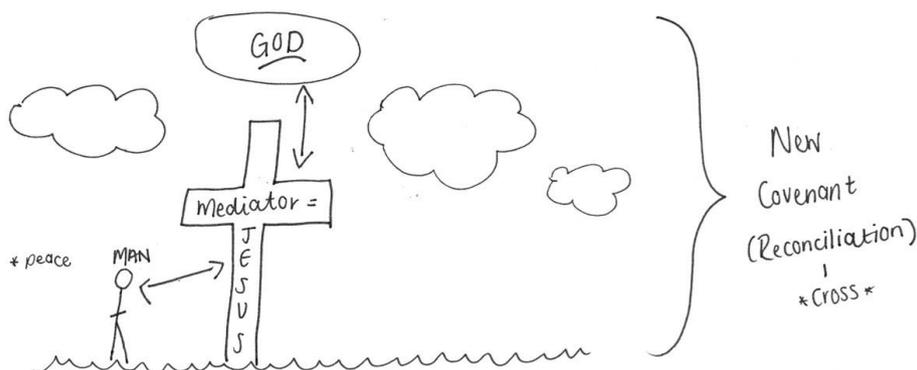
What do you think reconcile means?

It means to restore to friendship or harmony after there came a break in the relationship, as we've seen in this story.

Reconciliation only takes place where there is separation, alienation or estrangement in a relationship - there was a close relationship like husband-wife, parent-child, friend-friend, partners in business, but no longer. There can't be reconciliation with someone you do not know and never met, because there is no relationship.

Sometimes the two parties need someone to help them to work through their differences, misunderstandings, beliefs, etc. to bring reconciliation. We call such a person a mediator.

A mediator is someone who does not choose sides, but his/her sole purpose is to restore the dispute/disagreements in order to restore the relationship, to bring the two together, to restore peace.



(You can use the above pictures of the Old and New Covenant for the rest of the devotion should you like to.)

When God created mankind (Adam and Eve) God and man had a wonderful relationship of love in the beauty of holiness.

Do you remember we read in Ephesians 1:4 (ESV) "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love,"? That is exactly how God's relationship was with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Until sin came and separated them (and us) from Him. That beautiful, perfect relationship was broken, man was separated, alienated from God, His enemies. This did not change God's heart. He still desired such a relationship with mankind (us) and still do.

No matter how hard we try to get back to God in our own efforts: living a good life, praying much, even fasting, reading and studying the Bible, keeping the laws of God or whatever we try to do to better ourselves. Nothing can make us holy enough to stand before God without blame in love, to restore us into that relationship.

We need a mediator to help us. One who can come between us and God and intervene and reconcile us with God. Without a mediator mankind is helpless and hopeless.

God took the first step: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to be the mediator between mankind, us, and God, to reconcile us with God.

As in our story the husband and wife were reconciled at the grave (the death) of their son, so mankind (we) could only be reconciled with God through death – the death of His Son, on the cross. There Jesus took upon Himself all the judgement, anger and wrath of God against the sins of mankind, and reconciled us with God, while we were still sinners and enemies of God. In Him, we are now holy and blameless before God, relationship restored, peace. Jesus fulfilled the part of the mediator.

For the bigger children add: We read this in Colossians 1:19-22 (NIV):

"For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him
and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,
whether things on earth or things in heaven,
by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.
Once you were alienated from God and were enemies
in your minds because of your evil behavior
But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death
To present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

In God's eyes: He was reconciled with mankind when Jesus took the sin of mankind upon Him on the cross. He now extends His hand and invites us to accept the reconciliation He has already made.



Questions:

Where do you stand in your relationship with God?



Prayer:

Give time for each one to talk to God in prayer.



Memory Verse:

Spur one another on in learning the Memory Verse: going around in a circle each one saying the next word of the verse until you say it smoothly, around and around.