



## MUTUAL INVITATION

In order to ensure that everyone who wants to share has the opportunity to speak, we will proceed in the following way: The leader or a designated person will share first. After that person has spoken, he or she then invites another to share. Whom you invite does not need to be the person next to you. After the next person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share.

If you are not ready to share yet, say "I pass for now" and we will invite you to share later on. If you don't want to say anything at all, simply say "pass" and proceed to invite another to share. We will do this until everyone has been invited.

We invite you to listen and not to respond to someone's sharing immediately. There will be time to respond and to ask clarification questions after everyone has had an opportunity to share.

*(from The Wolf Shall Dance With the Lamb by Eric H. F. Law)*

## **DISCERNMENT JOURNAL**

*For personal use, not to be shared with anyone*

*Matthew 18 provides a process Christians can use to resolve conflicts. The first step in this process (verses 8-9) asks you to examine yourself. This journal will help you do that. The second step in the process (verse 15) is to go directly to the person, "when the two of you are alone" and work it out if you can*

Begin in prayer. Ask God for direction and then complete this journal.

Briefly identify the issue: (Use only one sentence. This will help you focus)

Your position on the issue:

Your perception of the other person's/group's position on the issue:

Put yourself in the other person's/group's shoes. What might they say that you have contributed to the conflict?

Describe the need you want to have addressed. There is a need for:

What are some possible Scripture images for this situation?

Is there a history behind your concern? Is this history impacting your reactions?

What steps can you take to remain calm, confident and connected to the other person?

*Author Rev. Terry N. Gladstone*