

## Week 6 Homework Prep

### Stage Story

Most of us live our lives as if we are the main actor on a stage. We like to re-arrange the other actors and props so as to expose our strengths, capacities, and our best qualities. We also like to arrange the stage so we can stay in the spot light, and continue to be the main attraction. This is the way we try to manage and control our lives. If you think about it, we not only try to play God, but in a way we are trying be God.

We can manage the stage for a while, but then show does not go along the way we like. The other actors on our stage are not doing what we want so we try to use more power or be kinder, or try harder to manage the stage, but it still it does not go like we want it to. So we get frustrated and begin to think life is not treating us right. We begin to blame others and become a victim, self-pitying, angry and blaming others. Don't we understand that the other actors on the stage see that we are trying to manage them for our advantage, and get angry and retaliate against us? And aren't they trying to manage and manipulate us for so our plan and life can work out?

We are only a victim in one sense, that we are a victim of self-delusion. We have convinced ourselves that we can be happy and satisfied with life if only we manage it well.

**Many of us are driven by a hundred forms of fear**, as well self-seeking goals, and self-pity. When we live trying to manage these conditions, we will step on the toes of others, and they will retaliate, and when they do, we are hurt. When we wake up, we will realize that **WE** are the ones that caused others to retaliate based on our managing decisions that were made for our self advantage. We put ourselves in the position of being hurt. So, most of our problems/troubles are of our own making.

When people hurt us (and we put them in that position) we get angry. Eventually everyone on the stage will hurt us as long as we try to manage them. Now, a whole portion of our lives become an effort to manage our fears and resentments.

And if we don't transform the pain, we will transfer it.

Next week we will investigate:

- 1) **Who we are still angry with.**
- 2) **What level of resentment we hold.**
- 3) **What part we had to play in each conflict.**
- 4) **See the offending person as someone like us, needing grace.**
- 5) **Pray that God will give us the grace to forgive them.**

Pray over each person on your list each day that God may help you to forgive them, until resentment fades away.

