

IN FOCUS

2 CORINTHIANS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

- BELONG** – This section isn't filler, but an intentional time to slow down and assess how people are doing in their personal and spiritual lives. Feel free to change the questions, but the point is to truly sit in this moment to allow time and space for encouraging spiritual connection.
Reconcile – “to restore friendly relations between; make or show to be compatible”
 - What images are stirred when you consider that you are reconciled with God?
 - Have you seen examples in your life of people or groups being reconciled with God?
- DISCOVER** – Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 together in your group and discuss the questions below. Remember, this is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. Let the conversation go where it wants but keep pointing back to the text.
 - How would you summarize the primary theme of this section of Scripture to someone who hasn't read it before?
 - What encouragement do you find in the passage? What's challenging or uncomfortable?
 - If you had to “preach” just one verse in this passage, which would you choose? Why?
 - What would be the main point of your sermon? (You can't steal Pastor Brad's)
 - What would be a specific application you would give in your sermon?
- GO** – Take time applying the text. Once we hear truth, we are called to live it out. If our groups just sit and talk about information, they won't experience transformation. This section is about self-reflection and helping one another be accountable to live out what we're learning.
 - “Knowing the fear of the Lord” (vv. 10-11) is one thing that moved Paul to action. How does it move you?
 - “The love of Christ controls us” (v. 14). Have you experienced that? How so?
 - “From now on...we regard no one according to the flesh” (v. 16). If, “from now on,” you did the same, what would change?
 - What is the “space” (family, work, neighborhood, club) God has placed you in as an ambassador? What is one practical next step you could take for this?
 - Explain verse 21 in your own words, as if you were speaking with someone who has never heard of Jesus.
- PRAYER** – Petition the Lord together as you close out your group time. Under the BELONG section, we focused our prayers on one another. However, this PRAYER section is to be a more outward-focused prayer time.
 - Take a few minutes of quiet, listening prayer time together as a group. Ask God to bring to mind names of those in your life who do not know Jesus. Write down those names.
 - Pray, by name, for the reconciliation of those who are close to you but far from God.
 - Pray for an opportunity this week to practically live as an ambassador with them.