

(CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER continued)

- Which character did you reflect on during this time and what led you to choose him?
- Which sense is easiest for you to imagine as you are taking the perspective of your chosen character?
- Which part of that character's relationships seemed most in need of reconciliation?
- What line or phrase were you drawn to in the passage during your reflection and journaling?

CONNECT WITH SCRIPTURE (Read the passages and review the sermon outline. Then select the best questions or customize the questions for your group.)

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:14–21.
- Read the main points from the sermon outline.
- What does Christ's love compel us to do (v.14)?
- What does it mean to regard someone from a worldly point of view (v.16)?
- What does Paul mean by being in Christ?
- How is Paul an ambassador of reconciliation?
- Do you feel like you are the righteousness of God (v. 21)? Why or why not?

CONNECT WITH GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD (select one question for discussion)

- When did you first experience reconciliation with God?
- How is reconciliation with God an ongoing process versus a one time event?
- How can you help those in your life who need reconciliation with the Lord?
- How can being shaped in the image of God empower the ministry of reconciliation?

PRAYER

End your time by praying using the provided prayer below by Ted Loder.

Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord, and hold me in this Lenten season: hold my feet to the fire of your grace and make me attentive to my mortality that I may begin to die now to those things that keep me from living with you and with my neighbors on this earth; to grudges and indifference, to certainties that smother possibilities, to my fascination with false securities, to my addiction to sweatless dreams, to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be; to my corrosive fear of dying someday which eats away the wonder of living this day, and the adventure of losing my life in order to find it in you.

—Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*

MESSAGE OUTLINE

March 27, 2022

*Mosaic: Into His Image
Reconciling*

Pastor Mike McClenahan

MOSAIC

INTO HIS IMAGE

2 Corinthians 5:14–21 (NIV)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Being changed into Christ's image changes...

1. How we see ourselves. (v. 14-15)

...no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2. How we see others. (v. 16-17)

...we regard no one from a worldly point of view... the new creation has come.

(outline continued on the next page)

3. **How we live and share the message of reconciliation. (v.18-21)**
...who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ... "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate... ³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" **Luke 15 (NIV)**

Catch me in my anxious scurrying, Lord,
and hold me in this Lenten season:
hold my feet to the fire of your grace
and make me attentive to my mortality
that I may begin to die now
to those things that keep me
from living with you
and with my neighbors on this earth;
to grudges and indifference,
to certainties that smother possibilities,
to my fascination with false securities,
to my addiction to sweatless dreams,
to my arrogant insistence on how it has to be;
to my corrosive fear of dying someday
which eats away the wonder of living this day,
and the adventure of losing my life
in order to find it in you.

Ted Loder, *Guerrillas of Grace*



SERVE ON EASTER WEEKEND

On Easter, April 17, we will welcome family and friends to celebrate the risen Lord. Help us on Saturday to prepare and/or Easter Sunday to make our campus a friendly and inviting place.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS—March 27, 2022
Mosaic: Into His Image—Reconciling

CONNECT WITH GOD (choose one of these practices that best suits your group or use a practice from a previous week)

Silence: Explain that you are going to be silent as a way of inviting the Lord into your time together. Read the following quote by Richard Foster and begin your silent time of connection with the Lord.

Silence is one of the deepest disciplines of the Spirit simply because it puts the stopper on all self-justification. One of the fruits of silence is the freedom to let God be our justifier. We don't need to straighten others out.

Be Still: Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God..." Have your group get comfortable in their seats and allow a calming moment of silence. Slowly read this phrase from the Psalm removing a word each time you read it. Have your group either journal or share together what they heard during this time of active listening.

- Be still and know that I am God.
- Be still and know that I am
- Be still and know that I
- Be still and know that
- Be still and know
- Be still and
- Be still
- Be

Gratitude: Read: "In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich."—Dietrich Bonhoeffer (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

Journal: Make a list of the riches God has given you. Once you have filled a page, circle the one that stands out to you today and write a short sentence of gratitude to Jesus for giving you that gift.

CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

Journaling and Imaginative Reading of The Prodigal Son: Read the parable of the Prodigal Son out of the Gospel of Luke (Luke 15:11–32), imagining yourself as one of the three characters: the younger son, the older son, or the father. As you do this type of imaginative prayer, journal about what you hear, see, taste, smell, and feel from the perspective of the character you chose. When you have finished reading, discuss your journaling with one or more of the questions on the back panel.