

## **Dig Deeper @Home – “Real and Authentic”**

### **Complement to lesson on 4/28/24 – “Proclaiming Reconciliation”**

#### **ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. If you were called to be an ambassador of the United States of America, where would you like to be sent?
2. Share about something you love to do as a hobby and what compels you to enjoy this thing as much as you do?

#### **MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10**

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

#### **READ – 2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

##### **Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
  - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
  - c. What are the verses revealing about God?
  - d. What are the verses revealing about people? And in light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Read vs. 11-15. How does our love for Jesus change how we treat others? How can we show our love for God and people in what we do every day? How does (or should) the “fear of the Lord” affect our interactions?
3. As you read vs. 16-19, Why is making peace important in sharing God’s message? How can we talk about God’s Word in a way that brings people closer together?
4. How does becoming a new person in Jesus change how we love God, love others, and share His message? What habits or attitudes should we change when we follow Jesus?
5. Read vs. 19. Why are forgiveness and kindness important when telling others about God? How can we be forgiving and kind like God when we talk to people about Him?

## **EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Sin Separates Us from God and from each other**

Get a piece of rope or string and a pair of scissors.

Have two people (preferably children) in the group or family sit across from each other holding the string between them. Explain that on one side of the string is God and the other is us. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were connected to God, but then sin came in. Ask who tempted Eve.

Have the two people pull the string towards them, not too tight, but tight enough. Then take the scissors and cut the string *\*To make it more fun, make a “ssss” sound like a snake or even attach a green pipe cleaner like a **snake** to the scissors. They should FALL back a little when you cut the string.* This represents the fall of mankind. Explain that this is what happened when sin came into the world. It separated us from God. But this was not the end of the story! God sent Jesus, his only son, to reconcile or bring us back to God.

Sit back up again and then tie the string together explaining that when Jesus died on the cross, it made it so we could be connected to God again. We are no longer separated from God or from each other when we believe and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins! And God has given us the awesome task of inviting people to be reconciled to God and to each other. God wants the WHOLE WORLD to know Him and be with Him because that is how it was meant to be.

**SING** (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

**Yet Not I, but through Christ in me**, CityAlight - <https://youtu.be/zundiUFazfg>

**The Love of God** - <https://youtu.be/WknJrGINyNs>

**Living Hope**, Wickham - <https://youtu.be/9l7liisdyMk>

**King of Kings**, Hillsong - <https://youtu.be/dz-AjH5xCiM>

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

### **Sending prayer based on the message:**

Father, thank you that you shine your light in my heart. Thank you for the work of reconciliation that Jesus you did on the cross to bring me back to fellowship with God. Help me to be encouraged by this truth to go this week as an ambassador of reconciliation and to live this truth out in the places where I live, work, play and go to school that others may be reconciled to God and to each other.