



## The Ministry of Reconciliation

### James Lowe

**Focus** Before we can enjoy the depth of reconciliation with Christ and others, we must understand that we were first unreconciled.

**Fun** What is your most memorable spring break adventure?

**Review** Key Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

1. Before salvation, we are unreconciled with Christ. We may attend church yet still experience a separation from the Lord.
2. When we meet the Reconciler, we must make a choice. After surrendering ourselves to Jesus, we will undergo an undeniable change and lead a life in keeping with repentance.
3. After salvation, we are called to share the message of reconciliation.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Many faith-based movies are in theaters during the time leading up to Easter. Consider organizing a movie night to support one of these movies, and ask your members to bring a friend who needs to hear the message presented through the film.

### Discuss

1. What is the difference between horizontal and vertical relationships? Which type of relationship must be intact before addressing the other?
2. Before salvation, what lies about yourself or those around you did you readily believe?
3. Share your experience of when you met Jesus.
4. What changed in your life as a result of being reconciled to Christ?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What is our responsibility after salvation?

## Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- If we are unreconciled with Christ, we may know about Jesus, but we will not have an understanding of the kingdom.
- After salvation, we experience unspeakable joy, incomprehensible love, and peace that surpasses all understanding.
- When we have our vertical relationship right, we can bring reconciliation to our horizontal relationships.

## Prayer

Lord, thank You for the ministry of reconciliation through Jesus Christ. Examine my heart and open my eyes if I have believed lies about my relationship with You. Lord, I submit my life to You and Your ministry of reconciliation. I will be an ambassador for Christ and share my life change with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Some of your members will not feel comfortable sharing in a group setting. Consider communicating outside of group time with members who don't share in your group. Give them the opportunity to share their testimony over coffee or a meal.