

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Matthew 5:21-24; 18:15

3 Key Points:

1. make it a priority to reconcile
2. reconcile in a spirit of meekness
3. be willing to ask for forgiveness and forgive

Living It Out:

For Jesus reconciliation is not merely an idea or a doctrine. It is something we do as his followers. It is more than a status given to us by God through Christ's work on the cross. It is what we practice together.

- Do we believe this? Why or why not?
- When you hear the word "reconcile" or "reconciliation" what do you think of?
- Submission is an important part of reconciliation. How is this lived out? What does submission mean?

Pastor Mike talked about reconciliation as being about applied on both the personal and the national level.

- How do you respond to that thought?
- Have you thought much about our role in national reconciliation?

As you read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21...**

- What stands out to you?
- What do you see as the major implication(s) of these verses?
- What are the things that stop you and us from doing this?
- Why do you think the church sometimes (or often) reduces reconciliation to just personal (and often privatized) reconciliation with God?
- How does Advent & Christmas link up with reconciliation?

When you think about the **3 key points** above

- Which is most difficult for you? Why? What stops you?
- What can you do to faithfully practice Jesus' presence in doing this?

This Week:

During the month of **November**, we are reading through the **Gospel of John** together. We have designed this reading plan so that we have a couple of days to catch up each week – i.e. we will read 21 chapters in 30 days. I encourage you to share what stands out to you, what God's Spirit makes come alive to you as you read. Let's encourage one another with what we are seeing. You can share what you are learning or being reminded of on our webpage at: <https://occweb.org/news-and-updates/reading-the-gospel-of-john/>

Don't rush through your reading. Take time to let the text sink in.

Hearing God's voice with confidence takes practice. A great way to learn is through what we call Listening to and Dwelling in the Word (this ancient, historical practice was called: Lectio Divina)

Here are some prayer, journaling and reflection prompts

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you?
In silence meditate on that.
2. Depending on the passage, you may find that you identify with one person in the text.
Why is that? What about the story or the person connects with you?
3. How does today's reading speak to what you are experiencing in your life right now?
4. Share what God is showing you at <https://occweb.org/news-and-updates/reading-the-gospel-of-john/>