

## “Reconciling” | The story of personal salvation

**GETTING STARTED:** How do you handle reconciling the checkbook at your house? Is this a chore you loathe, an activity you long for, or something you skip altogether?

### EXPLORE THE TOPIC:

1. What needs to happen for two people to reconcile a broken relationship? Compare and contrast that with how God reconciles humanity. What can God do that humans can't do for themselves?

2. Read the following verses in Romans 5 and consider the reality of God's radical reconciliation:

- Verses 1-2. What does “peace with God” look like? Feel like? What is the opposite of “peace with God?”
- Verses 3-5. How does placing confidence in God's ability to bring us through difficult times lead to an even brighter hope for what lies ahead?
- Verses 6-8. How might this passage speak to someone that feels they “aren't good enough” to be reconciled with God?
- Verses 9-11. How are justification (a judicial term) and reconciliation (a relational term) different? Elaborate using the illustration of how a judge offers a verdict and how God enters into a personal relationship.

3. Describe what Scot McKnight meant when he wrote, “Personal faith is both necessary and non-negotiable. The gospel doesn't work for spectators; you have to participate for it to work its powers.”

4. Why does God's “radical reconciliation” demand a “radical response” to believe, to repent, to be baptized? Consider the role of a Christ-following in taking that message of action to the

world in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

5. Read Colossians 1:19-20. What does say it about God that he paid your penalty (death) with the life of his own son? How does that compel you to respond? When do you see that response in your daily life? When do you wish you saw more of a response in your own life?

### APPLY THE TRUTH:

This week's phrase, “reconciling humanity,” captures what people think of when they define the gospel. Notice where these two words fit into the overall one-sentence gospel summary that we are using during this series:

“The gospel is the story of God, renewing his broken creation and rescuing his wayward people through the work of Jesus, while reconciling humanity and readying them for life in God's kingdom now and forever.”

As you consider your radical response to God's radical reconciliation, continue to familiarize yourself with the complete definition.

### PRAY:

Take time this week to offer praise and thanksgiving to God for the reality of reconciliation. Reflect upon what it means to life **for** our Creator instead of fighting **against** him. Ask God to help you live a life of radical response that matches His act of radical reconciliation.

### NOTES:

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