

REDEMPITIVE FAMILY

Small Group Study 3 - Nurturing Redemptive Relationships

THE BIG IDEA: Being part of a church family that reaches out and draws people in gives us a purpose. We hold on to our church family with one hand and on to our not-yet-Christian friends with the other. Our purpose is to seek God's best for our friends and woo them closer to Jesus, including them in our church family circle. This is a redemptive relationship!

OPEN

1. Have you ever had someone take a real interest in you that was more than skin deep? How did this make you feel?

2. Has your relationship with anyone changed the course of your life for the better? Tell your story.

DIG

Read 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

¹⁶So 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.¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that 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. ²⁰We 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. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)

3. Paul challenges us to not regard others from a worldly point of view. In light of my friendships, what does this mean?

4. Paul says if we are in Christ we are a new creation! This is now core to us. What do our friends tell us they see?

5. Paul uses the word “reconciliation” frequently in this passage. What does this mean to us in relation to God, each other and others we know?

6. Verse 20 provides an incredible picture of us acting as Ambassadors for the Kingdom of God. How can we allow God to make His appeal through us?

REFLECT

7. What is our biggest challenge to putting this passage into practice for ourselves?

8. What is one thing this group can do to help us grow to be Ambassadors for Christ?