



## A New Creation

**WEEK 2**

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### **Look Back** (10 minutes)

- In his sermon on last week's scripture (Luke 5:1-11), Pastor Curtis commented that sometimes our lives seem like Groundhog Day - a cyclical story not going anywhere. When has your life felt like this?
- Who do you see around you that may be perceived as having an "unpromising beginning" like Simon Peter, but in that person you see a seed of faith? How will you nurture that seed of faith?
- What opportunities have you found to be a fisher of people?

### **Read Aloud**

Passage for this week: **2 Corinthians 5:11-21**.

### **Head** (15–20 minutes)

#### **OBSERVE THE TEXT AND THE AUTHOR'S MAIN POINTS**

- Earlier in chapter 5, Paul confronts the Corinthians for dismissing his humble expression of the Gospel in favor of flashy religious teachers. How does this relate to verses 11-13?
- What does Paul mean in verse 14 when he says "one died for all, and therefore all died"?
- How does reconciliation through Christ make us ambassadors? How do you feel about being an ambassador for Christ?

## Heart (15–20 minutes)

### ENVISION HOW THE TEXT—WHEN APPLIED—MIGHT TRANSFORM YOUR INNER LIFE IN TERMS OF YOUR THOUGHTS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS

- How would your life look if you approached the world around you with an eternal perspective? What becomes more important? What becomes less important?
- What implications does Christ giving us the ministry of reconciliation have on our interactions with others?
- Does considering yourself one of Christ's ambassadors make you want to change the way you interact with others? How about how you try to appear to others?

## Hands (10 minutes)

### APPLY THE TEXT BY MOVING FROM INWARD REFLECTION TO OUTWARD ACTION LOOKING FOR WAYS TO LIVE THE TEXT OUT IN OUR LIVES TO SERVE OTHERS

#### Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- Read 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 in three different translations such as NIV, ESV, and NLT. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 in the version you like best.
- Spend an hour this week inviting the Holy Spirit to transform your heart to see where you are missing eternal priorities in favor of worldly ones.
- Notice the order in v. 18-19. God initiates the reconciliation and we are called to live in His ways. What is your response to God?

#### Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Pray over someone in your midst with whom you have had conflict or simply not conveyed Christ's love as the ambassador you are called to be. Reach out and practice ambassadorship to them in person.
- Alpha - Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of those who came to Fall 2023 Alpha and who are meeting now in post-Alpha groups. Pray that they would feel drawn to the love of Jesus and experience reconciliation with God.

#### Reaching Beyond

- As the New Year begins, reevaluate your schedule to make time to serve regularly with one of FPC's mission partners or another organization where you can participate in God's work of reconciliation. For upcoming outreach opportunities to serve at FPC, go to <https://fpchouston.org/serve/ways-to-serve/upcoming-opportunities>.
- How else might God be stirring you to put the passage into practice this week?