



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

#### Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

#### Habits of a Church on Mission 2 Corinthians 5

- **The Temporary Tent.** Paul compares our earthly bodies to "tents"—temporary, fragile, and prone to "groaning." He points us toward an eternal "building from God" that provides security beyond our current circumstances. In what areas of your life are you currently "groaning" or feeling the temporary nature of your "tent" (health, relationships, career)? How does the promise of an eternal home change how you view your "light and momentary" struggles today?
- **A New Perspective.** Once we are in Christ, we no longer view people "from a worldly point of view." What qualifier do you or our church like to use that causes division rather than seeing people through Christ? What would it look like to see our neighbors, enemies, difficult people, folks you struggle to see good in...as made in God's image and people who Christ also died for?
- **The Ministry of Reconciliation.** Reconciliation is both parties choosing to name the hurt and work towards lasting change and repair. Reconciliation isn't just something we *receive*; it's something we *do*. If you are an "ambassador for Christ," what kind of "diplomacy" are you practicing in your workplace or neighborhood? Where is there a "gap" in your community that needs the bridge of reconciliation right now?
- **The Great Exchange.** Paul says in verse 21 that Christ took our sin so we could be the righteousness of God. This exchange is the foundation of our ability to love. How does knowing you are already "the righteousness of God" free you from the need to prove yourself or win arguments? How can you "exchange" a spirit of judgment for a spirit of reconciliation in a specific relationship this week?

#### Practice: Ambassadors of Hope

This week, look for one opportunity to be a "reconciler." It might be as simple as offering an apology, listening to someone you disagree with, or inviting a "stranger" to your table.