

# 11 CALIFORNIANS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## **FIVE: RECONCILIATION**

**Either with a group or on your own, use the following questions to explore Bible passages and apply insights from the video session.**

What stood out to you from the video?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

1. Without using names, have you ever had a rival? What is it like to have someone who is directly working against you and your interests?

2. What are some subtle ways in which we work against God? In what ways do we actually work against God when we think we are working for Him?

3. Why do you think Paul talks about becoming a new person in the middle of some verses talking about joining God's team? Why do we need to become new in order to be reconciled to God?

4. How is God transforming you? Describe the change God has brought about in your life over the course of your journey with Him.

5. Describe a time when you and an enemy “buried the hatchet” and reconciled your differences. What was it like to forgive and move forward?

6. What is the difference between looking at someone from a worldly point of view and a heavenly point of view? How can looking at people from a heavenly point of view help us persuade them to join God’s side of the battle?

**Read Romans 5:1-11**

7. Through Jesus, we have peace with God. What happens if we remain at war with God? How does that impact our present and our future?

8. What does it mean to you that Christ died for you even while you were his enemy?



## DEEPER STUDY QUESTIONS

### Read Colossians 1:15-23

9. List out the qualities of Jesus that we find in this section. Which of these qualities stands out to you? How does this list change the way you see Jesus?

10. The following question has baffled theologians and scholars for millennia: What do you think it means when these verses say that Christ will reconcile all things to himself?

## A PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

Use this simple prayer in order to experience the gift of reconciliation that we find through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This prayer, based in part on the parable of the Prodigal Son, is designed to help us feel this deeply profound spiritual truth.

1. Begin by focusing on the hugeness of God. Speak to the Lord about His might and His wonder and His glory. Speak to the Lord about the holiness and the power of His Name.

2. Imagine before you a mighty castle with thick and impenetrable walls that rise over you. Imagine what that castle looks like and consider that you will never be able to break its walls or topple its towers. This is the kingdom of God, the domain of the Lord.

3. Now, imagine that this castle has a drawbridge, and it lowers slowly. As the drawbridge finally drops, you see a king—who is the Lord—sprinting out to meet you. When He reaches you, He pulls you into a big embrace. What does the Lord say to you in this moment? What do you say back to Him?

4. Imagine the King brings you into His castle, where you will find safety and security. Use this final moments of prayer to thank the Lord for reaching out to us and for reconciling us to Himself.

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***Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, the new creation has  
come: the old has gone  
the new is here!***

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

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