

**STUDY GUIDE FOR THE WEEK OF: 24 FEBRUARY 2008**

BPC CORE VALUES

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WEEK 2 OF THE SERIES ON CORE VALUES

**“Reaching Out”**

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Notes:**

The core value highlighted this week is *reaching out*. Here's how our church puts it:

*God is reaching out with grace to all people. We are joining our Lord in this mission of righteousness and peace, demonstrating the good news of God's unending mercy and love for a hurting world. We are Christ's hands and feet—indeed, his ambassadors—in our everyday lives. Ultimately, our church does not exist for itself, but for those around us.*

The passage from 2 Corinthians highlights the true nature of Christian ministry (a consistent theme in this letter), and in this

case, that we are *ambassadors for Christ*. A few notes on the text then: In verse **16**, Paul talks about formerly seeing Christ “after the flesh”—that is, based on his earthly accomplishments, whether we was a political-military Messiah. He was not—instead Jesus came to reconcile us to God. Or perhaps better put, through Jesus (verse **18**), God reconciled us to himself. Then, in verse **20**, Paul summarizes his appeal, we reach out with this message of reconciliation.

### Questions For Further Reflection

1. Read the surrounding passage of 2 Corinthians, chapter 5: How does it help us understand these verses? What insights does it bring?
2. What does reconciliation look like today? Among the races? Between the genders? Among the nations? With God?
3. What does it look like to be an ambassador, representing the sovereign King of the universe, to your work, to your home, to your classroom, etc.?
4. How does this passage confirm what we are doing individually and as a community? How does it challenge us? What should we continue to do? What is God asking us to change?