

Session



## Personal Study Guide

# Finding Our Way with Racial Reconciliation

*August 25, 2019*

### Introduction

 How does the story of Jonah impact you? What does holding bitterness do to the one called by God to preach repentance?

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 What signs can you look for in your own life to be aware of when bitterness and resentment are taking a foothold in your heart?

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 How would you communicate the importance of pursuing reconciliation to someone? What impact does reconciliation have on the temptation toward bitterness?

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### 1. Christ Redefines Our Identity (Ephesians 2:11-13)

 What are some things that you were known for in your life prior to being Christ-follower? How have you seen those things fade in their association with you as you've grown in Christ? What does that change in perception mean for you in the way you see others?

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 How does Paul's treatment of "in the flesh" apply to the work of racial reconciliation? How does focusing on the spiritual and more significant factors of a person's life help?

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### 2. Christ the Peacemaker (Ephesians 2:14-17)

 Why is it incongruent with following Christ to exercise an attitude of superiority over people of any other race or background?

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 What walls of hostility has Christ broken down in your own life? How have you personally experienced that?

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### 3. A Unified People for a Unified Purpose (Ephesians 2:18-22)

 What are some observable indicators that you would expect to see if someone were being treated as a second-class citizen because of their background? Can you give an example of a time when you saw that occur (not necessarily church-related)? How did you respond?

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 Why do you think Paul stressed so strongly and repeatedly the commonality of the believer's need for Christ?

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### Conclusion

 How comfortable are you in sharing your story of what your life was like before Christ and after Christ in gospel conversations? When you think about how you share that story, where do you see those moments when your new identity in Christ shine particularly brightly?

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 Where are some places you go where you feel like you don't fit in, aren't fully accepted, or have a second-class sort of citizenship? How does that impact your view of people there?

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 Why is approaching reconciliation from a perspective of commonality is important? How does the slow pace of reconciliation affect your efforts to see it through?

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### Daily Readings

- Monday - 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
- Tuesday - 1 Peter 2:13-17
- Wednesday - Proverbs 21:1
- Thursday - Luke 20:20-26
- Friday - Titus 3:1-2
- Saturday - John 18:36