

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDY ONE

# RECONCILIATION



FOUR STUDIES FOR SMALL GROUPS

## LIVING AS CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

COMMUNICATING TRUE HOPE IN A BROKEN WORLD

# INTRO

## RECONCILIATION

Warring houses are brought together in Romeo and Juliet. Relationship is restored in Jesus' story of a son come home. **Reconciliation** turns everything upside down bringing a previously unimagined peace.

As Paul writes to the Corinthian church, he describes his own story, commission and message...

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-21 - CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

# BIBLE

- Where does it all start for Paul? What did he experience? (18)
- What does he mean by, "through Christ"? (18)
  - Could someone be Christ's ambassador without this?
    - Have you experienced this?
- Where does Paul's commission come from? (18b)
- How is God's purpose for the world described? (19a)

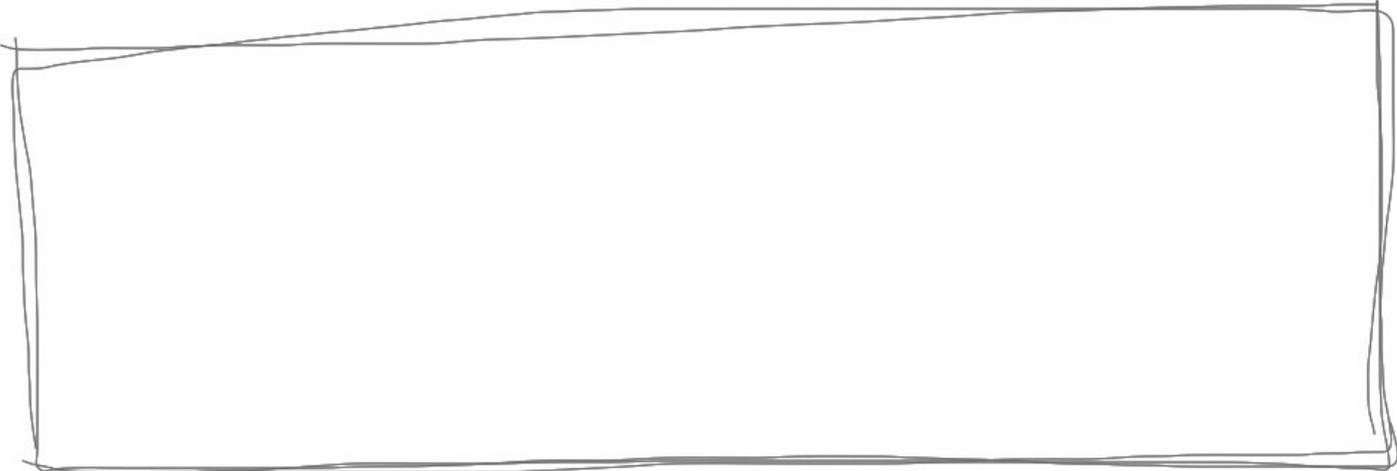
# BIBLE



# TRY



- Paul outlines a personal (18), then a global (19) vision of God's purpose. Each time he then emphasises "our" involvement. What do you think is the significance of this?
- What is the reconciled person described as? (20a)
  - What is the role of an ambassador?
- What is their (our) message? (20b)
- In the last verse (21) Paul explains how reconciliation is possible. He describes an exchange or "swap" in a wonderfully concise rendering of the Gospel. Explain the passage to the person sitting next to you as though they did not already know the message...
- Now listen as your partner explains it to you.
- Help each other - what was good? What could have been said to make it clearer?
  - How would you feel about sharing this with someone this week?
- How might you draw the "reconciliation" message of the Bible for a friend? Try below! A suggestion is on the next page...





Some find it helps to draw as they share. It provides a focal point, something to smile about and it often assists the listener to recall what they heard!



REFLECT



- How could this call to be Christ's ambassadors change the way that you approach tomorrow?
- Who could you be praying for this week?
  - Share their name with the person next to you - if appropriate some of their story too. Write their name down here.

PRAY



- Thank God for the way He has made it possible for you to be reconciled to Him.
- Pray for the person named here - for their reconciliation to God through Christ.
- Pray together that God would help you - by His Spirit - to live out your calling as Christ's ambassador this week.