

# Small Group Discussion Guide

*Jesus Changes Your Past: For the week of April 3 - 9, 2022*

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## Main Thought and Scriptures:

*(Break into groups of 3-4. Discuss for 30-40 minutes)*

Following Jesus should change every area of our lives, including how our past affects our present. Scripture declares that we are “new creations” and that the “old has passed away.” This means that as followers, we are not defined by our past hurts, failures, rejection, and disappointments. This comes from being reconciled to God through Jesus’ death and resurrection which covers our sin, shame and guilt. Once reconciled to God, we can reconcile others to God. This deepens the power and truth that we are set free from our past sins.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave 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 to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21 ESV)*

*“...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”  
(Romans 5:8 ESV)*

*“...I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.” (Philemon 1:6 ESV)*

## Discussion Questions:

*(select those that best apply)*

- Share what God is speaking to you the most from the main thought, scriptures, and the weekend sermon.
- As a “new creation,” describe 1-2 areas of your past that God has made new. Why?
- How are you currently living as a “minister of reconciliation”?

## Prayer:

*(Break into groups of 2-3 to pray for 10 minutes)*

- Pray for one another in any area of the past that may contradict being a new creation in Christ.
- Pray that we will see specific relationships in our lives to be reconciled to Christ.