A dense, repeating pattern of various botanical illustrations in shades of teal and yellow-green against a dark background. The illustrations include various types of ferns, ginkgo leaves, and other leafy plants.

# Cultivate

Growing through the Beatitudes

JUNE 9-11, 2018

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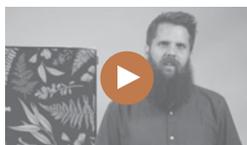
# Reconciliation

This week we're learning how Jesus is the Author of reconciliation and how Jesus enables us to pursue reconciliation with others.

## WATCH THE VIDEO

[NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](https://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies)

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



## Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

***Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.***

- When have you needed someone else's help with a broken relationship?
- When have you been able to help others work through their broken relationship?

## Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

### READ MATTHEW 5:9 (NIV) & 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21 (NLT)

- What makes us right with God? What makes us wrong with God?
- What job has God given us regarding the people around us in the world?
- According especially to 2 Corinthians 5:19, how did Jesus approach this work God's called us to?
- Often when we think of reconciliation in a biblical sense, we think primarily of how we're reconciled with God. What are some of the broken relationships in your life, and how would life look different if you were reconciled to those people?
- What are the barriers that more generally divide you from others?
- What makes reconciliation difficult in any relationship?
- Who are some of the people in the Bible to whom Jesus extended an offer of grace, rather than counting their sin?
- What would you have to set aside to pursue peace and reconciliation? What attitudes, perspectives or lifestyle would you have to adopt?
- In 2 Corinthians 5:20, we read, "So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us" (NLT). Are you comfortable with the idea of being Christ's representative to the world around you? How can your community or group help you more fully embrace your role as Christ's ambassador?

***Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.***

## Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses and try paraphrasing them: writing them in your own words. If you like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

**It can be easy to think our job is to just serve as God's messengers. But when Jesus gave us the great commissioning, He did something bigger. He said, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations." Jesus wasn't just authorizing us to speak on His behalf. Jesus was entrusting us with the responsibility of representing Him to the world, in word *and* in deed.**

### READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 (NIV)

- What did it look like for Paul to "become a servant" of the gospel (v. 23)? How does that look in your life? How could that look going forward?
- What things in the world are beneath the reign of Jesus? Whom did Jesus come to make peace with and redeem?
- How can you pursue the Great Commission and the call to serve as Christ's ambassador in the days ahead? Whom has God already put in your life that you can share your hope with?

### READ JOHN 3:16-21 (NLT)

- Why did God send Jesus? Why has God sent you?
- In this passage, Jesus draws a contrast between people who flee the light and people who step into it. The people who flee the light are afraid their sins will be exposed. Why don't we need to be worried that our sins will be exposed? What makes that fear hard to resist sometimes? How can your community help you continue to move into God's light?
- What has your experience of "[coming] into the light" of God been like? How has that experience helped others see God at work in your life?

**Looking for more questions and reflections so you can keep digging deeper? There's even more to this week's study available on Northland's apps or at [NorthlandChurch.net/Studies](https://NorthlandChurch.net/Studies).**