

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series:** Making Him Known  
**Title:** Final Destination  
**Text:** 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2  
**Speaker:** Matt Ewert  
**Date:** September 22, 2019



## WARM-UP

ICEBREAKER: When it comes to viewing global events and considering where the world is headed, would you consider yourself an optimist or a pessimist, and explain why.

Share one personal "take away" from this past weekend's worship service.

## DISCUSSION

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 and give group members a chance to share what stands out, or challenges them from this passage most.**

**In the service, Pastor Matt read the following quote, outlining how reconciliation goes beyond justification (which is gaining right standing with God):**

*"Justification is a judicial term used in the law courts. A judge may acquit an accused person without ever entering into any personal relationship with him or her. He just announces the verdict, not guilty. The accused hardly expects to be invited over for dinner by the judge, and probably hopes that he will never see him again.*

*The shift to the reconciliation metaphor takes what God has done through Christ a step further. The judge enters into a personal relationship with the accused. This is necessary because the judge is the one who has been sinned against and is the focus of the personal hostility. God does not simply make a bookkeeping alteration by dropping the charges against us. God gives himself to us in friendship."*

—David E. Garland

- In your own words, describe the difference between justification and reconciliation. What is the "extra mile" that reconciliation goes?
- What are the barriers to us engaging in the depth of reconciliation that the image in the quote describes?
- How might we overcome those barriers?

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## DISCUSSION

**In second Corinthians 6:2, Paul is quoting from Isaiah 49:8, which gives us a clue that as Paul is talking about the ministry of reconciliation, he has Isaiah 49 on the brain. Read Isaiah 49:8-13.**

- What images does Isaiah use to describe the promised future reality ... a reconciled world.
- What might modern day equivalents of ancient images be. What would it look like for Isaiah's vision to take hold in our world today?

**In the ministry year that lies ahead, are there ways in which you, as a life group, could participate together in the call to be ministers of reconciliation, either with regard to reconciliation between people and God, between people, or with creation?**

- Is this something you might be willing to commit to doing together?
- Identify, and spend time praying for, issues of reconciliation that touch the members of your group.