

Intro:

*** Col 3:11 reveals that the gospel of Jesus brings about total _____ . Col 3:11 reveals that total _____ :

I. ... flows from the roots of radical _____ reconciliation with _____ ,

II. ... & bears the fruit of radical _____ reconciliation with people with every possible kind of _____ .

Concl:

Digging Deeper into today's Bible verses & themes Jan 31, 2010

Here are a few questions to help "Life groups" &/or families spend more time reflecting on this Sunday's Bible passage & theme. Adapt them as you like.

Opener: Tonight – one idea would be to pray 1st, allowing up to 30-40 minutes for this opener question. Divide into groups of 3-4 & share "what is one important way this group can pray for you"? What is one prayer need from outside this group you would share? Then spend time in prayer. Don't forget to thank God. Then spend the last 30-40 minutes using the following questions as a basis for discussion:

Dig #1: Do you think the local church should be as diverse as the community in which it is planted? How would you answer this question using Col 3:11 & Gal 3:26-29?

Reflection #1: Have most churches you have been a part of have "radical diversity"? (ie ... do they/we live out Col 3:11 & Gal 3:28?). Does New Hope? If so – why? If not – why not?

- To put this question more directly - who is missing at New Hope? What kinds of people are less likely to be here & why?

Dig #2: Do you see the believer's "vertical" reconciliation with God as empowering his/her "horizontal" reconciliation with others? Use Col 1:20-22 &/or 2 Cor 5:17-21 in your response to explain how this works?

- Can you share a time when God rebuked you for your attitudes toward those different than you in some way? How has the gospel helped you to change?

Dig #3: What do you notice about the diversity of the "apostolic band" (Paul's missionary team) in Col 4:7-18? What do you think about the NT leadership web being so diverse? How could we grow in this way?

Reflection #2: Are you worried that some of the "wrong people" might end up at New Hope? What does God's Word say about this fear?

- How can you grow in your own experience of reconciled relationships with people who are different than you?

Other Questions for personal study or to discuss with a friend:

1. Ask 1 or more of these questions in order to reflect on Sunday's worship service:
 - How did God speak to you or reveal Himself to you in Sunday's service?
 - How did God use you at our worship gathering (to speak through you or use you to touch someone else)?
 - During the worship service was there anyone God seemed to be laying on your heart for whom to pray? Is there anyone God is calling you to write, phone or meet with soon?
2. Examine the 4 main NT passages that deal with "reconciliation". These include: Rom 5:1-11, 2 Cor 5:18-21, Col 1:20-23, & Eph 2:11-22.