



## **Discussion Guide**

**June 17, 2018**

### **Contrast: The Love of Christ Compels Us**

We hope you had a happy Father's Day! Take the time to share memories of a father figure in your life. Share something fun or an embarrassing moment. Share a valuable lesson you learned or some good advice you received.

**Introduction:** Read 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:19 together.

*It seems like there were people in Corinth who questioned Paul's motives and his leadership. In these verses in chapter 5, Paul takes the time to remind his readers why he is doing what he is doing. Paul straight up tells them his motives, his message, and his mission. Paul made it clear that Christ's love was the compelling force in his life and the reason for his ministry of reconciliation.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. The promise of heaven and being in the presence of the Lord was very much on Paul's mind. Paul reminds his readers to live with eternity in mind. Paul indicates that God made us for that very purpose (verse 5). How does the promise of heaven and eternity affect the way you live your life? What are your thoughts about our earthly tent compared to our heavenly dwelling? Are you longing for heaven?
2. Paul mentions we will all appear before the judgement seat of Christ. How does that sound to you? Paul indicated he knows what it means to fear the Lord. That fear motivated him to try to persuade men. What do you think it means to fear the Lord? Fear can be a strong motivator. Talk about the difference of good fear and bad fear?

3. Paul makes it clear that the strongest motivation in his life is Christ's love. How do you define the word compel? What are other things that can compel us or motivate us that might compete with Christ's love? How have you experienced Christ's love?
4. The message matters! Talk about the importance of the message Paul describes in verses 14 & 15. How can this message help us with how we view ourselves and how we should live?
5. Talk about what Paul is suggesting about how we look at others in verse 16. What would it look like to see people the way that Jesus saw people?
6. Talk about how being in Christ changes lives? How has he changed you? Do you know someone who has made a dramatic change?
7. Paul was committed to the message and ministry of reconciliation. What does the word reconciliation mean? Who is to be reconciled to whom?

**Moving Forward:**

*Christ's love compelled Paul to a ministry of bringing people back into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Make a list of people you can pray for to share the Good News of Christ's love. Look for opportunities to plant a seed of Christ's love in someone on your list. Let the Spirit guide and lead you. "Live by faith and not by sight." (5:7)*