

BIG IDEA

The cross focuses God's goodness over the blur of pride and fear.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Reflect on the well-known expression "They can't see the forest for the trees." Have you ever been guilty of this? What happened?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What is the focus or big idea of this passage? Support your answer.

Based on this passage, what is your understanding of the word "reconcile"?

How is this passage good news for you, specifically?

How is this passage good news for people who are different than you?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

What emotions does **Ephesians 2:11-22** stir in you?

Is it easy for you to develop meaningful relationships with people who are different than you? Why or why not?

Is there a person (or group of people) you would be surprised to see in heaven? Does your heart toward this person (or group of people) reflect God's heart?

Read Galatians 3:26-29. How do you make sense of this passage?

What do you think causes people to "label" themselves and others?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. How did Jesus model the ministry of reconciliation for us?

What "walls of hostility" are still in your heart? What are some ways you could address these areas?

Where have fear and pride kept you from reconciling broken relationships?

Have you been counting sins against the people God has placed in your life? Based on this passage, what is God asking you to do in these relationships?

