



Part 2 - December 14, 2025

Introduction

During the Christmas season, it's easy to focus on beliefs we affirm rather than the way of life Jesus invites us to live. This week's message reminded us that Jesus didn't just come to reconcile us to God — He came to show us the way back to one another. Tonight's conversation draws directly from the themes and questions raised in the message and invites us to reflect honestly on reconciliation.

Discussion Questions

1. **Icebreaker — Needing a Way Out**

Rich opened with a story about being in total darkness in a cave and needing someone who knew the one way out. Have you ever been in a situation (relationally, emotionally, or spiritually) where you didn't need more options — you needed clarity and a way forward?

2. **Believing vs. Living**

Growing up, was Christianity presented to you primarily as something to believe or a way to live? How has that shaped the way you think about following Jesus today?

3. **Peace Without Reconciliation**

Why do you think we often want peace in our relationships without doing the hard work of reconciliation? What fears or assumptions usually hold us back?

4. **Scripture — Read John 14:6**

Before discussing, read John 14:6 together out loud.

Jesus says, "I am the way." How does hearing Jesus' own words challenge the idea that Christianity is just a box of beliefs? What does it look like to follow a person rather than just agree with ideas?

5. **Scripture — Read Matthew 5:23-24**

Read Matthew 5:23-24 together.

Jesus tells us to pause even worship in order to pursue reconciliation. What does this reveal about God's priorities? Why do you think reconciliation matters so much to Him?

6. **Scripture — Read Luke 19:1-10**

Read the full Zacchaeus story together, paying special attention to verse 8.

Zacchaeus goes far beyond what was required to make things right. What does his response show us about genuine repentance and reconciliation?

7. **Personal Application — The First Step**

Is there one relationship in your life that feels unresolved or strained? What might it look like to take a small, Jesus-centered first step toward reconciliation this week?

Ending the Night

Reconciliation is not always easy, quick, or fully resolved — but it is always part of Jesus' way of life. As people who have been reconciled to God, we're invited to become reconcilers with others. This season, consider what it would look like to choose Jesus' way instead of the way that merely feels right.



CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus. Give us humility to see our own part, courage to take the first step, and grace to forgive as we have been forgiven. Help us walk in the way of life You've shown us. Amen.