MADE NEW

CENTRAL TRUTH

This week's passage teaches us about reconciliation—those who were once far off, or at odds, being brought together. We were once far off, but Jesus saved us and reconciled us back to God. **We are new creations who are reconciled to God and empowered to help others know Him.**

KEY QUESTION

What is our new identity in Christ? How did God accomplish this?

Verse 17 is the key verse in this whole passage. Followers of Jesus are new creations. Our old, sinful life has passed away and we have a brand-new life. If you are a Christian, God didn't put a Band-Aid on your sin. He completely got rid of it. You are a brand-new creation! All of our sins have been forgiven and are completely washed away. We have new life and a fresh start.

KEEP IN MIND

- It's tempting to find our identity in a variety of things, and the same is true for students. This may be sports, academics, relationships, or even other people's perception of us. However, in Christ, we have a new identity. We are new creations who are called to represent Christ to others. We need to remind students of this life-changing truth!
- For many students—and even adults—sharing the good news is difficult and nerve-wrecking. Using the **Culture Note** to help you, teach students how to share the good news of Jesus simply with those around them.

APPLICATION

- **What are some ways we can be ambassadors for Christ to those around us? (How does this passage change the way we treat those around us?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Our old selves have passed away. In Christ, we are new creations and God's Spirit empowers us to share the hope of the gospel with those around us.

FOR THE LEADER: Every time your small group meets, you have the opportunity to remind students that the most important thing about them is the new identity God has given them. Pray that they would embrace their identity in Christ and live it out.

7 ARROWS

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?