

# How Do I... Week 4

## Discussion Guide



### Icebreaker

What's a "simple" decision that is actually really hard to live out? (diet, budgeting, habits, etc.)

### Read

Take turns reading 2 Corinthians 5:1-21.

### Discuss

Following Jesus reorients how we measure what really matters. We naturally build our lives around what we can see (schedules, responsibilities, goals, and pressures). But Paul invites us to zoom out and see life through an eternal lens. If life is temporary, then our definitions of success, security, and purpose need to shift. The question moves from "What do I want?" to "What will matter forever?" Living with that perspective doesn't remove the weight of everyday life but it does change how we carry it.

- **What stands out to you about the tent vs. house comparison?**
- **In what areas of your life are you most tempted to prioritize the temporary over the eternal?**
- **Verse 7 says we "live by believing and not by seeing." What does that actually look like in everyday life?**
- **How does thinking about standing before Christ (v. 10) challenge or motivate you?**

We often build our identity on our past, performance, or others' opinions and it's exhausting to maintain. Paul describes something different: a new identity that's received, not earned. The question shifts from "How do I improve myself?" to "Will I let go of who I've been and allow the Holy Spirit to change me from the inside out and become a whole new creation?"

- **What do you think it means that "Christ's love controls us"? How is that different from guilt or obligation?**
- **How much do you feel your past still defines you today?**
- **When you hear the idea of becoming a "new person," what do you feel? Hope, skepticism, curiosity, resistance? Why?**
- **How does your identity in Christ affect how you handle failure, sin, or setbacks?**

Following Jesus gives our lives direction beyond ourselves. We all want our lives to matter, but purpose isn't something we create, it's something we're invited into. If we've received grace, we're entrusted with it. Our everyday lives, our conversations, relationships, and choices, become part of something bigger than us. We now ask the question: "Who might be impacted by how I live?"

- **What stands out to you about the word "ambassador"? What responsibilities come with that?**
- **Who are the people God has placed in your life that you could help "reconcile" to Him?**
- **What makes sharing your faith feel difficult or uncomfortable?**
- **What does it look like to represent Christ well in your everyday environments (work, home, friendships)?**
- **If someone only watched your life, what would they learn about God?**

### Application

Truth becomes transformation when we act on it.

- **What is one step of obedience you can take this week in response to what God is showing you?**
- **Identify one area of your life where you've been focused on the temporary instead of the eternal, and make one intentional shift this week.**
- **Ask yourself what part of your old life you may still be holding onto, and take a concrete step toward letting it go.**
- **Think of one person in your life you can intentionally care for or encourage this week, and take a simple step toward them.**

### Prayer

Spend time in prayer asking God to help us shift our focus from temporary to eternal and to boldly step into our purpose as Christ's ambassadors.