

### **Hope Chapel Series: “Practice Christmas Like Jesus” part 3**

**Message Summary:** One of the most important qualities for experiencing fulfilling relationships, is the ability to reconcile. Ainsley and I have been married for over 39 years and as important as forgiving one another is, learning to reconcile is even more important. Forgiveness is essential in marriage. (Two broken, imperfect people living together will require the practice of forgiveness.) BUT... it can't stop there. Forgiveness has to lead to reconciliation. Let's define it so this will make more sense. Definition of Reconcile: “to restore to friendship or harmony.” To Practice Christmas like Jesus is understanding that Christmas is reconciling. Jesus came to restore the relationship that was lost between humanity and God.

## **Practice “Reconciling” this Christmas**

- 1. The mission of Jesus was to reconcile**  
Matthew 1:20-21
- 2. The mission to reconcile requires forgiveness**  
Colossians 2:13
- 3. Forgiveness requires a sacrifice**  
Colossians 1:22
- 4. Reconciliation requires cooperation**  
2 Corinthians 5:19-20
- 5. We have been commissioned with the mission to invite**  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – *All LifeGroups are on Holiday Break / Starting up again January 24<sup>th</sup>***

**Begin It (5min)** – Open Prayer & Praise

**Open it (10min)** – When have you seen someone change in a significant way?

**Explore It (60min) - Discussion Questions:**

1. Why was it necessary for Christ to die in order for us to be reconciled to God?
2. How did God make His reconciliation with you?
3. What difference does it make that Christians are counted as Christ's ambassadors?

**Apply It (15min):** What is one way you can represent Christ to your friends and coworkers this coming year of 2022?