



# IMMANUEL CHURCH

**Discussion Guide:** The Crux of Us  
**February 11, 2018**

## Opening Questions:

- What is the craziest thing you've ever tried to use duct tape for? How effective was it? What did you learn about repairing things through that experience?
- Why do you think it's so hard for people to repair broken relationships? Do we have misguided expectations? Are we using the wrong adhesive? Is it us? Them?
- Why do you think God cares so much about radical relational reconciliation? Why does he seem to care so much about how we get along with each other? Isn't the main thing about getting along with Him?

## Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Philemon 1-10...** Paul refers to Philemon as a co-worker. Why should co-workers share similar values, attitudes and actions? What would happen if they didn't?
- What do our actions say about what we truly value? Is it actually possible to fake having a certain value? With this in mind, what does it mean to *share our faith*? Paul seems to be talking about a principle that's more broad than evangelism or financial generosity; what's he talking about?
- What should compel us to live out our value system? While Paul could have made his request contractually, he instead chooses to do so compassionately. What does that say about the "why" behind our own radical relational reconciliation?
- Read **Philemon 17-20...** Paul is so bent on seeing Philemon and Onesimus reconciled that he's willing to take on any debt Onesimus owes Philemon. What does Paul's willingness to do this say about his values? What does it look like for us to practice our own faith the way Paul did?
- When you consider Jesus's actions on the cross and then his subsequent resurrection, what seems to be at the heart of it? What does this mean about the heart of Christianity?

## Application Questions:

- This week's bottom line was **CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RADICAL RELATIONAL RECONCILIATION**. What do you think "being about" this means for our everyday lives and communities?
- How do you plan to practice this value this week? What relationships may need some reconciliation? How can you encourage others who might have had a falling out come back together? While it may not look exactly like Paul's plan, how can you support another relationship coming back together? How can you be the duct tape?

*Pray for the relationships you know that have had a falling out. What friendships need prayer? What marriages need prayer? Ask God to do what only He can do in those relationships but also to guide you in how to navigate your own role and how you might help.*