

Connect Group Discussion Guide

- 1. In this week's sermon, we looked at the feast of atonement, which is a celebration of reconciliation. What does reconciliation mean to you?
- 2. In the historical context, the Day of Atonement was the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and it involved confession, sacrifices, fasting and scapegoats. It was not about the past, like many of the feasts, it was about today (the present). What are some things that people need to be reconciled in their present?
- 3. Two truths are communicated in the Day of Atonement rituals:
 a) the very real gap between God and humanity (God is holy and humanity is sinful- He is infinite, humanity is finite) and b) it was a foreshadowing of the reconciliation to come (where humanity was reconciled to God). What do you think it means to be reconciled with God? Read the Hebrew verses.
- 4. The term "scapegoat" is listed in item #2 above. This term meant that the sins of the people were symbolically placed on the head of the goat and the goat was cast out of the city to symbolize the need for separation from sin. This was a foreshadowing of Jesus' taking our place on the cross or our sins. What does that say to you about Jesus' love towards you?
- 5. Jesus is the bridge over the gap between God and humanity. What could only provide outward symbolism Jesus made change possible in our hearts and minds! How has knowing God—through what Jesus has done for us—made a difference in your life?
- 6. Because we have been reconciled with God through Jesus, He invites us not to just visit the Holy of Holies once a year, but to live in the holy place every single day! What does this look like for you?

Series: Feast! "Celebration of Reconciliation"

Week of April 3, 2022

Main Idea

Because we have been reconciled with God through Jesus, He invites us not to just visit the Holy of Holies once a year, but to live in the holy place every single day!

Key Scripture Reference(s)

Read aloud: Colossians 2:6-7 Hebrews 4:16; 9:9,14,22; 10:3,19-20,22-25 Romans 8:35, 37 John 13:35

Your Faith in Action

What steps will you take this week to **show** others what you believe (in words, and in deeds)?

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This is a constant element, so you can practically live out your faith everyday.