

Values Bible Study: Build

Start with a time of prayer and worship.

Icebreaker: Tell each other how you came to know Jesus and the difference it makes in your life in 1 minute max. Time each other so you don't go over time and then try it in 30s.

Our **Build** value states: *Our vision is to see God's kingdom built locally, nationally and globally so that people come to know Jesus. Our aim: to train, equip, send and resource.*

- Why is this value important for St James?
- Why is this value important for you?

What might our **Build** value look like practically? (Suggestions could be: invite one friend to an event, offering our gifts to build the kingdom, welcoming newcomers to church).

Read and reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. Use any of the following questions to help you as a group to get to grips with what this passage means for your group today:

- What are your initial reactions to this passage?
 - Is there anything you don't understand?
 - What verse or verses jump out at you?
- What does this passage tell us about:
 - God?
 - Humanity/us?
- What do you find the hardest thing about the passage?
- 5:11-15 - What does Paul say is the natural response to 'knowing the fear of the Lord'?
 - Why should this be our response?
 - Why do we sometimes (or lots of times!!) fail to respond as Paul reckons we should?
 - What are the barriers to us sharing God's love and how can we overcome them?
- 5:17 – What is different about you now that you know Jesus?
 - Do your work colleagues/family/friends see the difference?
 - What one thing do you think God is changing in you at the moment?
- 5:20 – What does it mean that we are 'ambassadors for Christ'?
- 5:18-19 – What is 'the ministry of reconciliation' Paul talks about?
 - How does it relate to what Jesus has done and is doing?
 - How would we explain it to non-Christian friends?

What could you practically do to change at work, with friends and family, and in church off the back of this passage?

What one thing do you need God to help you to change about how you reach out to those who don't yet know Jesus?

How can you keep each other accountable for these things when you next meet?

Share prayer requests and pray to finish.