

THE BRIDGE
"The Assignment"
Pastor Michael Lee
July 13, 2008
2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (ESV)

GOD RECONCILED ME TO HIMSELF

Reconcile = to replace hostility and separation with peace and friendship.

1. God did not hold my sins **against me** (v. 19)
2. God punished Jesus for my sins instead of punishing me so that I could be declared **innocent** (v. 21)

WHAT I AM TO DO IN RESPONSE

1. Live as one who has **peace and friendship** with God (v. 20)
2. Actively participate in the **ministry of reconciliation** (vv. 18-20)
 - ❖ As an ambassador for Christ, I am to bridge the unchurched to Jesus Christ by sharing the message of reconciliation (aka, the gospel)

CENTRAL TRUTH:

Because God has reconciled me to himself, I am to live as one who has peace and friendship with God and actively participate in the ministry of reconciliation.

**A Ministry Of Reconciliation Strategy of YNEM:
LIVE CONCERTS 2008 (Aug. 3, 10, 17)**

What is Live Concerts?

Live Concerts 2008 is a bridge event designed to connect the unchurched to Jesus Christ. It consists of three separate concerts on August 3, 10, 17, each featuring a different genre of music ranging from hop-hop to jazz. It is a collaborative effort of multiple ministries at YNEM.

Why are we doing this?

We are hosting *Live Concerts* because YNEM is a missional community that seeks to connect the unchurched to God through an experience of the gospel.

What are we hoping to achieve?

Our goal is for every unchurched person to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and to have a positive experience with believers and church. We also want the unchurched to explore Jesus Christ in the context of YNEM community (e.g., Sunday service, Alpha, Starting Point, mid-size groups, etc) and for them to know specific next steps they can take to either find out more about Jesus Christ or get connected to YNEM.

For YNEM, our goal is to experience being the missional community that God has called us to be. We also aim to cultivate a heart for the unchurched as well as to create a culture that welcomes the unchurched.

How can I help?

You can help in four essential ways: **Pray. Prepare. Volunteer. Invite.**

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the most creative or most controversial evangelism event that you have ever participated in or have heard of?
2. What does it mean to be reconciled to God? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 5:1-11; review notes)
3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:19, 21, what did God do to reconcile believers to himself? See also Romans 5:1-11.
4. Have you ever felt like God is wrathful or hostile towards you, or wanting separation from you even though you have been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ? If so, then when have you felt that way?
5. How can 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 and Romans 5:1-11 comfort you when you feel "unreconciled" to God?

In response to having been reconciled to God, God calls believers to live as ones who have peace and friendship with God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Another response to having been reconciled to God is to actively participate in the ministry of reconciliation.

6. YNEM's mission statement states: *To be a missional community that connects people to God and to one another, serves in ministry, and extends God's kingdom.* What connections do you see between being a missional community and actively participating in the ministry of reconciliation.
7. What are your thoughts about YNEM using *Live Concerts* as a "ministry of reconciliation" strategy to connect the unchurched to Jesus Christ?
8. Discuss all the ways that your LifeGroup can participate in the ministry of reconciliation via *Live Concerts*.