



day of
reconciliation

16 DECEMBER 2021

day of reconciliation

Why do we remember this day?

The Day of Reconciliation that we celebrate in South Africa is a specific reminder and encouragement to us to be proactive in reconciling with our fellow South Africans. As Christ followers in South Africa, it is a specific reminder to prioritize restoring broken relationships with each other. It is also important to remember that we cannot control/ force/ guarantee that reconciliation will happen.

Reconciliation or restoration of relationship with another human being is something that only God can do. Our job is to be willing to participate in what God wants to do, humble enough to receive it and grateful enough to celebrate it.

As Christ-followers, what can we do on this day?

Light a candle and allow a minute of silence to remember and honour all South Africans who lost their lives unjustly over the past 350 years – fighting for freedom, justice and equality.

Around the dinner table, consider having family members read these statements and have a moment of remembrance followed by a prayer for South Africa.

- We remember and honour the thousands of indigenous African people who lived and thrived in this land before being forced to leave
- We remember and honour all those who were enslaved and brought to the Cape from other countries by force
- We remember and honour every human being who was killed by someone who believed they were doing God's will
- We remember and honour every human being who suffered unjustly because of the inhumane and cruel system of Apartheid
- We remember and honour every human being who died believing in a future they never got to experience Meditate on this scripture where Paul lists virtues that apply that to inter-ethnic relationships: Colossians 3:11-14, "Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

How can you put these verses into action today?