

GOD OFFERS A NEW PURPOSE AS AMBASSADORS WHEN WE ARE REBELS

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS A NEW PURPOSE AS AMBASSADORS WHEN WE ARE REBELS

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:17-24; 6:10-20; Colossians 1:1-23; 3:5-8, 12-17

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us, we implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

BIG IDEAS

- In our sin we choose to live for self.
- Through Jesus we are given a new purpose to be ambassadors.
- Ambassadors represent someone else.
- Ambassadors have a message to proclaim.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 14:8-17

Paul and Barnabas fled to Lystra to escape being stoned because they were preaching the gospel. While they were in Lystra, Paul healed a lame man and the people wanted to sacrifice offerings to Paul and Barnabas. Paul didn't allow them to make offerings to him because he proclaimed the true God. Those who are saved by Jesus are then His ambassadors or messengers.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God offers us a new relationship with Him through Jesus



Every child should:

- Remember the sacrifice of Jesus that makes it possible to have a new relationship with God



Every child should feel:

- Valued by God because of the new relationship He offers



Every child should want:

- To be a part of God's family as one of His holy, chosen people

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SAVED TO PROCLAIM

Play a game of freeze tag with your children. When a person is “frozen”, he or she receives a new purpose to chase others and tag them. When we follow Christ, we receive a new purpose to proclaim His good news.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Acts 14:8-17.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

Paul and Barnabas were followers of Jesus. They were faithful to share the good news about Jesus with others. They shared how He came to earth to save us from our sin and anyone who turned from his sin and believed in Jesus could be saved. When Paul and Barnabas were in Lystra, they met a man who had never been able to walk. He had been lame since he was born. Paul could tell the man believed he could be healed, so Paul healed the man. The man got up and began walking for the very first time. The people in Lystra saw this great miracle, but they believed that Paul and Barnabas were gods themselves instead of believing in the one true God. They wanted to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas told the people they were not gods. They shared with them the truth about the real God and how He had provided for them. They were God's ambassadors, sharing His message with the people of Lystra. When we become followers of Christ, we receive a new purpose to share His message with the world. Christ saves us to be His people. He commands His people to share the good news of the gospel with others. We are part of God's ministry here on earth.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Who did Paul and Barnabas meet in Lystra? (They met a lame man.)
- How did Paul and Barnabas help the lame man? (They healed him from being lame.)
- How were Paul and Barnabas God's ambassadors? (They shared the good news about Jesus with the people of Lystra.)



As a family, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:20 by creating a matching game out of the verse. Write each word of the verse on an index card twice. Take turns trying to make matches. When all the matches have been made, put the verse together and say it out loud several times



As a family, create scrolls with pictures that share the good news about Jesus. Use craft sticks and construction paper to create the scrolls. Remind your child that when we become followers of Christ, we are His ambassadors.



Share with your child a time when you have shared the good news of the gospel with someone else. If your child is not a believer, share the good news with him or her.



Spend some time as a family singing praise songs, such as “Go, Tell It On The Mountain”. Pray, thanking God that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins.

Spend some time this week praying as a family and thanking God for including us in His ministry here on earth.