

# AMBASSADORS ARE A NEW CREATION

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR  
SERIES: GOD IS THE KING - I AM HIS AMBASSADOR

## BIG TRUTH: AMBASSADORS ARE A NEW CREATION

Galatians 6:15; 2:20; Romans 6:6; Galatians 4:7; Revelation 3:12; Ephesians 2:19

## BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-17

*“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- The gospel gives us new eyes to see the world.
- The gospel doesn't make bad people better; it makes us new.
- Through the Spirit we carry the reality of new creation everywhere we go.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-17

### KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the One True King.
- An ambassador is someone who is a representative of someone else.
- Jesus followers are set apart to live as ambassadors for God in the world.



### Every student should feel...

- Deep sorrow and compassion for people around them who do not know Jesus.
- Passionate about the gospel that rescued them out of darkness.



### Every student should strive to...

- Learn more about how to live faithfully as an ambassador for Christ.
- Share the gospel with at least one person who does not know Jesus.



### Every student should want...

- To look at the world through a gospel lens.
- To live as a faithful minister of reconciliation.
- To orient their thoughts, actions, and conversations around the gospel that saved them.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

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## BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-17

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### Believers see others from a redeemed perspective.

*“From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.”*

- Prior to saving faith in Christ, our perspective of the world and others is broken. Our sin nature distorts our view of ourselves and the world around us. We see things through the lens of selfishness and rebellion against God, leading us to act in rebellious and selfish ways.
- Once we have saving faith our perspective changes. We are no longer spiritually blind. Instead, we see with a transformed perspective and from a new heart. We view others as fellow image bearers, and we should have a love for God and others that is a result of our understanding of the grace we have received as sinners.

### Believers are new creations in Christ.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”*

- Saving faith in Christ means having our lives transformed from sinful, broken people to new awakened followers of Christ. Our old self no longer has any hold over us. We are set free to live for Christ by obeying God’s Word.
- Because of Christ’s work on the cross, we are no longer separated from God, but instead, we are reconciled to Him through Christ. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, our sin nature loses its power over us. We are awakened to the things of God and we are made spiritually alive.

### Believers no longer live according to their old natures.

*“...Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer... The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

- Once we have saving faith in Christ, we no longer are slaves to our sin nature. Where we once were blindly following the prince of this world, we are set free to follow Christ. Before salvation, the cross and Christ crucified was foolishness to us. After saving faith, we see the truth of our sinfulness and recognize the saving power of Jesus Christ.
- We no longer view the world and others in the same way. We see the world for what it is—our temporary home. We view others as God’s image bearers and those who are believers as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our entire view changes radically when we encounter Christ. We put off our old self and seek to put on the fruit of the Spirit as we strive to be like Christ.

# AMBASSADORS ARE A NEW CREATION

## BIG IDEA #1: THE GOSPEL GIVES US NEW EYES TO SEE THE WORLD.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In 2 Corinthians 5:16, Paul writes of the changed life believers experience when they have saving faith in Jesus. Prior to saving faith, we see through a sinful lens and we follow the ruler of this world, Satan. We are guided by a heart that is broken and sinful and controlled by our sinful desires and we seek to please ourselves, not God. We value what the world values and we judge according to worldly standards. We arrive at these standards because we view our lives as the end of all things instead of pursuing the kingdom of God. Our worldview, or the way we think about and interact with the world, is distorted and misleading.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How have you seen the effects of a sinful worldview in your own life?**

In Matthew 7:1-5, Jesus speaks to the perspective we should have of ourselves and others. We should have a right view of our own sin which will keep us from wrongfully judging others' sins. Often though we have a distorted view of sin and others. We may view our sin as less of an offense than the sin of others. 1 John 4:20 speaks to the sinful ways of our hearts. Prior to knowing Christ, we do have hate in our hearts towards others and can still struggle with this perspective after knowing Christ if we look at the world through the wrong lens.

### [ THIS ]

Saving faith in Christ changes our worldview. We are awakened to the things of the Lord and are no longer following the ruler of this world. We can see the world around us rightly and with a heart that has been made new through Christ. We see the brokenness and sinfulness in the world around us. We even see the sinfulness of mankind, yet we love them as Christ loves them because His Spirit lives inside of us. We value the things of God and not the things of this world. Our standards are different as we seek to please God and live for His glory. We view people as the valuable, significant image-bearers that they are. We see and understand that this life is temporary and view our eternity as our true home.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How is your worldview different from the worldview of your non-Christian friends?**

1 John 2:16 shows us that our eyes see things from a different perspective before we know Christ. Luke 11:34 teaches us that our eyes and the way we view things reveals what is in our hearts. Prior to knowing Christ, we view the world in a sinful, distorted way. We follow our hearts which results in sinful actions and attitudes. We covet, lust, and mistreat others because of our sin. Once we know Christ, we see things differently and our reactions are different.

#### **As you have grown in your relationship with Jesus, how has your view of this life changed?**

Proverbs 4:25 reminds us to keep our eyes focused on Christ and our eternal home. As we grow in our understanding of Christ and our purpose on earth, we will keep our eyes focused on heavenly things and not earthly things. We will fulfill Colossians 3:23-24 as we seek to please God and not man. We will not love the world or the things of the world more than we love God and the pursuit of His glory.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:16: Salvation changes the way we view the world and others.

# AMBASSADORS ARE A NEW CREATION

## BIG IDEA #2: THE GOSPEL DOESN'T MAKE BAD PEOPLE BETTER; IT MAKES US NEW.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 tells us of the supernatural spiritual transformation that occurs at salvation. Before saving faith, we are spiritually dead. We blindly follow our sinful hearts that lead us farther and farther away from God, but after we become believers, we are made new. We do not just become better versions of our old selves; we become new people. The things of God that once seemed foolish or offensive to us now resonate as truth and life in our transformed hearts. We understand who we are because we can understand who God is and grow in our relationship with Him. Our sinful hearts that are blind to God and His truth are replaced with new hearts that seek after Him and understand His truth.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What is the difference between being made better and being made new?**

Titus 3:5-7 teaches us of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit at salvation. We receive God's Spirit when we have saving faith in Christ and it is the work of the Spirit that makes us new. It's important to understand that it is completely the work of God in our hearts that makes us new people. Galatians 2:20 reminds us that it is Christ who lives in us as believers and makes us new. If we could be made better, it would mean there is something inherently good in us instead of us being inherently sinful.

### [ THIS ]

Because salvation does not usher us directly into our eternal home, we are faced with life in this broken and sinful earth. Because we live on earth, we do not yet have our eternal, glorified bodies. We live on earth with new hearts that are set free to serve God inside our old bodies that are broken and sinful. Though our hearts and minds are transformed and renewed, we still do battle against our sin nature while we live on this earth. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that the old has passed away, which means the old way of living has passed. This shows us that we are no longer slaves to our sin natures. Our sin nature doesn't have power over us because Jesus defeated sin on the cross. As we live out our lives on earth, the Holy Spirit empowers us to live for Christ and not for ourselves. We can resist the temptation to sin because of the new heart we have been given and the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **What attitude or behavior has changed in you because of the new life you have in Christ?**

Ephesians 4:22-23 teaches us the importance of putting off our old self, or choosing not to give into its desires and instead, following Christ. Colossians 3:9-10 also shows us that we can put off our old self and live a new life in Christ because of the Holy Spirit living inside of us. Romans 6:6 reminds us that we are indeed changed people when we have saving faith because Christ defeated sin on the cross.

#### **Do you believe that your old self doesn't have power over you? How does your life reflect this?**

Because we are new creations when we have saving faith, we will not live lives that are marked by constant sin. 1 John 3:9 teaches us that those who are in Christ do not practice sinning. This means that we are free from the power of our sin nature and our lives are not marked by sinfulness, but by the renewing of our hearts and minds. Romans 6:17-18 reminds us of the hope we have when we are believers. We are no longer slaves to our sin. We are free in Christ to resist the temptation to sin and we can live lives that please God.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Everyone who has saving faith is a new creation in Christ. They are new people.

# AMBASSADORS ARE A NEW CREATION

## BIG IDEA #3: THROUGH THE SPIRIT WE CARRY THE REALITY OF NEW CREATION EVERYWHERE WE GO.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

In 2 Corinthians 5:16, Paul shows us the way our perspective changes when we become believers. The Holy Spirit inside of us is continually changing us to be more and more like Christ. It transforms us and renews us daily, empowering us to bear the fruit of the Spirit. As our old self falls away, we learn new Spirit-filled and Spirit-led ways of thinking and acting. We think differently about our lives and the world around us. We act differently as we grow more spiritually mature. Even if we become believers at a young age, our lives look different from the world around us because we are being transformed daily.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How can you see the Holy Spirit's work in your own heart through your attitudes and thoughts?**

In Ephesians 4:22-23, Paul writes of the way that the Spirit renews our minds and changes our thoughts. This is the reality of being a new creation. The Holy Spirit daily makes us more and more like Christ. Romans 12:2 reminds us that because we are new creations, we can recognize what is from God and what is not. This changes our attitudes and influences our thoughts.

### [ THIS ]

The reality of being made new is that we look, think, and act differently than the world does, or we once did as unbelievers. We will stand out because we are not enslaved to our sin natures. As we pursue a relationship with God, the way we love one another will reflect the new heart we have. As we grow in our understanding and knowledge of God through His Word, we will not seek revenge like the world does; we will live lives of service towards others. We will sacrifice for one another and seek God's glory in all we do. This is the reality of being a new creation. We will continually stand out from the broken and sinful world around us.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How does the way you treat others reflect that you are indeed a new creation? How does it not?**

Ephesians 4:2 and 5:2 teach us that being a new creation means loving others with humility and patience. When we are new creations, we treat others with respect and we are patient with them. 1 Peter 4:9 teaches us to be hospitable to others and Philippians 2:3 tells us to think of others as more important than ourselves. This will show others we are new creations.

#### **How do you struggle with the temptations of your old sin nature?**

Colossians 3:5 tells us to continually seek to live as if our old natures are truly dead. We should crucify them daily and focus our mind's attention on putting on the fruit of the Spirit because this is how we daily defeat our old natures. Romans 7:15-17 shows us that we will struggle with our old natures, but there is power in the Holy Spirit to overcome the temptation to sin.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:16: *Because we are made new, we see life differently and carry the reality of new creation with us.*