

# AMBASSADORS ARE MINISTERS

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

## BIG TRUTH: AMBASSADORS ARE MINISTERS

2 Corinthians 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 4:1; Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 2 Timothy 1:14

## BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

*“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”*

## BIG IDEAS

- The gospel is God’s plan to redeem and give a new purpose to the lost.
- Every Jesus follower is called to be a minister.
- In grace God entrusts redeemed rebels to be His ministers.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

### 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.



Property of Tri-Cities Baptist Church  
171 Promise Land Dr. Gray, TN 37615

**AMBASSADORS ARE MINISTERS****BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19**

*“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”*

**It is God who reconciles sinners to Himself.**

*“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself...”*

- Salvation is accomplished through the work of God and not by anything that a person does or doesn't do. Because all people are sinners and no one seeks God in their own power, there is nothing that a person can do to reconcile themselves to God. It is only through repentance and faith in Christ that a person can be reconciled to God.
- God alone draws people to Himself and He chooses to do this through the power of His Spirit and the death of His Son on the cross. God uses His Spirit to awaken people to the truth about themselves and gives them an understanding of who Jesus is and that Jesus is the only way to know God.

**God gives believers the ministry of reconciliation.**

*“...and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself not counting their trespasses against them...”*

- God reconciles sinners to Himself and He gives them a new purpose. God removed the barrier of sin between man and Himself through Jesus. When a person repents, or turns away from their sinfulness, and believes that Jesus is the way to be saved, they are no longer separated from God. This is reconciliation. God chooses to use His people as His ministers, or the people who work on His behalf to share the way to be saved with those still separated from God.
- Every believer is a minister of reconciliation on God's behalf. Every saved person has a purpose to glorify God with their lives. We glorify God by living for Him by sharing with others the only way to know God—saving faith in Jesus Christ.

**God entrusts His people with His message for His glory.**

*“...and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”*

- God reconciles us to Himself for His glory. As He gives us new life through His Son, we are made new to live for Him and to fulfill His purposes. Our purpose is to spread the gospel to those who do not know God. God saves us and joins us together as His family that we might tell others about the forgiveness and salvation available to them if they repent and believe.

# AMBASSADORS ARE MINISTERS

## BIG IDEA #1: THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S PLAN TO REDEEM AND GIVE NEW PURPOSE TO THE LOST.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

God is a holy and just God. He is perfect in every way and man is not. Sin separates mankind from God, causing a great chasm between the God of the universe and every person born. Because all people are sinful, there is nothing that people can do to save themselves. Because God is sovereign over all things, it is only through His plan of salvation that a person can be reconciled to Him. God's plan involves payment and the payment required is death. Because no person will ever be without sin, no person can pay the sin debt owed. God's plan for redeeming His people is through the death of His Son, Jesus. Because Jesus willingly became like mankind when He was born as a baby and lived on the earth as a man, He is the perfect sacrifice for our sin. His death and resurrection make forgiveness and new life possible for those who believe. This is the work of God and not because of anything that people do.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some things that stand in our way of understanding and trusting in God's plan of redemption?**

In Psalm 10:4, the psalmist writes of the way pride leads us to reject God. It is pride that keeps us from wanting to humble ourselves and turn away from our sin. Proverbs 8:13 shows us that pride is contrary to the Lord and pits us against God. Confessing we are sinners and have sinned against God is difficult because of the pride in our hearts. We are blind to the things of the Lord until His Spirit illuminates them to us.

### [ THIS ]

The salvation that God offers through Jesus isn't His "plan B". Because God is the Creator of all and Sovereign over all, His plan from before the world began has been to reconcile man through His Son, Jesus. This was not His reaction to man's sin against Him, and God wasn't forced to do this because of man's rebellion. Rather, the gospel is God's way of revealing Himself and His glory to the world, and it has always been part of the story for God to rescue His people and give them new purpose.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How does reconciliation to God give us a new purpose in life?**

Paul writes of the transformation that takes place in a believer's life in Ephesians 4:17-18. When God reconciles us to Himself, we become new creations and receive a new purpose. In 2 Corinthians 5:15, we see that those who are reconciled to God no longer live for themselves, but now live for God because they have a new purpose in life.

**What are some wrong ideas you've had about your purpose?**

In 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Paul shows us that when we think of our salvation, we can only really boast in the work of Jesus Christ. This is because we are saved through the death of Jesus. Because Jesus lived the perfect life we could not, we can have freedom from our sin and we are reconciled to God. Ephesians 3:10-11 help us see that God redeems us for His purposes, for His glory, to make Him known in the world around us.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:19: God provides salvation through Jesus' death on the cross in man's place.

**BIG IDEA #2: EVERY JESUS FOLLOWER IS CALLED TO BE A MINISTER.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

Believers have a responsibility as God's chosen ones. We are chosen to be God's people and His family. We're chosen to minister on His behalf and in His name. To be a minister is to represent and carry out the will of someone above you. Believers have a responsibility as God's chosen ones to carry out His plan for spreading the gospel to the world. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Paul says that God reconciles people to Himself and gives them the ministry of reconciliation. Because God has reconciled us to Himself, we are all His ministers. We all get to work on His behalf to share His truth with those in our lives who do not yet know Him. We can share God's truth, His love, and hope with others because we have experienced it ourselves. Our purpose is to carry out the ministry of reconciliation that God has given us. It is through us that He chooses to make Himself known to the lost and dying world around us.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have you seen others believers ministering on God's behalf?**

Being a minister for God means living our lives for His glory. Galatians 6:10 speaks of taking every opportunity to do good to someone, especially those who are fellow believers. 1 Peter 4:10-11 continues this vein of thought as Peter teaches about our spiritual gifts and using them for the church. Psalm 100:2 shows us that we can minister for God when we serve Him with gladness in every way.

**What can you do to be a minister to people this week?**

2 Timothy 2:15 teaches us to know God's Word and to understand His truth so that we can be His worker. Galatians 5:13 shows us that we should serve one another in love. By doing this, we are God's ministers. Lastly, Mark 10:45 gives us the example of Jesus' service of others to teach us to live a life of service. By doing this, we are God's ministers and we will share His love and truth with others.

**[ THIS ]**

Being God's minister means sharing His truth and His plan for salvation with the lost people in our lives and around the world. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 teaches us that believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We can tell others how to be reconciled to God because we have experienced this reconciliation ourselves. Because we understand that the only way to know God is by repenting and believing Jesus, we can tell others about this truth. It is God's plan and purpose for our lives that we are the ones who share this truth with those who do not yet know God. This also means we live in such a way that we position ourselves to tell others about Jesus and the offer of salvation that is possible for those who believe He is the only Savior.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What does true reconciliation look like?**

2 Corinthians 7:10 speaks of a repentance that leads to salvation and not just regret. When we are truly reconciled to God, we have turned away from our sinfulness as Acts 3:19 speaks of. Romans 2:4 reminds us that God's kindness is involved in our repentance and reconciliation and Acts 11:18 shows us that reconciliation will produce a worship and praise of God.

**What stands in the way of you being a minister of reconciliation for God?**

Romans 12:11 shows us that we should not grow apathetic in our zeal for serving God and fulfilling His purpose for us. Revelations 3:16 warns against becoming lukewarm. This means we can't really live a lukewarm life for God; therefore, we should live our lives as God's ministers of reconciliation.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:18: God makes His people His ministers to share the gospel with the lost people in their lives.

## BIG IDEA #3: IN GRACE GOD ENTRUSTS REDEEMED REBELS TO BE HIS MINISTERS.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Believers serve God for His good pleasure. It is God who redeems people and uses them to work to fulfill what pleases Him. Because He chooses us, we get to serve Him. He reconciles us and places us in a position to serve Him. We are all broken and fallen, yet God allows us to be used by Him to impact the world for eternity. Only because Jesus' death has the power to redeem us can we be reconciled to God and become a part of His family. Only because we are reconciled to God can we even tell others about the grace and mercy of God. We are all rebels because we all rebel against God. It is God's good pleasure and perfect plan that enables us to live for Him and to serve Him by being His minister. He makes us right with Him that we might speak for Him and on His behalf.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **How does your status as a redeemed rebel place you in a position to serve God?**

In 2 Chronicles 30:12, we see that God creates new hearts inside of His people that they might serve Him and do His will. This is true of believers today as well. We are in a position to serve God because of the work He does in our hearts. 1 Corinthians 15:10 shows us that it is not what we do, but what God has done that puts us in a place of service to Him and Ephesians 1:5 reminds us that it is His choosing of us and joining us to Himself that make us His ministers.

### [ THIS ]

God does not choose us to be His ministers because we deserve it or do something to earn it. He also doesn't choose us because He has no other choice or needs us to minister on His behalf. We are not born entitled to serve God. Instead, He sets us apart by His good grace and kindness because it's His plan for us. God gives us the ministry of reconciliation because it is what is best for us. Being His minister is a gift and gives us a greater purpose than any we could choose for ourselves. God is a good and gracious God who chooses rebellious sinners to be His mouthpieces in the world. God gifts us with His message of redemption and commands us to tell others about Him and the salvation He offers. We are created for this purpose and bring Him glory when we seek to fulfill this purpose. Being His minister requires our humility and submission to His plan over our own plan. It is by His grace that we can fulfill this purpose.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### **Because it is grace that enables us to share the gospel, how should we view opportunities to share the truth with others?**

In Acts 13:46, we see Paul and Barnabas proclaiming the gospel boldly. Because we know it is a privilege to share the gospel, we should see opportunities to share as gifts and we should share it boldly. Romans 1:16 reminds us that we should not be ashamed of God's truth, but instead we should share it confidently, knowing that it is the only way to know God.

#### **How can you share the gospel boldly this week?**

Matthew 28:19 tells us to go into all the world making disciples. This means that we will first share the gospel with those who do not know Him. As we seek to fulfill this command, we will seek out opportunities to share the truth with the lost people in our lives.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:18: God chooses to use sinful people for His purposes. He redeems sinners to use them as His instruments of grace and mercy in people's lives.