

AMBASSADORS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

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

BIG TRUTH: AMBASSADORS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Luke 4:43; Acts 8:35; Romans 10:15; Hebrews 4:2, 6; 1 Peter 1:25

BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-21

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

BIG IDEAS

- God's means for taking the gospel to the lost is His people.
- Rescue through the gospel makes us passionate about the gospel.
- Jesus became sin so that we might be made right in God's sight.

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-21

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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BIBLE VERSE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20-21

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Believers are redeemed to be ambassadors for Christ.

"For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

- Redeemed people are ambassadors for God. God sent Jesus to the earth and He took on the sin of the world that we might be reconciled to God. When God looks at a believer, He sees the righteousness of Jesus instead of the sinfulness of man. Believers become the righteousness of God.
- This means we are His mouthpiece in the world. People see His truth and the way His Spirit works in the heart of a person to make them like Christ. By living for God and seeking to share the good news of the gospel with others, we are His ambassadors.

God makes His salvation known through His people.

"...We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God..."

- When God's people experience the gospel, their lives are transformed. This transformation results in their desire to see others know Christ. Because the gospel is so life-transforming, God reveals His salvation to the world through His people.
- His people show others the power of God's salvation through their obedience to Him and by telling others about Him. Part of sharing the gospel with others is by imploring lost people to believe the truth. Just as Paul implored people to be reconciled to God, we, too, should plead with others to believe what is true--- Jesus is the only way to God.

We can be ambassadors who make known because of Jesus.

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us."

- God's redemption plan includes His people. God uses His people as part of His redemption plan. His plan to spread His truth to the world and to reconcile lost people to Himself is through His redeemed children. God doesn't need to use His people to spread the gospel, but He chooses to do so because it is what most glorifies Him and is what is best for His people.
- God's redemption of lost people is for His glory and when we live out the gospel and share it with others, we are bringing glory to His name. Our redemption isn't just for us. We are redeemed for God's purposes and He purposed before the beginning of time that His people would be the vehicle by which the gospel would go into all of the world.

AMBASSADORS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BIG IDEA #1: GOD'S MEANS FOR TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST IS HIS PEOPLE.¹

[THIS]

An ambassador is a representative of someone or something. An ambassador makes others aware of the person or thing that he or she is representing. An ambassador fully believes in what they are representing, and so they leverage, or position their lives so that they can tell others about it. They make sacrifices to make others aware of the cause they representing. God chooses His people as His ambassadors, or representatives. He sets His people apart to bring awareness of the salvation that is offered to them. He chooses the redeemed to tell others about Him and the way that they, too, can be redeemed from their sin. He lavishes His love and kindness on people so they can then tell others about Him.

[THEREFORE]

What are some practical ways that you can represent Christ in your daily life? Who are some people you know who model this well?

In John 15:9, Jesus instructs His followers to love others just as His Father has loved Him and He has loved them. When we follow Jesus' example, we will live as God's ambassadors, showing love to others just as we have received God's love. Ephesians 6:20 gives us the example of Paul, who thought of himself as Christ's ambassador.

[THIS]

Ambassadors do not wait for people to come to them. They go out to people and to places in order to share with others. God created people and redeems them that they might go out to others and tell them of the redemption available to them. This is God's plan for the world and for the gospel. God's purpose is for His people to be the way the gospel goes into the world. He desires for His children to share with others the love, mercy, and grace that they have received and to invite others to believe just as they have. Being God's ambassador means seeking lost people and living intentionally to place yourself in a position to share the good news with others. We have Jesus' example before us and as we seek to follow Him, we will go out to lost people in hopes of sharing the truth with them.

[THEREFORE]

Why should we share the Gospel?

In Romans 10:13-14, Paul reveals the way that God intends the gospel to be shared. Even though creation reveals certain attributes about God, it is not enough for a person to just see; they must hear. It is God's plan for His people to verbally share with lost people. We are the means through which God intends the gospel to go forth. God redeems us for a purpose more than just saving us. He redeems us to be His messengers and to make Him known in the world.

What are you afraid of when you think about being God's ambassador?

Often, we do not share the gospel out of a fear of how people will respond or that we might not know the answers to their questions. 1 Peter 3:15 teaches us that we should be prepared to answer any person and 2 Timothy 2:15 reiterates this idea. We fear not knowing how to begin the conversation or that people will reject us. Fear is from Satan who wants to distract us from the calling to share the Gospel. We may think too highly of ourselves, which leads us to not want to place ourselves in a situation where we may be rejected or thought less of.

1. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21: God saves us to use us for His great purposes. We get to tell others about Jesus and His life-transforming work in our own lives.

AMBASSADORS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BIG IDEA #2: RESCUE THROUGH THE GOSPEL MAKES US PASSIONATE ABOUT THE GOSPEL.²

[THIS]

In 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Paul writes of the way that Jesus rescues sinners. The gospel is the means through which God saves sinners from their sin. God graciously and mercifully saves lost people from an eternity of separation from Him. It is through Jesus that God transforms sinners into saints. Where we were once spiritually dead, God makes us alive. He makes us brand new by giving us new hearts in place of our sinful hearts that enslave us. Prior to a saving faith in Jesus, we are all destined for eternal death. We are hopeless in our sin because we can never save ourselves. We could never do anything to be good enough or to make up for our sin against God. When God sent Jesus, He rescued us from our hopelessness and placed us in right standing with Himself.

[THEREFORE]

What thoughts and/or emotions does the Gospel story elicit in you? Does hearing the Gospel produce joy in you?

In 1 Peter 1:3-5, Peter writes of the joy in their salvation the exiled believers had. When we have joy in our salvation it means we understand what we have been saved from and what we have been saved for and this should result in a passion for the Gospel. Isaiah 61:10 and Psalm 35:9 also speak of rejoicing in our salvation. Rejoicing in our salvation is indicative of a passion for it. When we find joy in something, we will want others to experience it.

[THIS]

Truly understanding just what the Gospel means will create a passion for it inside of us. Our hearts will overflow with praise and we will desire to see others experience this lifesaving truth. Having a passion for the gospel is a result of first experiencing it ourselves and second, living in that truth every day. Reminding ourselves of the Gospel and worshiping God because of it will produce a passion for it. Living life with other believers, encouraging them, and being encouraged by them will also foster a passion for the Gospel in our hearts. Walking in obedience to God's Word will lead us to desire to tell others about the Gospel.

[THEREFORE]

How has someone else's passion for the gospel fueled your own passion for it?

In Acts 2:44-47, we see a picture of what a passion for the gospel can do in the lives of others. Peter preached at Pentecost and many were saved. Those who were saved shared with others who were also saved. Peter's passion for the gospel fueled a passion in others and many came to know Christ. As we see others sharing the gospel and living on mission, we, too, should feel encouraged to do the same.

What types of attitudes or behaviors can squash a passion for the gospel?

Often fear can squash our passion for the gospel, but John 14:27 reminds us that we have peace with God and we do not have to fear anything. 2 Timothy 1:7 also teaches us that when we are following God, we do not have to fear. We can live for Him and share the truth without worrying about or fearing anything. Psalm 32:1-5 teaches us that living in unrepentant sin will kill our passion for the Gospel also.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:20: Because we have experienced the gospel, we should implore others to believe the gospel.

AMBASSADORS SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BIG IDEA #3: JESUS BECAME SIN THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT.³

[THIS]

In order for believers to become God's ambassadors, our sin debt had to be atoned. God provided our atonement through His Son, Jesus. Jesus came to the earth, taking on the form of a human and lived the perfect life that we could not live. He not only lived the perfect life, but He also took on our sinfulness when He was on the cross. When He was on the cross, He bore the full wrath of God that every person deserves to bear. He was our representative on the cross. To say that Jesus took on our sin doesn't mean He wasn't perfect or that He sinned Himself. It means that He stood in our place and God chose to see Him as our sin. He was our substitute and God poured the wrath we deserve on Him.

[THEREFORE]

Why did Jesus need to become sin and how should this impact our daily lives?

In Hebrews 10:14-18, we see that Jesus was God's plan for reconciling sinners to Himself. It was necessary that Jesus live a perfect life as a man in order to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Because He lived a perfect life, we are free to live for Him. 1 Corinthians 6:20 shows us the response we should have to the truth that Jesus became sin on our behalf. We should seek to live holy lives because our freedom from our sin was costly and should not be taken lightly.

[THIS]

Being made right in God's sight is good news to us! It means we no longer owe our sin debt. We do not have to feel the wrath of God, but, instead, we can enjoy fellowship with Him as His son or daughter. We are no longer enslaved or blinded by our sin natures. Instead, we are called friends by Jesus. It's good news because it means new life and eternal life instead of eternal punishment. We can be God's ambassadors because we have experienced His life-changing salvation. We know firsthand what it means to have saving faith in Jesus and we know the joy of having a right relationship with God. Because of this, we should tell others in hopes that they, too, walk from death to life.

[THEREFORE]

Is the Gospel good news to you? How does your life reflect that?

John 3:16 teaches us that it is God's love that provided the sacrifice for our sin and because of His sacrifice, we can have eternal life. This is good news to us because we cannot save ourselves. Without God's help, we are doomed to eternal punishment. We can live as His son or daughter this week by obeying Him and sharing the good news with others. Luke 4:43 gives us the example of God's own Son preaching the good news of God's kingdom. As we seek to live for God, we will be like His Son in telling others about the salvation available to them.

How can you help others see that Jesus is the only way to be made right with God?

In Acts 4:12 we see that salvation is found in only Jesus. In John 3:3 and 1 John 2:23 that only knowing Jesus enables someone to be saved from their sin. Without this knowledge we cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:21: Jesus is the reason we can be saved. Because He became sin and paid our sin debt, we can be reconciled to God.