

Children's Message: Christ's Ambassadors

Materials Needed:

- World map and/or small bag or suitcase
- Optional: small article of clothing from another country/culture
- Picture of a president
- Bible
- 3 MCN missionary pictures (below) – either printed out or projected



Message:

Some people have a job called “ambassador.” Does anyone know what an ambassador does?

An ambassador...

1. Leaves their home country and goes to live in another country. *(Hold up a world map or a small suitcase/bag. If possible, put on a hat / coat / or other article of clothing from another country or culture.)* They stay in this country for many years.
2. An ambassador represents their home country. They tell people in the new country messages from their president or government. *(Hold up a picture of the president / a president)* “The president of the United States wants me to tell you... America says...”
3. Sometimes if the two countries are arguing about something, the ambassador has to try to make peace and help them come to an agreement. One word for making peace after an argument is a word in our Bible reading today: “reconcile.” If two people are arguing and then they come to an agreement, we say they have reconciled. *(Have two kids act this out – gesturing and pretending to argue and then shaking hands or sharing a hug.)* What did they do? “Reconcile!”

Let's read a few verses from the Bible about “reconciliation.” *(open a Bible)* 2 Corinthians 5 says, “God through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation . . . Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.” (vs. 18, 20)

Who does this verse say was fighting against each other? *(God and... us!)* When we think, say, or do things that aren't what God wants and when we don't trust in and love God, that's sin. Sin makes us God's enemies.

What did Jesus do to reconcile us to God – to make peace between us and God? *(He died on the cross and rose again!)*

Because Jesus died and rose for us and we believe in Him, we are friends with God. In fact, we're part of God's Kingdom. But we don't live with God in heaven yet. We're still on this earth – almost like we're living in a foreign country. And what is our job while we're here? It's to be ambassadors!

We aren't ambassadors for the United States. We're ambassadors for Jesus! We get to tell other people what God says (*hold up a Bible*), how much He loves us, and how He wants all people to turn away from their sins and be reconciled to Him.

You, me, and all Christians have this job of being ambassadors and telling other people about Jesus. Some Christians are called to be missionaries who go to another country or culture to be ambassadors for Jesus.

In Taiwan – a little island in Asia – most children don't have Christian parents, friends, or neighbors who can tell them about God's love. But at Concordia Middle School, they get to hear about Jesus for the first time from missionary Sarah and her coworkers. (*show picture*)

In Costa Rica – a country in Central America – many high schoolers struggle with feeling lost and hopeless. Some of them are afraid that God is angry at them and could never forgive them. Missionaries Zach and Ruth and their team (*show picture*) get to be ambassadors sharing God's love and grace with students at Parrita High School.

In California, many of Linda's family, friends, and neighbors are from a country called India and they believe in the Hindu religion. Hindus believe in many gods. They believe that bad things in their lives are punishments for what they've done. Linda and her friends get to be ambassadors for Jesus telling these Hindu friends that Jesus took the punishment for their sins so they can be forgiven and free!

You can be an ambassador for Jesus every day by telling other people about God's love for them and what Jesus did for all of us. You can also pray for missionaries around the world as they represent Jesus in another country. Pray that God would speak through them so more people can be reconciled to God and come into His Kingdom with us!

Let's Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you for taking away our sin and making us your friends through Jesus's death and resurrection. Help us to be ambassadors for Jesus this week, telling others the Good News about your love and salvation. Help missionaries to share this Good News in each country where you have put them and open people's hearts to believe and be reconciled to you, too. Amen



Sarah in
Taiwan



Zach and
Ruth in
Costa Rica



Linda in
California