

Christ's Ambassadors
Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21



Opening Discussion:

Being part of a group can be great! You have people around you who know you, look out for you, and do things with you. They may have connections or resources they share with you. Other times being in a group gets you into trouble because of other people's actions or means you get sick from someone else.

Discuss: Think about a time when you have been a part of a group. What's something positive that happened because you were a part of that group? Can you think of something negative happening because you were part of a group?

Bible Lesson:

Read together 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. *What are some of the benefits of being "in Christ" that these verses describe?*

Being a part of God's family gives us some pretty awesome benefits! Because Jesus died and rose again for us, we have salvation, something we never would have been able to achieve by ourselves. God grants us forgiveness for our sins and will take us to be with Him in heaven. All of those things are unattainable by ourselves. God makes us His friends and family (where once we were His enemies). He covers our sinfulness with Christ's holiness, making us a new creation in Him! Isn't that pretty amazing?

But it doesn't stop there. When Christ redeemed us, he also reconciled us to God. *What does it mean to be reconciled?*

Reconciliation, by its definition, means the restoration of friendly relations. To reconcile is to take two opposing forces (that were at one point friendly but became enemies) and return them to friendship. *Can you think of examples of reconciliation from your own life or from history or culture?*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 talks about Christ reconciling himself with us, and the world. If you think back to the garden of Eden before sin, you can see people in a perfect relationship with God. Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the garden, trusting and loving Him completely. Sin made us enemies of God, the opposite of what he wanted. God sent His Son to reconcile the world to him, through his death on the cross

by taking on the debt of our sin that made us enemies of God. **Read Romans 5:6-10** for more about how Jesus reconciled us to God.

God not only gives us reconciliation with Himself, he also entrusts us with the message of reconciliation for the world! How do you feel about that? Does it feel a little heavy? There are something like 8.1 billion people in the world!

When it comes to sharing the Gospel, however, God has done and continues to do the hard part. He provides salvation and reconciliation. He brings people to faith. He even gives us words to say! (Mt 10:19) All that's left for us is the easy work, the part even a child can do – to get to know people and to speak about what Jesus has done for us.

Look back at 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. *What words or phrases in these verses talk about what God is doing?*

- He makes us new creations
- He reconciled us to Himself
- He gave us this ministry
- He is reconciling the world
- He is forgiving peoples' trespasses
- He makes His appeal through us
- He makes us righteous

God is always the one acting in, through, and around us to bring about reconciliation!

Missions Connection:

Mission of Christ Network (MCN) is focused on Intentional Gospel Proclamation, meaning telling people all about the salvation Christ has given us. Just like in our Bible reading, MCN's missionaries (called mission partners) are ambassadors for Christ, imploring others around the world to come to know Jesus. MCN has 50 Mission Partners in 22 countries actively telling others about Christ and the reconciliation he offers. Mission Partners are able to share the Gospel through many different jobs, such as teaching in classrooms, running a guest house, working in a pregnancy clinic, and hosting community events. No matter the job description, all MCN mission partners focus on living in relationship with those around them and sharing the Gospel.

Watch this video to hear from [Sarah in Taiwan](#) about ways she can use her relationship with her students to share the Gospel.

What did you think of Sarah's story? Who was an ambassador for Christ in her story?

Both Sarah and her students were ambassadors for Christ in this video. Just like Sarah and her students, God asks us to be ambassadors for him wherever we are.

What are some ways you can be an ambassador for Christ this week? Are there ways your Bible study group could be ambassadors for Christ together?

Close in Prayer:

(Praise God for His work to reconcile us to Himself and His willingness to use us to share this message. Pray for all of you as you are ambassadors for Christ to those around you this week. Pray for missionaries sharing the Gospel in foreign countries. Pray for people you know who don't yet know Jesus.)

Other Resources:

As you think of ways to share the reconciliation and salvation of God with others, here are a few ideas and resources:

- Pray for those who don't know yet Jesus and for those witnessing to them.
 - Use a [monthly prayer calendar](#) for MCN missionaries who are sharing the Gospel around the world.
 - Use [5-day prayer guides](#) for locations where MCN Mission Partners serve. (More locations available [here](#). Just search "prayer guide.") Consider committing a week to pray for a specific location.
 - Listen and pray with a multilingual [Lord's Prayer Video](#).
- Learn more about cross-cultural Gospel proclamation.
 - [Host a Missionary](#).
 - Learn more about where [MCN Mission Partners serve](#).
 - Connect with a missionary over a zoom call or in person visit. (Need a connection? Email: churchpartners@missionofchrist.org)
- Engage in relationships
 - Invite a friend to church or a youth activity.
 - Share a Bible verse with a friend.
 - Talk to someone at school who looks lonely.
 - Ask a friend or neighbor how you can pray for them. If they're open, pray with them right there!
 - Read *Joining Jesus on His Mission* by Greg Finke for some simple, practical encouragement in sharing the Gospel day by day.