

WEEK 3

GOD RESTORES PEOPLE

WE ARE COMMISSIONED

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

KEY IDEAS

1. We have been reconciled to God.
2. We are ambassadors for God's Kingdom.
3. We share the gospel so others can be reconciled to God, too.

KEY PASSAGE

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that we are reconciled to God, forgiven of our sin, because of Jesus and this makes us ambassadors for God's kingdom.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

motivated to worship God in all things because He has forgiven and reconciled us back to Him when we least deserved it.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

explain how God reconciles us and what it means to be an ambassador.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

want to share the gospel with others so they can be reconciled to God, too.

INTRODUCTION

Before we choose to follow Jesus, we are separated from God by our sin. When we accept Jesus's payment for us on the cross, believing He died and rose again on our behalf, and placing our faith in Him, we are reconciled back to God for all eternity. As Christians who are reconciled, we are given the privilege of being ambassadors of God. An ambassador is someone who represents their nation or king in a foreign land. The ambassador represents their king in everything they say and do! The Apostle Paul described our new mission as Christians the same way. We are ambassadors for Christ because we represent the kingdom of God here on earth carrying the message of the gospel with us to share with everyone we meet. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit in us to carry our King's message to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8) so that all people may be saved from sin and reconciled to God! (Rom. 10:14-15)

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by showing the kids an image of the American flag. Ask, "What does it mean to be an American citizen?" Allow time for answers and explain that being an American citizen means that we are entitled to enjoy all the rights and privileges of being American. Examples: freedom of speech and belief, ability to earn an education and choose a job in any career you want, freedom to buy and sell property, and the right to not be punished for a crime you are accused of until there is evidence to prove you are guilty. Say, "But did you know that if you have trusted in Jesus for salvation, you are a citizen of another country, too? It's actually a Kingdom.... God's Kingdom! As Christians, we have all the rights and privileges of the Kingdom of God. These include the right to become a child of God (John 1:12), ability to approach God in prayer (Heb. 4:16), be freed from sin (John 8:36), and have peace in your heart (Isaiah 26:3). And so much more! But what about the people outside God's Kingdom? They need to know they can become citizens, too. That is exactly why God has given us the role of ambassadors...so we can carry His message of hope and salvation to others."

KEY IDEAS

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- We have been reconciled.
 - Why do we need to be reconciled? Apart from the saving work of Jesus on the cross, we are lost in sin, separated from God, and destined to spend eternity apart from Him in a place called hell where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt. 13:42, 50, 25:30, 24:51) Because we cannot be in God's presence without our sins being paid.
 - How are we reconciled? Because Jesus took our punishment upon Himself on the cross, we have the opportunity to believe in Him, trust in Him for salvation, and be forgiven or reconciled to God for all eternity. In order to be saved, you must believe that Jesus is God's son and that He came to pay for your sin and take your place and that He rose again, defeating sin and the grave forever. By placing your faith in Him and surrendering your own sinful desires for His righteous desires, you can be saved. (Rom. 10:9-13)
- We are ambassadors for God's Kingdom.
 - What is an ambassador? Someone who represents their nation or King in a foreign land.
 - How are we God's ambassadors? We are God's ambassadors when we have placed our faith in Him because He has given us the message and hope of the gospel to share with everyone we meet. We live to represent Him and His Kingdom knowing this earth is not our home. (John 14:3)
- We share the gospel so others can be reconciled to God, too.
 - Why should we share the gospel? God desires for all to know Him and have a relationship with Him because apart from Him there is nothing good. He is the standard of all that is good. We should share because those who don't know Him personally are lost and dying in their sin. (2 Peter 3:9)
 - How do we share the gospel? The best way to tell others about Jesus is by telling them what He's done for you. People must know they are sinners in need of a Savior and that Jesus is the One who saves. It's the Holy Spirit who convicts hearts and leads people to repentance. All we have to do is share truth and pray.

Activity

In the following activity, you will demonstrate the work of an ambassador to take the message of the gospel to those who do not know. Explain to the class that they have been commissioned as God's ambassadors and their job is to represent Him and take His message of the gospel to those who do not know. Tell them you will pretend to be someone who does not know or believe in Jesus. Explain that they will work together to tell you the gospel and what Jesus means to them personally and why you should believe in Him for salvation. Bonus points if they use memory verses to help with their message.

Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus to reconcile us back to Him so that we might be saved from our sin and have fellowship with Him. Thank Him also for giving us the privilege of sharing His truth with the world. Ask God to help you be a brave ambassador to eagerly share His gospel with those who don't believe.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse 1 Thessalonians 2:4.

Read Romans 10:14-17. The bible says, “beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” God is delighted by our faithful obedience to share the gospel with others as Jesus commanded in Matthew 18:19-20. He told his disciples to go and share the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth. This applies to us, too, if we are followers of Jesus.

Spend time as a family considering and discussing the mission statement of Risen Life Fellowship: Risen Life exists to train, equip, and encourage the entire family to become practical missionaries of Jesus Christ both locally and globally.

Make a list of names (as a family) of people in your life who need to hear about Jesus. Together, commit to pray for these people and seek out opportunities to share with them how much Jesus has changed your life. Let them know He loves them, too. Use the discussion questions below for further discussion.

DISCUSSION

- What is a practical missionary? Being a practical missionary means first thinking about sharing the gospel on a regular basis, looking for opportunities all around you....at the grocery store, in line at Target, at your kids baseball game, etc. It also means initiating conversations about Jesus on a regular basis with those around you and inviting them into your life, not just to your church. Our testimonies, no matter how big or small in our eyes, are powerful instruments for sharing the gospel. When we tell others how Jesus has changed our lives, they can begin to see that Christianity is not about a set of rules to follow but instead a life transformed and a heart changed.
- How are you being a practical missionary where you live, work, and play?
- Who do you need to share the gospel with today?

PRAYER

Thank God that He has given us a purpose in Him and a life full of meaning. Ask God to help you be a faithful ambassador for His kingdom and to give you eyes to see opportunities all around you to share His love with a lost and dying world.