Date | May 15, 2022 Family Theme | Representatives of Christ Study Text | 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Objective: Family members live as Christ's representatives to the world, obeying Him and sharing how all people can be reconciled to God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set around AD 56 when Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers from Macedonia during his third missionary trip.

Bible Basics: Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about what it means for us to live as new creations in Christ and to be Christ's representatives to the world.



Key Truth: Believers Look Forward to Being With the Lord and Having a New Glorified Body (2 Corinthians 5:1-8)

Paul used 2 Corinthians 5 to talk about the believer's future hope of eternity, and our privilege of representing Christ while we are here on earth. Paul assured us that when our physical bodies are destroyed, we will have a new body that is fit for eternity. Although we struggle with the burdens of life here on earth, we have a new body and a new home in Heaven with the Lord to look forward to. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit assures us we will take up new residence in Heaven after we die. With this eternal perspective, Paul could remain confident and encouraged despite his mortality and suffering.



Key Truth: Believers Seek to Please Christ Because of All He Has Done for Us (2 Corinthians 5:9-15)

Paul taught that our goal is to please the Lord, whether we are on earth or in Heaven. Paul's motivation for this mindset included the reality we all will stand before the Lord and give account of all we have done on earth, whether good or bad. The apostle's greatest desire was to hear the Lord say he had done well. Knowing we will all stand before Christ caused Paul to work diligently to reach others with the gospel. In the final analysis, however, it is Christ's death and sacrifice that provide the primary motivation and determination to serve. Because Christ gave His life for us and bore our sin, we should give our lives for His service.



Key Truth: Believers Share With Others How They Can Be Reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

While reminding us that Christ has completed the act of reconciling us to God, making us new in Christ, he also stated that God has now extended that ministry of reconciliation to us. We are now to be ambassadors for Christ, representing Him to the lost world. Paul's entire outlook had changed. The worldly attributes and achievements he once regarded as valuable were not so important anymore. As a result of our relationship with Christ, the believer is a new creation and possesses new life in Christ. Now, the old things, namely the selfish, carnal views and actions, have passed away. The new life, a life of devotion to Christ, has now come. Having reconciled us, the Lord then committed to believers the ministry of telling others how we can be reconciled to God.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- · What does this passage indicate about our identity in Christ and our purpose as believers?
- · What are some things we have to look forward to about Heaven?
- How does our hope of Heaven encourage us when we are going through trials?
- What does it mean that we are new creations if we are "in Christ"?
- What does it mean that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation?
- How would you describe what it means to be an ambassador for Christ?
- In what ways could you act as an ambassador for Christ this week?
- What are some examples Paul gave as old ways of living?
- What are some examples Paul gave as new ways of living?
- · How do you live so others can see Jesus in you?

Everyday Extras

Ask your child about the role of a foreign ambassador. Where is the ambassador's citizenship? Is it in the country where he lives? How can Christians live in this world as citizens of another world? You may not know any ambassadors, but perhaps you do have some international friends who live in your area though they are citizens of another country. How would their experience compare or contrast to our role as an ambassador of Heaven? Plan an intentional act of kindness for that international friend. Your child might research a favorite dessert or activity from the friend's homeland and invite him or her over to share it!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE & ROUND

Today your child began learning **Jesus Heals.** He or she heard the true story of a man who had not been able to walk for a very long time. This man was sitting by a very special pool when Jesus came there. Jesus could see his sad heart and asked the man if he wanted to be healed. The man said, "Yes." Jesus healed the man and the man was filled with joy.