



BEAUTY OF EVANGELISM

GROUP SERIES

WEEK 9 - WITNESSES & AMBASSADORS

Big Idea: Disciples are witnesses of the Good News and ambassadors for God's eternal kingdom

Ice Breaker:

Consider these questions:

- What was one of your favorite games as a child? Did you ever play I Spy? What was the purpose of that game?
- If you could be an ambassador to any country in the world, where would you go?
- If you could improve or add one thing to our city, what would you add?

Watch Video:

As a group, watch this week's video Witnesses and Ambassadors

Into The Word:

Read: Jeremiah 29:1-14:

These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said: 4 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to

*you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.*¹⁰ *“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.*

Ask:

- What does God, through Jeremiah, call His exiled people to do?
- If we are heavenly citizens (Philippians 3:20) what does that say about how we should view our time on earth?
- Within our own city, how can we seek the welfare of it? What areas of our city need the light of Jesus? What needs in our city can our group or Church family help meet?
- What is the promise that God gives His exiled people? Why is this an encouragement to us today?

Read Acts 1:6-8: 2

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21:

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to

God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ask:

- *What does Acts 1:8 tell us about the scope of our witness (whom we are called to reach)? Why is this good news?*

- *We've spent time considering our "Jerusalem" (our own city) but what are some ways in which we can be witnesses to our state, country, and the nations?*

- *What does it mean that we are new creations? What has Jesus done in your life?*

In 2-3 minutes, briefly share your testimony with the group, specifically focusing on your salvation and what Jesus saved you from.

- *Because of what Jesus has done, what is the ministry that we have been given?*

Putting Into Practice:

There are a multitude of ways that we can be involved in global evangelism. The call to be a witness and an ambassador involves our local context but, as a part of the global Body of Christ, we have opportunities to participate in seeing the nations receive Jesus. Three big ways we can partner as global witnesses are Pray, Give, and Go.

- *Pray* – Spend time in prayer this week, praying on behalf of Riverlawn's missionaries. Go to Riverlawn.org/missions or pick up a missions booklet and pray by name or nation for the different missionaries we support as a church.

- *Give* – Financially supporting gospel-centered works are a great way you can be a witness to a nation you may never step foot in. Partner with Riverlawn in financially supporting a missionary or research other missions with like-minded values and give generously and sacrificially of your finances to support this global work.

- *Go* – A short-term trip, or a long-term calling, are opportunities to go to the ends of the earth. God may be calling you to leave your job, your city, even your country to go and take His name to the nations. He may be calling you to partner with the church on a short-term trip, one in which

you will share the gospel on the mission field and be equipped to share your experiences with others. Consider participating in a short-term trip this calendar year. Contact missions@riverlawn.org for information on upcoming trips.

Prayer:

Close this session out in prayer, asking God to help you to be faithful and holy witnesses for His kingdom. Pray for your city and community. Ask God to grant peace and redemption along with freedom from dark and oppressive strongholds. Pray that the Church would be a strong witness for the name of Jesus and that we might be faithful to the disciple making mission.

