

Small Group Guide: What Is Your God Given Ministry?

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:10-21

Key Takeaways from the Message

1. Every Saved Person is a Missionary

Every Christian has been given the ministry of reconciliation. Ministry isn't just for pastors, missionaries, or church leaders—it's for all believers.

2. Every Lost Person is a Mission Field

The people God has placed in your everyday life—at work, school, the gas station, your neighborhood—are your mission field.

3. The Love of Christ Constrains Us

Our motivation for sharing the gospel should be the overwhelming love of Christ, not fear or obligation (2 Corinthians 5:14).

4. We Are Ambassadors for Christ

As ambassadors, we represent Jesus and carry the message of reconciliation to a world that doesn't yet know the price that was paid for them.

5. Grace Changes How We See People

When we receive the gospel, it transforms how we view others—not according to the flesh, but as souls in need of reconciliation with God.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (2 Corinthians 5:10-21)

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.** What does it mean that "the love of Christ constrains us"? How does Christ's love motivate you differently than duty or guilt?

2. **According to verse 17, what happens when someone is "in Christ"?**
Why is it significant that "all things" become new, not just some things?
3. **Read verses 18-19.** What is the "ministry of reconciliation" and why has God given it to us rather than sending angels or using some other method?
4. **In verse 20, Paul says we are "ambassadors for Christ."** What does an ambassador do? How does this change the way you view your daily interactions?

Personal Reflection

5. Twayne shared the story of being at a gas station at 11 PM and initially resisting God's prompting to witness. **When have you resisted God's prompting to share with someone? What held you back?**
6. **The sermon stated: "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"**
Who has God placed in your life right now that needs to hear about Jesus?
7. **How do you currently view people who don't know Christ?** Do you see them as your mission field? What needs to change in your perspective?
8. T. Wayne mentioned that for 13 years after getting saved, he "could care less about sharing the gospel." **Have you ever experienced spiritual complacency? What brought you out of it or what is keeping you there?**

Practical Application

9. **What specific barriers prevent you from sharing your faith?** (Fear of rejection, not knowing what to say, busyness, etc.) How can this group help you overcome these?
10. The sermon emphasized that ministry happens "at work, at school, in your neighborhood, at the gas station." **Where is your most consistent mission field?** Name 2-3 specific people you interact with regularly who need Christ.

11. What does it practically look like to "not live for ourselves" (verse 15) in your current season of life?

12. The father at the bridge illustration showed how Jesus paid the ultimate price, yet many people have no idea. **How can you help people understand the price Jesus paid for them?**

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice this week:

Option 1: The Prayer List

- Write down the names of 3 people in your life who don't know Jesus
- Commit to praying for them daily this week
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to share with at least one of them

Option 2: The Conversation Starter

- Like Twayne's Estonia bow tie, identify something that can start spiritual conversations (a book you're reading, a verse on your desk, etc.)
- Be intentional about using it to open doors for gospel conversations

Option 3: The Obedience Test

- Ask God each morning: "Who do you want me to talk to today about You?"
- When He prompts you (even if it's 11 PM at a gas station!), commit to being obedient
- Journal about what happens

Option 4: The Reconciliation Study

- Study the concept of reconciliation throughout Scripture
- Prepare a simple 2-minute testimony of how God reconciled you to Himself
- Practice sharing it with someone in your group

Accountability Questions

1. Who will you share your commitment with to help keep you accountable?
2. How will you report back to the group next week about what God did?

Additional Resources

- **Memory Verse:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
- **Further Study:** Read the entire book of 2 Corinthians this week, paying attention to Paul's heart for ministry and the gospel.
- **Recommended Action:** Consider how you might support missionaries like the Hill family through prayer, financial giving, or encouragement.