



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of January 12, 2019

Sermon: "The Ministry of Reconciliation"

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

SUMMARY

By the glorious work of Jesus Christ, God has made a great exchange—our sin for Jesus' righteousness—reconciling us to God and sending us out with a ministry of reconciliation as ambassadors of God.

FOR FAMILIES

Have you ever been to a different country or seen different currency? What is an "exchange rate"? What would a bad exchange rate be when swapping currency?

Think about motives for why you obey God. Are you ever motivated out of fear that your parents will discipline you? What about fear that a friend will think differently of you?

FOR GROUPS

In what ways might you be crippled from carrying out your ministry by the fear of man?

Why is it good news that we have died with Christ? How is that evidence of his love for us? How does this compel us to carry out the ministry of reconciliation?

What situations make you feel incapable of being an "ambassador" of Christ and appealing to others to be reconciled to God (with co-workers, friends, family, neighbors, etc.)?

What is an "ambassador" and what is there job? Who do you think God would choose to be his ambassador, since it is such an important job? Why would God chose normal Christians to be his ambassadors?

Discuss the perfect obedience of Jesus and how that compares to our disobedience. Then teach your children that the gospel says we can exchange Jesus' perfection for our imperfection. Why is this such good news?

Why is it important that God makes the move in reconciling with us, not the other way around?

What aspect of the great exchange is most glorious to you (Christ's active obedience, Christ's passive obedience, imputation, union with Christ)? How do all these truths work together to make the message of reconciliation too good to be true?

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the good news of the gospel and the great exchange of reconciliation.