



*MEMORY VERSE*

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

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

**SESSION 3**

# REPRESENT



Diplomats, also known as ambassadors, serve as representatives of their nations' government to represent the interest and concerns of their government and its citizens. Without significant diplomacy efforts, many people, caught up in trouble in foreign lands, might never be able to be set free and return home. The Scripture uses similar language to speak of being a representative of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

*SHARE*  
**YOUR**  
**STORY**



Open your group with prayer. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to be with you as you meet. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Sharing personal stories builds deeper connections among group members.

Begin your time together by using the following questions and activities to get people talking:

- In addition to Christ, who or what do you represent? (Think about family, associations, business, etc.)
- Looking back over the last week, in what ways did you surrender your life for God's plan?







# HEAR GOD'S STORY

## READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19-21.

*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.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- According to verse 19, what was Jesus' focus?
- Why wasn't Jesus counting their trespasses against them?
- The dictionary defines reconciliation as "the act of coming to an understanding and putting an end to hostility." How does reconciliation with Christ put an end to hostility?
- How do you see God making his appeal through you?



# STUDY NOTES

***in Christ God was reconciling, verse 19,***

or God was in Christ, reconciling

***reconciliation, verse 19,*** “the restoration of friendly relations.” In the Bible, reconciliation involves a change in the relationship between God and a person or between two people.

***we might become the righteousness of God, verse 21,***

The righteousness that counts is the righteousness that is imparted from Christ. Any righteousness that believers “achieve” on their own is regarded as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).





*CREATE*  
**A NEW  
STORY**

God wants you to be part of His Kingdom—to weave your story into His. That will mean change. It will require you to go His way rather than your own. This won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can begin to change our direction. The Holy Spirit helps us along the way, by giving us gifts to serve the body, offering us insights into Scripture, and challenging us to love not only those around us but those far from God.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the wisdom you've learned in this session.

- **How willing are you to be sent? Why?**
- **How are you sending others? Have you stepped into the offering plate, laying yourself down as a living sacrifice?**
- **How are you letting fear keep you from the life that Christ has for you?**
- **In the video, Roger quoted the Selfer's Prayer from Dr. Charles Solomon: "Total commitment...is an act of the will by which we tell our Father that we want more than anything else in this world to have his will accomplished in our lives., whatever that means. We may not know his specific purpose for our lives, but after we have wholly committed our lives to him, he begins to bring it to pass." Do you need to pray the selfer's prayer, where you bring yourself to Christ and allow him to live through you?**

- What steps will you take this week to grow in your relationship with God? If you've focused on prayer in past weeks, maybe you'll want to direct your attention to Scripture this week. If you've been reading God's Word consistently, perhaps you'll want to take it deeper, and try memorizing a verse. Tell the group which one you plan to try this week, and talk about your progress and challenges when you meet next time.
- Ask, "How can we pray for you this week?" Invite everyone to share, but don't force the issue. Be sure to write prayer requests on your Prayer and Praise Report on page 119.

**Close your meeting with prayer.**



# FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY ▶▶▶

If you feel God nudging you to go deeper, take some time before the next meeting to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own and jot your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. A great way to gain insight on a passage is to read it in several different translations. You may want to use a Bible app or website to compare translations.

▶ **READ ROMANS 8:5-6.**

- What does it mean to “set your mind?”
- How is your mind set on the things of the flesh?
- How can you set your mind on the things of the Spirit?

▶ **READ GALATIANS 2:20.**

- What in your life remains uncrucified or not surrendered to Christ? Why are you holding onto this?
- What is the evidence of Christ living in you?
- How much of Christ living in you is based on your performance? How much is based on your surrender?



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## DAY 1

READ EPHESIANS 5:10.

*and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*

**Respond:** What in your life is please to the Lord?

## DAY 2

READ JAMES 2:24.

*You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.*

**Respond:** How is God pleased by what you do?

## DAY 3

READ ROMANS 8:8.

*Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

**Respond:** What about your life is not pleasing to God?

## DAY 4

### READ

#### COLOSSIANS 3:16-17.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

**Respond:** How does this verse impact you? What does it prompt you to do?

## DAY 5

### READ COLOSSIANS 4:5.

*Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

**Respond:** How are you representing Christ among non-Christians?

## DAY 6

Reflect on the verses from this past week, and use the following space to write any thoughts God has put in your heart and mind about the things we have looked at in this session and during your Daily Devotions time this week.