

## CONNECT

the gospel  
SUMMARY

## 2 Corinthians 5:14–21

This section of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians reads as a job description of the work placed in the hands of believers. **Having received a new life of grace and forgiveness in Christ, believers were now called to share this good news of reconciliation.** Even through fights and struggles with one another, Paul explained that believers were called to look at others through Jesus' eyes and find ways to live out the gospel of forgiveness.

We are ambassadors for Christ. **Paul knew that if the message of Christ was going to continue and grow, it would be through believers sharing God's love with others.** Because of the greatness of Christ's sacrifice, Paul believed his followers would gladly carry God's message forward, eager to tell others about Christ's sacrifice and love. The reconciled would become reconcilers, motivated by the love of Jesus.

Paul spoke from his own experience. Since his conversion, he had become a model ambassador. He traveled great distances to be a megaphone for Christ. Paul established new churches, teaching them to be megaphones too. Paul's hope for these new churches (and for us!) was that they would share God's message and live it too.

## Acts 8:26-40

**God made sure that Jesus' message and sacrifice were for everybody.** God sent Philip to an Ethiopian eunuch, a person who most people would never have expected to follow Christ. The eunuch was a foreigner, ritually unclean, and castrated—a practice that was forbidden by Jewish law. The eunuch read scripture and asked Philip to explain it to him. Philip told him about Jesus, and at the eunuch's request, baptized him as a follower of Christ.

1 Corinthians  
11:23-26

These are familiar words to those who have participated in Holy Communion, but it is easy to forget that Paul intended communion to be more than just a way to remember. **Communion was a way to proclaim the good news so that all people could experience the gospel in bread and wine.**

## 1 Corinthians 9:16

Paul's words in this first letter to the believers in Corinth reflected his drastic transformation when God opened Paul's eyes to the gospel. **Paul was called to share God's word with others and encourage them to share it too.** Paul's words hinted at competition among the leaders of the Corinthian church; he reminded them that the power of the proclamation comes from Christ, not the proclaimer.

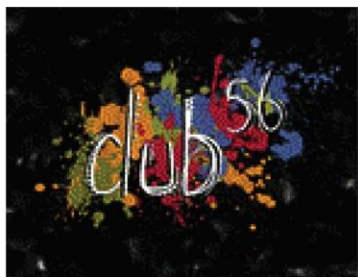
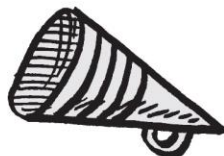


The **megaphone** symbolizes the power of words. It amplifies and extends the message of the speaker. When Christians share the gospel, their words are amplified through those who listen. Like a megaphone amplifies someone's voice, the Holy Spirit amplifies our words and our actions so that even greater things occur than we alone could make happen.

## Weekly Challenge:

- Who's the most important ambassador for Christ you know? What can you learn from him/her? Your challenge is to write your inspirational ambassador a note and send it to him/her. Everyone likes to get a thank you card 😊. If it is someone from church, ask Mrs. Ramie or Mrs. Jackie for their address.

# THE GOSPEL



Paul urged believers to embrace the task before them—to be ambassadors of the gospel in the world. Paul knew that if the message of Jesus' love were to continue, it would have to be told by those who knew God's love!

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## 2 Corinthians 5:14–21

Since all had received a new life of grace and forgiveness in Christ, Paul called believers to share the good news of reconciliation. We are ambassadors for Christ, just as Paul had become an ambassador for Christ after his conversion. Motivated by the love of Christ, the reconciled have become reconcilers!

Check out these other Bible passages that connect with the theme of The Gospel!

- > **Acts 8:26–40** What can happen if we share the gospel?
- > **1 Corinthians 11:23–26** How is Holy Communion part of the gospel?
- > **1 Corinthians 9:16** What did Paul say would happen if he didn't proclaim the gospel?

## Talk about it!

Use these questions to connect with each other.

- > What is your favorite thing to talk about? Why?
- > Being an ambassador for Christ sounds like it could be a lot of work, but maybe it doesn't have to be. How could sharing God's message fit into your life?
- > Who is the most significant ambassador for Christ that you know? What could you learn from him/her?

## What are preteens thinking?

Kids this age can be unenthusiastic about religion. It might be hard for them to imagine being an ambassador for faith. Invite them to consider how their influence can reach where an adult's might not.

## Try this!

Talking about the things we love is fun—and easy! Brainstorm a list of at least five things your family loves. Who can be the best ambassador for each of those things in thirty seconds?

## Prayer

God, we are thankful that we know your love. Help us remember to share it with the people we know. Amen.