

Dig Deeper @Home – “Echoes of the King”

Complement to lesson on 11/12/23 – “Go to Reconcile”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. If you were called as an ambassador to another country, where would you like to be sent?
2. If in a crisis, even at 3 a.m., which four friends would you call?

MEMORIZE – Mark 1: 14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

READ – Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
 - d. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. What does it mean that a believer is a new creation? How does he/she change? What about their old value systems and priorities are different?
3. What does “reconciliation” mean in these verses? What does it mean to have been given the “ministry of reconciliation?”
4. What does God do through Christ (v.18)? For us (vv. 17-18? Through us (vs. 20)?
5. Why are we called “ambassadors of Christ?” What should we do as His ambassadors? How should the knowledge that we are His “ambassadors” guide how we live and interact with the world around us?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY: “First Things First”

Jesus taught His followers in the Sermon on the Mount that if a brother or sister has something against you, “first go be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift of worship.” (Matthew 5:24).

Think of someone whom you at times have had difficulty getting along with. It may be a sibling, a parent, a co-worker, a friend, a classmate, a neighbor, a spouse or a member of your church family. Think of a simple way you can “be like Jesus” to that person, showing kindness and reconciling love.

Examples might include: Writing them a note of encouragement (or apology), taking a baked good next door, speaking a kind word to them, doing an act of service that helps them out, inviting them to join you for an event, initiating a contact to meet together.

Pray and ask God to give you the courage and faith to follow through.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) - <https://youtu.be/QBRwoqJP2sk>

Alas! And did my Savior bleed – Watts – Mennonite Hymnal #170

King of Kings – Hillsong - <https://youtu.be/8D-T34ScetE>

Hope has a Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI-fTpLINZ8>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Almighty God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit, you have called me to your ambassador, to speak on your behalf. Create opportunities for me to talk about you and the reconciling love you alone can bring to other lives this week where I live, work, study, worship and play.