

REVIEW

When we place our faith in Jesus we say “yes” to forgiveness, grace, and being a part of God’s family. We are also saying “yes” to his mission. But sharing our faith is oftentimes excluded from the benefits of our salvation and thought of as an unwanted chore. **Why does sharing our faith sometimes seem more like an obligation than a privilege? What do you think would help change our perspective on it being an obligation or duty to fulfill?**

Derwin told us that the more we understand grace, the more we will want to share it with others. **What is your understanding of grace? Why do we need it?**

How has your life been made different by the good news of Jesus? How can you remind yourself of how God has changed your life more frequently?

While understanding God’s grace and mission are essential to evangelism, we must also understand how to share the good news. Derwin noted that evangelism is not about our ability to convince others to believe, but our availability to be used by God who calls people to himself. **In what ways is God using your availability to him to share the gospel with others? Is there anything God may be calling you to do to make yourself more available to him?**

Derwin shared about Jesus healing a paralytic in the book of Mark. Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven and to get off his mat and walk. While the world only saw a paralyzed man, Jesus saw a man in spiritual need, forgiving his sin before healing his legs. It is essential that we, like Jesus, consider spiritual health a necessary part of other people’s healing. **How can you care for a person’s spiritual health before they come to Christ? What can you do to help people spiritually as well as their physical needs?**

We often feel the pressure of saving other people. As a result, we become paralyzed at the thought of messing up evangelism. But salvation is solely God’s work, we are called to simply pray for and share with people while letting God change their hearts. **Has God placed a non-Christian on your heart to pray for more regularly? If so, how can you go about praying for their salvation?**

Horizontal lines for writing responses.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

God’s great work is reconciling the world to himself, forgiving us and bringing us into a right relationship with him. In the book of Corinthians, the apostle Paul talks about the ministry of reconciliation—a ministry we all share. Each of us can call people to be reconciled to their creator.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18–21.

Paul emphasizes that God alone initiated and accomplished the work of reconciliation. Even though we were disobedient to God, he pursued peace with us through Jesus’s work on the cross. **How would you define “reconciliation”? How could you use these verses to describe God’s grace to others?**

Verse 21 shares one of the most astounding statements of God’s love for us. Even though Jesus was sinless, our sin was put on him. Jesus received the punishment that we deserved and we, in turn, get his righteousness. **Do you ever feel guilt or shame for your sins? How might your life change if you trusted that Jesus has wiped all of your sin away on the cross?**

Salvation is God’s work, but he shares the responsibility of the ministry with us. It is an incredible opportunity that many of us do not actively participate in. **What personal or cultural challenges may prevent you from fully participating in the mission of reconciliation?**

The good news is that the ministry of reconciliation is not a solo endeavor. Our ministry is shared amongst all our brothers and sisters in Christ. **What are some ways we can encourage or support each other to share the gospel? Is there a particular ministry effort in our community that we can do together?**

Paul goes on to tell us that we are ambassadors of Christ. We represent God to the rest of the world through our Christlike attitudes and actions. **How does knowing that you represent the King of Kings affect the way you act or speak in front of others? Is there an area of your life God may be calling you to represent him in more faithfully?**

We have been put in strategic locations to fulfill an intentional duty just like ambassadors. God has a plan to use you to share his love with your neighbors, coworkers, or friends. **Who, specifically, has God made you an ambassador to? What can you do to communicate God's desire to reconcile with them this week?**

LAST WORD

God invites us to be his ministers of reconciliation to a world in desperate need of his love and grace. While the mission of God can feel daunting, it is God's mission, and we get to do it together as a community. Our role is simply to be available to God so that he can share the grace we have received and enjoy with others.

We are all in unique positions to carry our friends, family, and acquaintances to Jesus, who is the only one who can heal them. Where has God placed you to share his grace?

DEEPER WALK

Read: Read 2 Peter 3:8–9 and consider how God's heart for people to come to know Christ can help us be more intentional with those outside our faith.

Pray: Make a list of a few friends or family members who do not know Jesus and commit to praying for the Holy Spirit to make them receptive to God's love.

Be Bold: Share your story of salvation with someone who does not know Jesus this week.