

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, January 12th, 2025

Series: **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

Message: **“Living as an Ambassador of Christ”**

1. Read **2 Corinthians 5:16**. What happened in Paul’s life that he could no longer *regard Christ according to the flesh*?

How did Paul’s new regard for Christ affect the way he regarded all people?

2. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**. To what does the word *therefore* in **2 Cor. 5:17** direct us back to in **2 Corinthians 5:16**?

What happens to *those who are in Christ* that makes them a *new creation*?

What must we do to prevent *the old* from reappearing in our lives?

3. Read **2 Corinthians 5:18**. What does it mean to be reconciled with someone?

How did *Christ reconcile us to himself*?

What ministry did *Christ give us after we were reconciled to Him*?

Why would Christ entrust this vital ministry to us only *after we were reconciled to Him*?

4. Read **2 Corinthians 5:19**. What phrase within this verse ought to be considered such good news that it would inspire us to tell others of their need to be reconciled to Christ?

What three things will the Holy Spirit show us if we trust Him to lead us in the *ministry of reconciliation*?

5. Read **2 Corinthians 5:20**. What does it mean to you to be an *ambassador for Christ*?

When we serve as an *ambassador for Christ*, which government's power and authority is firmly behind us?

What does the word *implore* mean?

Why is that the perfect word for an *ambassador for Christ* to use?

6. Read **2 Corinthians 5:21**. To whom is this verse referring?

When you stop to consider all that Jesus did for us, does it make you more or less eager to carry out *your ministry of reconciliation*?

7. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 118:13-18** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Read **Psalm 118:13** aloud again. Have you ever been *pushed so hard* by life's circumstances that you felt like you were falling? How did the Lord intervene to stop your downward spiral?
 2. Read **Psalm 118:14** aloud again. In what ways have you experienced the Lord's *strength* in your life?
What does the psalmist mean when he says *the Lord is my song?* (ESV)
What does the psalmist mean when he says *the Lord is my defense?* (NIV)
How does the *Lord become our salvation?*
 3. Read **Psalm 118:15-16** aloud again.
What do these two verses mean to you?
 4. Read **Psalm 118:17** aloud again. Having been saved from death, what is the psalmist's immediate reaction (in other words, what is he inspired to do)?
 5. **Psalm 118:18** talks about the Lord's discipline. Turn to **Hebrews 12:5-11** and read it aloud. According to this passage, whom does the Lord discipline? How should we feel when the Lord disciplines us?
- II. Next read **Luke 4:16-21**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. Turn to **Isaiah 61:1-2** and read it aloud. This is a messianic prophecy proclaiming what the Messiah would do when He came. Now, read **Luke 4:21** aloud again. What is Jesus declaring here?
 2. As you read through **Luke 4:18-19**, how many of these things did Jesus do in His ministry on earth?
 3. If we are truly walking as a disciple of Christ, would **Luke 4:18-19** also apply to us?
 4. How could we find out if this really is applicable for our lives?
- III. Now read **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **2 Corinthians 5:16**, *Paul says he could no longer regard Christ according to the flesh*. What happened in Paul's life that changed the way he looked at Jesus?
 2. How did Paul's new regard for Christ affect the way he regarded all people?

3. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**. To what does the word *therefore* in **2 Cor. 5:17** direct us back to in **2 Corinthians 5:16**?
4. What happens to *those who are in Christ* that makes them a *new creation*?
5. What must we do to prevent *the old* from reappearing in our lives?
6. Read **2 Corinthians 5:18**. What does it mean to be reconciled with someone?
7. How did *Christ reconcile us to himself*?
8. What ministry did *Christ give us after we were reconciled to Him*?
9. Why would Christ entrust this vital ministry to us only after we were reconciled to Him?
10. Read **2 Corinthians 5:19**. What phrase within this verse ought to be considered such good news that it would inspire us to tell others of their need to be reconciled to Christ?
11. What three things will the Holy Spirit show us if we trust Him to lead us in the *ministry of reconciliation*?
12. Read **2 Corinthians 5:20**. What does it mean to you to be an *ambassador for Christ*?
13. When we serve as an *ambassador for Christ*, which government's power and authority is firmly behind us?
14. What does the word *implore* mean?
15. Why is that the perfect word for an *ambassador for Christ* to use?
16. Read **2 Corinthians 5:21**. To whom is this verse referring?
17. When you stop to consider all that Jesus did for us, does it make you more or less eager to carry out *your ministry of reconciliation*?