

## Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Pastor Dennis Hadley

### Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:20

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

### Discovery Bible Study Lesson

1. Read and then write down the passage found in **2 Corinthians 5:20**
2. Next, rewrite **2 Corinthians 5:20** using your own words
3. What do you discover in this passage?
4. What does Jesus want you to do to obey him in response to this passage?

### Daily Bible Reading

- Day 1: Romans 10:1-17
- Day 2: John 9:1-41 (The Blind Man’s Testimony)
- Day 3: Acts 9:1-22 (Paul’s Conversion)
- Day 4: Acts 21:37-22:21 (Paul’s Testimony to the crowd)
- Day 5: Acts 25:23-26:32 (Paul’s Testimony to King Agrippa)

### Lesson: Sharing the Good News!

1. What has God revealed to you from 2 Corinthians 5:20?

Ask people to share what God is telling them in 2 Corinthians 5:20. If your group is not practicing the discovery Bible study method above, perhaps take a few moments to go over it. Remind them that God speaks to us through His Word and that part of developing an eternal relationship with God and His Word requires meditating on the Word of God and asking God in prayer to reveal His truth. This passage very specifically reveals to me that God has called me to be His ambassador. The chosen people are to represent Him and His message of forgiveness of sin and the salvation of our souls. Jesus wants to reconcile people to God through His blood sacrifice, and He has chosen us to be the bearer of this message. God is telling me it is time to share the good news! That is my job; my calling as a follower of Jesus.

2. Write down, using your own words, the message of the good news of Jesus Christ:

Sometimes people are afraid to share their faith because they do not believe they can communicate the gospel clearly. However, the Holy Spirit has been poured out into the believer and empowers us to share the truth. By asking people to share the gospel message to one another in the group, people will learn and understand that they are able if they are willing. As the leader, listen and encourage each person to share. Have a few people share first to the entire group, and then split into groups of two or three depending on the size of your group. Sharing the good news is simply testifying to what we know to be true about Jesus from God’s Word. You don’t have to have verses memorized or eloquent points to make the receiver believe. Just simply speak of what you know to be true.

3. What story do you have to share with others about the good news of Jesus? How has God worked in a miraculous way to rescue your life?

In this week’s reading we focused on the life of the man born blind and how he, in the simplest way, declares who Jesus was by what he experienced. No one can discount our personal testimony of God’s power in our lives. We also looked at the life of Paul and his conversion and testimony. His boldness to share and the reality that even though he faced tremendous opposition, his message was powerful because he knew it to be truth and he experienced it firsthand.

Ask individuals from your group to share about how they have experienced God’s power working in their lives. As time allows, this week and in the coming weeks, ask people to share their personal testimony of God in their lives.

4. What opportunity has God given you to share the good news? How is God leading you to share what you now and have experienced?

Some people in your group may be very aware of their testimony and how to share the good news but have neglected doing so. Ask them to think about the opportunities to share and pray for them that they would be bold in doing so. Follow-up with those individuals giving them encouragement and accountability to share their faith as God leads them.

Read Romans 10:1-17 together and use this message to move you to close out in prayer. In Romans 10:1, Paul expresses his desire for all the Israelites to be saved. We should share that passion for people. Paul expresses in Romans 10:9 how we proclaim salvation in Jesus Christ and the simplicity of salvation in Christ (V13). Then in verse 14 and 15 he reminds us about the essential need for us to bring the good news to people. Because faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ, the gospel, the good news!

**Prayer:** Father God, we thank you for sending your son as our atoning sacrifice. We thank you for giving us the message of reconciliation through Jesus your son. Lord, give us your heart for people. Let us see them the way you do. Let us break for all those who do not know you. Give us a burden to pray for those who are without hope. Give us a burden to share with those who don't know you. Give us wisdom to proclaim the truth in love and a confidence to boldly share the good news of your love. Lord, you love us so and you love so many that you have made it simple to come into a real love relationship with you. Help us to communicate the simplicity of the gospel so that those who you are tugging on will turn to you and believe as they confess you as their Lord and Savior. Jesus you taught us that truth, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him." We believe and we claim that truth today. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.