

THE AMBASSADOR

The greatest gift we can give to someone is to introduce them to Jesus who loves them, and who has a plan for their life.

This is what **engaging people with Jesus** is all about.

The apostle Paul provides a job description for this task.

*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.***

2 Corinthians 5:20 (niv)

WE ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

An ambassador is sent as the official representative and messenger of their government into another country.

We have been chosen by Jesus to represent Him and to continue His mission of seeking out those who are far away from God and to engage them with His good news of love and hope.

LEAVING OUR CIRCLE OF COMFORT

Our circle of comfort is where we feel comfortable with people like us. Other believers. People who think like us, have similar interests and lifestyles or the same cultural backgrounds as us.

Where it is safe comfortable zone of friends and relationships.

Question: Do we consider walking out of our circle of comfort into that awkward zone to speak with someone about Jesus who we may or may not know?

It takes courage and a willingness to put ourselves out there.

Big Idea: Leaving our circle of comfort to engage people with Jesus is where Jesus can do His best work!

JESUS TOOK A WALK!

Romans 5:8 (tniv) God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus left His 'circle of comfort', to take a walk from heaven to earth and reached out to mankind with His redemptive hand.

Philippians 2:5b-8 (tniv) *Have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used His own advantage; rather, **He made Himself nothing** (by taking a walk) **by taking the very nature of a servant**, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human being, He **humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!*

Jesus desires us to do what He did for us – to represent Him by taking a walk to reach out to those who need salvation.

Jesus takes a walk to reach out to a despised woman in *John 4*.

Jesus walked across the gender, racial, cultural, and religious barriers to reach this woman.

Jesus initiates a conversation with the woman, and He shares His message of hope with her.

John 4:13-15 (msg) *Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst - not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.” The woman said, “**Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty.**”*

She leaves her basin, runs into town, telling as many as she could about this man, she met at the well. Who knew all about her wretched past but who accepted her regardless.

Resulting in many people from that town becoming followers of Jesus.

Jesus took a walk to reach a woman who needed salvation and to feel accepted.

Are you prepared to take the walk to reach out to ***that*** person?

Who is ***that*** person that comes to your mind?

To be an effective ambassador for Christ will mean a willingness leave our circle of comfort from time to time to engage someone with Jesus.

BIG IDEA: Leaving our circle of comfort to engage people with Jesus is where Jesus can do His best work!