

January 2-8, 2021

DISCUSSION GUIDE | Ambassadors for Christ: The Essential Skills

1. What kind of an ambassador for Christ have you been during your relationship with God? How have you represented Him? Share with the group either highlights or areas of improvement in the categories of knowledge, wisdom, and character.
2. Which of the three areas – knowledge, wisdom, and character – do you find it easiest to be an effective ambassador? Which area is the hardest? Share with the group why it's easy or hard.
3. When it comes to the category of knowledge, are you better equipped with knowledge of the *truth* or knowledge of the *error*?
4. Try to think of a way to explain the gospel message without using Christian lingo.
5. In 2 Corinthians 5:20 Paul says, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us." What is an ambassador (generally speaking)? Write out a definition that seems to capture the sense of the word.
6. What are some of the qualities an effective ambassador needs to have? Make a list of them. Do these qualities fall into broader categories? If so, what might those categories be?
7. What word (or form of the word) appears repeatedly in verses 18-20? How does that repetition inform our understanding of Paul's comments in verse 21?
8. What do you think Paul means by the phrase "as though God were entreating through us." Why do you think he added this comment?
9. In Colossians 4:5-6 Paul writes, "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person." What are some specific ways a good ambassador can employ this directive to be a more persuasive representative for Christ?
10. What are some of the ways the basic message of Christianity has been misunderstood by non-Christians?



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11. What does it mean to “inoculate, not isolate”? List some of the ideas we need inoculations for in order to be effective ambassadors.
12. What are some specific ways we can practice Peter’s directive (1 Peter 3:15-16) to be “gentle and reverent” when defending our faith without dulling the sharp edge of God’s truth?
13. What are some of the well-meaning “religious” things we do as Christians that put other people off and sabotage our effectiveness as ambassadors?
14. Think about what it means to have good character – conversational character – when talking with non-believers. How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 when it comes to the *manner* in which you communicate with non-believers about Christianity? A “1” means you’re obnoxious, harsh, condescending, and rude. A “10” means you’re warm, friendly, inviting, and gracious. Explain why you gave yourself the grade.



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DISCUSSION GUIDE | Man or Maker: Who am I? Transgender: Truth and Compassion

1. Thinking about what the world says about creation and identity where do they find meaning?
2. How is this different from where Christians find meaning?
3. How would you share with someone where you find meaning and significance?
4. How does the concept of humans as image-bearers bring justice and compassion to the world?
5. How can this concept create pathways of conversation for the gospel with those who don't believe?
6. How can we as believers allow our emotions to drive what we believe to be true?
7. How can we allow truth to drive our feelings and not the other way around?

8. What are ways Christians have responded to the confusion in our culture with disdain or even hatred?
9. What would it look like for us to respond with compassion?
10. How can we respond to those who are confused by their identity, specifically their gender identity?
11. How can we balance truth with compassion?



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