WEEK 3 — The Invitation

January 24 — Parent/Child Sunday • 2 Corinthians 5:18–20

MAIN POINT

God doesn't simply show me what He is doing; He invites me to join Him.

Aim: Help people recognize God's invitation to participate in His reconciling mission.

Primary NT: 2 Corinthians 5:18–20

Supporting NT: John 15:15–16; Ephesians 2:10

Key Doctrine: Reconciliation and mission

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use these questions and illustrations to introduce the topic and surface lived experience.

Who first trusted you with a responsibility that made you think, "I'm not ready"? Being invited often says something about the relationship.

Transition: Read the New Testament passage before turning to the Moses illustration.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and what it means. Read the assigned passage before offering interpretation.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18–20.

- Who initiates reconciliation?
- Who receives it?
- What work has been entrusted to believers?
- What does "ambassador" imply?

Movement 1 — Reconciled before commissioned

Connect: 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

We belong to Christ before we represent Him; mission does not earn acceptance.

Apply: How does grace change your willingness to serve?

Leader explanation: Second Corinthians 5:17–21 is rooted in Christ's reconciling death. God reconciles people to Himself through Christ and entrusts the message of reconciliation to His followers. Ambassadors announce the King's message rather than inventing a message of their own.

Moses illustration: Moses hears God's sending commission; God's rescue comes first (Ex 3:7-10).

Movement 2 — God prepares good work

Connect: Ephesians 2:10

Good works are prepared beforehand. In families, a kingdom assignment may be close to the dinner table.

Apply: What prepared work might be in your home?

Leader explanation: Ephesians 2:8–10 safeguards the order: salvation is by grace through faith, not by works; good works follow as the result of God's craftsmanship. Prepared works are not an excuse to search for hidden clues but an invitation to ordinary faithfulness.

Movement 3 — Jesus calls friends who bear fruit

Connect: John 15:15–16

Friendship with Christ and fruitful mission are joined.

Apply: What person or need keeps returning to your attention?

Leader explanation: John 15:15–16 joins friendship with Jesus to being appointed to bear enduring fruit. Christ's choice takes priority over human accomplishment. On Parent/Child Sunday, care in family relationships is one setting for this faithfulness, but the passage is not limited to parents.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does ambassador mean?
- Why does reconciliation come first?
- When were good works prepared?
- Does God's invitation excite or intimidate you?
- Where do you feel unqualified?
- What recurring burden catches your attention?
- What opportunity exists within your family?
- What step could you take this week?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the Scripture directly shapes their week. Invite a concrete response without pressuring anyone to disclose private circumstances.

- Who needs your attention this week?
- What relationship is God asking you to reconcile?
- Is there one step you can take to help someone else reconcile this week?

PRAYER

Guided prayer: Lord, thank You for reconciling me. Help me see the people and work You have prepared; give me courage to respond.

BETWEEN-WEEK PRACTICE

READ 2 Corinthians 5:14–21; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 15:9–17; Matthew 5:13–16; Colossians 4:2–6

DO / PRAY Make a burden inventory: one person, one need, one place. Act on one opportunity.

MEMORY VERSE Ephesians 2:10

COMMENTARY

Leader reference: 2 Corinthians 5:18–20

Second Corinthians 5:17–21 is rooted in Christ's reconciling death. God reconciles people to Himself through Christ and entrusts the message of reconciliation to His followers. Ambassadors announce the King's message rather than inventing a message of their own.

Ephesians 2:8–10 safeguards the order: salvation is by grace through faith, not by works; good works follow as the result of God's craftsmanship. Prepared works are not an excuse to search for hidden clues but an invitation to ordinary faithfulness.

John 15:15–16 joins friendship with Jesus to being appointed to bear enduring fruit. Christ's choice takes priority over human accomplishment. On Parent/Child Sunday, care in family relationships is one setting for this faithfulness, but the passage is not limited to parents.

Teaching note: Avoid making this passage promise more than it says. Invite honest questions, attend to the context, and return the discussion to Jesus and the authority of Scripture.