

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“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)

Suggested Thematic Track:

① Minister Like Paul

HOOK: Reconciliation (*Skit*)

Ambassador with a Mission (*Story*)

Ambassador Equipment (*Worksheet*)

What's My Job? (*Game*)

In Defense of Authenticity (*Activity/Discussion*)

Original Sin (*Coloring Page/Discussion*)

Our Church Ministries (*Coloring Pages/Discussion*)

LOOK: Ambassador to Corinth (*Worksheet*)

Reconcile the Memory Verse (*Puzzle/Craft*)

Language Study for Ambassadors (*Worksheet*)

The Heart of Paul's Ministry (*Craft*)

Reconciled By God (*Craft*)

Jump the Chasm (*Activity*)

Characteristics of Paul's Ministry (*Worksheet*)

Paul's Ministry (*Worksheet*)

2 Corinthians 5:20 (*Worksheet/Memory Verse*)

TOOK: Ambassador's Flag (*Craft*)

Protocol for Ambassadors (*Worksheet*)

Practice for Foreign Ministers (*Activity*)

Portrait of Paul (*Continuing Activity*)



Love of God and Love of Others (*Discussion*)

Ambassadors for Christ (*Craft/Discussion*)

➤ **Complementary Activities**


 **Hook:**




① **Reconciliation (*Skit*).**   Perform a skit showing a typical argument between friends.

Bring in a third party to re-establish the friendship that was temporarily broken. Explain to the students that when we are reconciled, the bond that was broken has been mended as if never severed. In reconciliation, enemies become friends.

- ① **Ambassador with a Mission (Story).** 🎨, 🦋 Read the story aloud, **2CO04.GF1**, about Pete Peterson, a former POW who has gone back to Vietnam as an ambassador of the United States. Tell the students that Pete's mission is one of reconciliation—he wanted to bring two nations into friendship when once they were enemies. Discuss the meaning of an ambassador. Tell the students that they will look at an ambassador with God's mission of reconciliation again.
- ① **Ambassador Equipment (Worksheet).** 🎨 Talk with the students about what foreign ambassadors are. Explain that these men and women go out from their native land and live among people in another country. They are essentially representatives in that country for their own country. Our government selects these ambassadors based upon their character qualities and their abilities to represent the United States of America. They carry with them the same ideals, viewpoints, and policies that our government represents. Tell the students that this morning they will learn how Paul was explaining to the Corinthians that he and his followers were special ambassadors, as well. They were not ambassadors for a particular country, but special representatives for someone very important. Have the students complete this worksheet, **2CO04.GF2**, by circling the things that an ambassador might need in order to do his job.
- ① **What's My Job? (Game).** 🎨, 🦋 Divide the class into two teams (maybe boys vs. girls). Have a teacher with an interesting occupation come to the front of the class. Teams will take turns asking him or her a *yes* or *no* question. Encourage the students to begin with very general questions and gradually get more specific. The teacher will call on a student who has his or her hand raised. The object of the questions is to discover what the teacher does for a living. (In addition to *yes* and *no*, the teacher may quantify the responses with answers such as *sometimes*, *often*, or *not usually*.) After each answer, the student who asked the question may venture a guess. When students guess the first teacher's occupation, repeat with another teacher. Then have a third teacher come out and play the roll of an ambassador. Try to make it obvious that this teacher is not being himself. Use costumes, a different voice and mannerisms, etc. (unless you happen to have a real ambassador available!). The occupation of ambassador may be so unfamiliar to students that leaders may need to help them with questions and guesses. Award candy to the winning team and take some time to discuss and clarify the role of an ambassador.
- ① **In Defense of Authenticity (Activity/Discussion).** 🎨, 🦋 Look up the word "authentic" in the dictionary and talk about its meaning. Bring in several items that look as if they might be antiques or have significant value. Examine different pieces of currency. Talk about how we might be able to tell if something is "authentic." Talk about counterfeit bills and how banks can tell the difference. With the antiques, look at the characteristics of each item and talk about how we might know for sure that they are the real thing. Bring in an appraisal or certificate of authenticity (you may have to make one of these up). Ask the students, "Would a piece of paper validate the authenticity of the item?" If you can show pictures from history books, that might be a good way to prove the historical value of something. It might make for a good discussion to have a couple of items that have no paperwork with them. Ask them, "How can we tell these are real antiques and not imitations?" Tell the students that this morning they will hear how the Corinthians could tell that Paul's ministry was authentic. It was not a fake like some of the other groups that were attracting followers. It was not a certificate or word-of-mouth that validated his ministry. It was Paul's heart for his ministry, his sufferings, and the fruit that followed. An authentic ministry will have certain characteristics. Tell the students that they will hear about those this morning.
- ① **Original Sin (Coloring Page/Discussion).** 🎨, 🦋 Discuss with the students: God created man and woman in His image. They lived in perfect harmony until temptation entered in, and their sin separated them from this perfect union they had with God. They could no longer be in the presence of the Holy God. God provided a way for man to come back into fellowship with Him, however He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to become a sacrifice for sin once and for all so that man can be reconciled with God once again. Explain to the students while they color the illustration from **2CO04.GF3**, that Paul's ministry was committed to the message of this reconciliation.

 ① **Our Church Ministries (Coloring Pages/Discussion).** 🎨, 🦋 Ask the students what a ministry is? (*A ministry is a service to God—a service which helps to others grow closer to God through a relationship with Jesus.*) Talk about all the ministries within our church. Have the students color the pictures as you discuss them, **2CO04.GF4 Pgs. 1-3.** Ask them, “Who are the people who serve in them?” “What is something in common that connects them all together?”

 ➤ **2 Corinthians One-Sent Take-Home (Review).** 🎨, 🦋 Follow up with the students' take-home Scripture work each week during HOOK time—whether pre-HOOK, as the students come into the classroom, or post-HOOK, after a HOOK activity and before the BOOK as a review. Reward the students who have memorized last week's verse with the next sticker for their One-Sent Flying Disc. Challenge them according to their ability to memorize all the key verses in 2 Corinthians up to the current week's lesson. An additional challenge to memorize the outline itself (i.e., The Apostle and His Comfort, The Apostle and His Message, etc.) can be given, as appropriate.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –

 **Adam and Eve in Communion with God (Illustration/Coloring Page).** 🎨, 🦋 Genesis 1:27-31, **2CO04.GF5.**

 **All Have Sinned (Illustration/Coloring Page).** 🎨, 🦋 Roman 3:23; Isaiah 59:2, **2CO04.GF6.**

 **Reconciliation by Christ's Blood (Illustration/Coloring Page).** 🎨, 🦋 Ephesians 2:13; Colossians 1:21, 22, **2CO04.GF7.**

 **Once Far Away, Now Brought Near (Illustration/Coloring Page).** 🎨, 🦋 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19, **2CO04.GF8.**

Bible Adventure for 1st – 6th Grades -

Paul looked forward to seeing Christ face-to-face one day. He fixed his hope in heaven, and all Paul wanted to do in this life was please Christ. Paul loved God very much and feared Him. This awe of God motivated Paul to please Him in *everything*, including the ministry to which God had called him.

Ministry is serving God. Ministry involves helping others to grow in their relationship with God. The service to which God called Paul was very important. He was an apostle and his ministry was to help lay the foundation of Christ's church. Paul did that by preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles and then teaching those who became Christians so that they could grow closer in their relationship with God. Often Paul taught the different Gentile churches by writing letters, and that is how we got a lot of our New Testament Scriptures. But Paul especially wanted to serve people who had never heard the Gospel so that those people would turn away from their sins and would become friends of God instead of enemies of God. Many Corinthian people became friends of God because of Paul's preaching, and Paul continued to teach them in this letter that we call Second Corinthians. He wanted them to keep growing closer and closer to God.

One of the things that would keep the Corinthians from growing in their relationship to God was false teaching about God. Even though Paul had written the Corinthians before to warn them about the false apostles who tried to take control of the church, some of those false apostles were still there trying to impress the people in the church and have the church follow them instead of Paul. They were accusing Paul of telling lies and teaching things that were not true about God. Paul was very concerned about this. He was a true messenger of God and because he wanted to protect the church from these fake ministers, Paul defended his apostleship in this letter. Paul wanted the Corinthians to look at his heart and his ministry. He was not a fake and his service to the Corinthians should prove it. His ministry was real, and so was his message about Jesus. Paul wrote about the purpose for his ministry and then he gave ten characteristics of his ministry that proved it was real and from God.

The purpose of Paul's ministry was to show others that they needed to be reconciled with God. This means that they needed to become friends with God through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross because, without Jesus, they were enemies of God holding on to their sin. Paul knew God had given His Son Jesus to die on the cross for him and to take all of his punishment. When Paul saw that Jesus was truly God's son, he traded his sins in for Jesus' righteousness. He then was made a friend of God, no longer separated from Him as an enemy. Enemies of God cannot be with God because God cannot be around sin. God is holy. This is how it is for everyone: every person is an enemy of God, but because Jesus died and took the punishment for man's sin, people can become friends of God.

Paul wanted to tell God's message of reconciliation to everyone. This is why Paul said, "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" (5:20). An ambassador is a special person who is sent out by some authority like a king or president. The ambassador is sent to represent that king or president to another group of people, giving them his messages. Paul was sent by God with His message of reconciliation, just as an ambassador is sent. He went out to the Gentile peoples to plead with them to go to Jesus and be reconciled to God.

Paul's ministry of reconciliation was real; it was from God. Many things could be seen in his ministry that proved it was true, or authentic. Paul mentioned ten characteristics to convince the Corinthians of his apostleship.

First, Paul was above criticism. Even though enemies of God spoke badly about how Paul was serving God, Paul was careful to live in a right way in all areas of his life. He did not make others sin by doing things that other people might think were wrong. No real criticism could be said of Paul (6:3).

Second, as Paul served God, he suffered. Paul's body was frequently beaten, he was made fun of, he often was hungry and thirsty, and he was even put into prison (6:4,5,8-10).

Third, Paul's ministry was pure. Paul lived his whole life focused on Jesus instead of being distracted by the things in the world that looked good (6:6a).

Fourth, Paul served God through the Holy Spirit. Paul showed patience and kindness even when people treated him badly. These characteristics were seen in his life by others: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (6:6b).

Fifth, Paul's ministry was truly out of his love for God and others. Paul told the Corinthians that he loved them with his whole heart, like a father loves his children. He also showed that he served God out of love because Paul cared about people more than he cared about himself (6:6c).

Sixth, Paul's ministry was truthful. Paul spoke the words of God through the Holy Spirit. The false teachers of Corinth had no real ministry because what they said was not from God (6:7a).

Seventh, Paul's ministry was in the power of God. God showed His power through Paul by continuing to change people who were once enemies of God into friends of God and God's church continued to grow (6:7a).

Eighth, Paul had joy in serving God. Paul had joy even in the hard times because He knew that God was working through him and that he would soon be in heaven, seeing Jesus face-to-face.

Ninth, Paul's ministry was human. Even though God was doing great things through Paul, Paul was still a man. Paul knew that he would die, but he knew that God would keep him alive as long as God wanted to. Paul realized that he was weak, but he knew that God was strong.

Tenth, Paul's ministry had results. People were turning from their evil ways when they heard the message of Jesus through Paul. People were not becoming friends of God because of Paul, but because God's power was at work through Paul.

These ten characteristics prove that Paul was really serving God and should be seen in every ministry that is truly of God.

Paul's ministry was real! Paul's heart was like Christ's heart, and the reason Paul served was because he loved God and feared Him. Christ came to earth and died on the cross so that we could become friends of God instead of enemies of God. Paul was sure of this and that is why he lived a life serving God, even though he suffered for the way he lived his life. Christians today should serve God for the same reasons that Paul served God: so that others will be reconciled to God and grow closer and closer to Him. Christians should want to serve God because of God's great love for them, not so that others will look at them, as the false teachers wanted. When Christians serve God because they love Him, their ministry will be real, like Paul's. We can prove that people are serving God just as Paul could prove that he was truly serving God by the ten ways that he showed the Corinthian church: the ministry is above true criticism; the ministry continues even when there is much suffering; the ministry is pure in its purpose; the ministry occurs through the Holy Spirit; the ministry is motivated by love; the ministry is truthful through God's Word; the ministry is done by the power of God; the ministry is done in joy; the ministry admits its human weaknesses; and the ministry results in the fruit of changed lives.

Aim Questions

1. **Define "ministry."** (*Ministry is serving God – helping others grow in their relationship with God.*)
2. **What was Paul's motivation for ministry?** (*Paul feared the Lord and knew the love and sacrifice of Christ.*)
3. **What was the purpose of Paul's ministry?** (*To persuade others to be reconciled with God through Christ.*)
4. **What does it mean to be reconciled with God?** (*To become friends with God through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, when once you were enemies of Him.*)
5. **Name the ten characteristics of Paul's ministry.** (*Above criticism, with suffering, pure, Spirit-filled, sincere in love, truthful, in the power of God, joyful, human, fruitful in others' repentance.*)
6. **What are some different kinds of ministry in our church today? How can these ministries lead people toward reconciliation with God?**
7. **Have you been reconciled with God? How can you begin to minister like Paul?**



Look:



① **Ambassador to Corinth (Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 Have the students draw Paul's route on the map, **2CO04.GF9**, as they trace this series of events. They should use a line with arrows showing direction, and dotted lines to show the trip that Paul planned but didn't make. For an extra challenge, have them show Titus' route in a different color. They should put the number of each event next to the place where it occurred.

1. Paul paid a "Painful Visit" to **Corinth**.
2. Paul went to **Ephesus**.
3. Paul sent Titus back to **Corinth** with a "Sorrowful Letter," calling for their repentance.
4. Paul went to **Troas**. He planned to meet Titus there and hear about how the Corinthians received the letter. Then he planned to visit **Corinth** on his way to **Macedonia**. But when Paul didn't find Titus in **Troas**, he decided not to go to **Corinth** and "Missed His Promised Visit."
5. Worried and discouraged, Paul went on to **Macedonia** and there he found Titus, who had encouraging news about the Corinthian believers!
6. There Paul wrote "2 Corinthians" and promised a "Third Visit" soon.



① **Reconcile the Memory Verse (Puzzle/Craft).** 🦋, 🦋 Each student will need:

2CO04.GF10 Pgs. 1 & 2 copied onto white cardstock
 scissors
 glue
 coloring crayons or markers

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their puzzles:

1. Cut out the geometric pieces on **2CO04.GF10 pg. 2**.
2. Arrange them inside the outline of the cross on the first page so that the words on the cross *reconcile* the memory verse.

Ask the students: What is the message of reconciliation hidden in the cross? (*Through Christ be reconciled to God.*) Have them repeat the completed memory verse, and color if time allows.

- ① **Language Study for Ambassadors (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 Have the students match these words to their definitions using **2CO04.GF11 Pg. 1**. Have them use the vocabulary words to fill in the blanks of this passage from 2 Corinthians 5. Challenge the students to check their comprehension: Put the verse number in front of the statement that has the same meaning.
Answer Key: 2CO04.GF11 Pg. 2

- ① **The Heart of Paul's Ministry (Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 Each student will need:
Duplex copy **2CO04.GF12 page 2 to page 1** onto red cardstock.
scissors
yarn

Explain to the students that the characteristics of Paul's ministry revealed his true heart. Pass out **2CO04.GF12 Pg. 1** with the words "Paul's Heart" facing up, to each student and tell the students not to turn over the heart until instructed to do so. Review the characteristics of Paul's ministry with them. Have them write the qualities that they find in Paul's heart inside the heart. Once completed, ask the students who they think was revealed to others through Paul's ministry. After whom did Paul pattern his heart actions? *Christ*. Ask them to turn their hearts over and see that Paul had a heart just like Christ's. The students can then cut out the hearts, punch a hole in the top and attach yarn through them so that they will spin freely.

- ① **Reconciled By God (Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 Each student will need:
2CO04.GF13 Pg. 1 copied onto red cardstock
1 cross from **2CO04.GF13 Pg. 2** copied onto light brown cardstock
scissors
2 strips of 2 ¼ x ¾ red cardstock
4 small sets of adhesive Velcro

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their crafts:




1. Cut out the GOD/MAN heart and the cross.
2. Cut apart the heart on the jagged line.
3. Paste small sets of Velcro across from each other where you have cut the jagged line apart. Test it before you stick the Velcro down to make sure that the words GOD and MAN are still visible once the cross is slid into place.
4. Attach the strips to the heart with the Velcro to hold the heart together so that the cross will slide in back of the strips.



Discuss with the students as they are working on this craft that man was separated from God because of sin. Christ's death and resurrection was the means of reconciliation between God and man. Because of Christ's sacrifice, we can have fellowship once again with our heavenly Father.




- ① **Jump the Chasm (Activity).** 🎨, 🦋 Using masking tape, put two parallel lines on the floor approximately 10 feet apart. Label one side Sinful Man and the other side Eternal Life. Explain to the students how sin separates us from eternal life with God. Ask the students to give different ways in which people try to work their way to heaven, such as good works, going to church, helping our mom and dad, obedience to our parents, etc. As the students give an answer, have them try to jump from one side to the other. Can they make it on their own? Explain to them how we can be reconciled with God through Jesus Christ, and that Jesus died for our sins to bridge the gap. Bring a piece of wood that will stretch between the two sides for the students to walk across. Now ask the students how they can get from the Sinful Man side to the Eternal Life side. Let them walk across. (If you cannot bring a piece of wood, have a teacher carry the children across the gap with the focus that they cannot reach the other side alone, but that Jesus died to fill in that gap).

- ① **Characteristics of Paul's Ministry (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 Have the students use **2CO04.GF14** to complete the crossword puzzle.. *Answers: 1) frail, 2) suffering, 3) Spirit, 4) reproach, 5) sincere, 6) repentance, 7) joyful, 8) power, 9) purity, 10) truthful*

- ① **Paul's Ministry (Worksheet).** 🦋 Have the students read the descriptions of the characteristics of Paul's ministry from **2CO04.GF15**. Then have them unscramble the answers and write the letters in the squares, in order, at the bottom of the page to reveal the purpose of Paul's ministry.
Answers: suffering, above reproach, pure, sincere in love, truthful, fruit of repentance, Spirit-filled, power of God, joyful, human, reconciled

 ① **2 Corinthians 5:20 (Worksheet/Memory Verse).**   To find out what the verse says on **2CO04.GF16**, have the students turn the letters into words by adding vowels.


 ➤ **Aim Questions (Worksheet).**  Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **2CO04.GF17**.

 ➤ **Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).**   This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **2CO04.GF18 Pgs. 1 & 2**.

 ➤ **2 Corinthians 5:20 (Memory Verse Song).**  Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.





Took:

 ① **Ambassador's Flag (Craft).**  Each student will need:
1 copy of **2CO04.GF19**
1 straw or small straw-sized dowel
coloring crayons or markers
gold glitter (optional)

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their flags:

1. Fold the flag in half and color both sides.
2. Glue together with the straw in between at one side. The straw will extend from the bottom corner of the flag.
3. Decorate the edges with gold glitter if desired.

Discuss with the students how an ambassador identifies himself and the place where he works by flying the flag of the country he represents. Tell them that as an ambassador for Christ, they might fly a flag that illustrates a message of reconciliation with God.




 ① **Ambassador's Flag (Craft).**  Each student will need:
1 half-sized sheet of plain paper
1 straw or small straw-sized dowel
coloring crayons or markers
gold glitter (optional)




Review how an ambassador identifies himself and the place where he works by flying the flag of the country he represents.




Have the students follow the directions below to complete their flags:

1. Fold the paper in half (short fold). It should be at the top of the flag
2. Design a flag that you might fly as an ambassador for Christ. Try to illustrate the message of reconciliation.
3. Color both sides of the flag.
4. Glue together with the straw in between at one side. The straw will extend from the bottom corner of the flag.
5. Decorate the edges with gold glitter if desired.




Teachers: Refer to the example of the flag above for the younger students on **2CO04.GF19**.

 ① **Protocol for Ambassadors (Worksheet).**   Explain to the students that Paul was our example of what an ambassador of Christ should do and be. Have them match the descriptions of protocol with the character traits that Paul modeled for us, **2CO04.GF20**. Have them choose two or three traits that they would like to see improved in their ministry. Encourage them to pray that God would help them with these and to pray, also, for their leaders and pastors in the same areas.

 ① **Practice for Foreign Ministers (Activity).** ,  Present the message of reconciliation by illustrating the separation that exists between God and Man because of sin. Then illustrate on the chalkboard or whiteboard how the cross bridges the gap. Allow the students to come in front of the class. They may draw the illustration themselves and explain it to the class. If anyone wants to take several Reconciled with God Gospel tracts home with them this week to give to people with whom they come in contact, make sure that you provide the quantities needed. These tracts can be requested from the Children's Ministry workroom.

 ① **Portrait of Paul (Continuing Activity).** ,  This week the students will be adding new characteristics and information to Paul (see the first week's lesson plan for explanation of this activity). They learned that Paul:

- Was an ambassador for Christ (3:20)
- Was a servant of God (6:4)
- Was a committed minister (6:4-10)
- Suffered greatly for the cause (6:4, 5, 8-10)
- Pure (6:6)
- Patient and kind (6:6)
- Spirit-filled (6:6)
- Sincere in love (6:6)
- Truthful (6:7)
- Joyful (6:10)
- Content (6:10)

 ① **Love of God and Love of Others (Discussion).** ,  Discuss with the students how Paul remained in his ministry through all the difficulties because of his love for God and his love of others. Challenge them as they go about their lives this next week to have this same focus. Talk to them about the activities that they will participate in this next week and how they can show this same kind of love to those with whom they come in contact. Have them look up the verses listed and use them for your discussion.

Deut. 6:5

John 13:34, 35

Col. 3:14

Eph. 5:2

1 John 4:7-12




Mark 12:30, 31




John 15:12, 13

Gal. 5:13, 14

Eph. 3:17-19

1 John 4:20, 21

 ① **Ambassadors for Christ (Craft/Discussion).** ,  Following a discussion on how the students can be ambassadors for Christ in a real sense, allow time for them to make something that they could wear or take home from church this morning. This might be a sash, a flag, a special hat, or a certificate. Use materials available from the Children's Ministry workroom, or bring something from home (i.e., strips of fabric for sashes or flags). Whatever they make it should be something that calls attention to them, showing that they are special. Review the qualities of an ambassador. Remind them that they must represent the authority of their King by speaking His message as they go out.

 ➤ **2 Corinthians One-Sent Take-Home (Review).** ,  Review today's memory verse with the students and encourage them to master it over the week. Remind the students that those who can say their verse at the beginning of next week's class will be rewarded with the sticker for that lesson. Challenge a new student each week during this time to take a One-Sent Flying Disc and explain to the class the book of 2 Corinthians as he or she has learned it this far. Have him or her explain everything that is on the flying disc and say the verses that correspond with each sticker. This is a great review of the outline for 2 Corinthians, and it will help prepare the students to use the flying disc as a tool for explaining Paul's ministry to others who ask about the flying disc.

Ambassador with a Mission

Throughout history, kings and rulers have understood the importance of maintaining good relationships with the leaders of the countries around them. But they have also realized, that if they traveled too much, they would not be taking care of responsibilities in their home country.

The solution has been for these rulers to send representatives in their place. These representatives are called ambassadors. They are trusted by the leaders who send them and respected by the countries to which they travel. Their presence is especially important during times of unrest or conflict between nations. Sometimes their work can make the difference between war and peace.

From the time it became a nation, the United States has sent ambassadors to countries all over the world. One such country is Vietnam, and the two nations enjoyed friendly relations for many years. But Vietnam became a divided nation and, in 1955, the U.S. declared its support for the southern part of Vietnam. Fighting turned to war, and in 1959, the U.S. sent troops to join South Vietnam in the fight against North Vietnam. Helicopters on military missions actually flew from the roof of the U.S. embassy building in South Vietnam!

One young officer who was sent to fight was Air Force Captain Douglas "Pete" Peterson. In 1966, his plane was shot down over North Vietnam. He was taken prisoner and, for almost seven years, he suffered the life of a prisoner of war. Sometimes he was questioned and tortured, but it was almost as hard to endure the long periods of time when he was left all alone.

After the U.S. military left Vietnam in 1975, there was no U.S. ambassador in that country for 31 years. But now, Captain Pete Peterson has returned to Vietnam—not as a soldier, but as an ambassador of the United States! He's the first U.S. ambassador ever to be stationed in Hanoi, a city in the north and now capital of Vietnam.

The country of Vietnam is anxious to overcome the remaining effects of the war and mend the strained relationship that still exists between it and the U.S. Pete Peterson's mission is to bring reconciliation between these two countries.

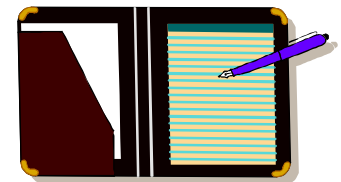
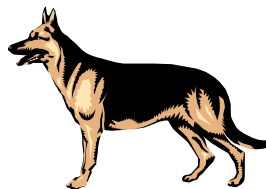
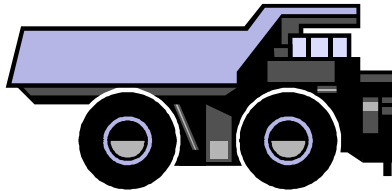
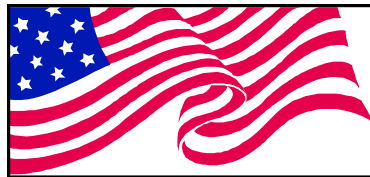
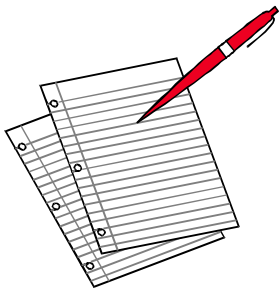
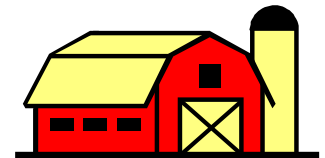
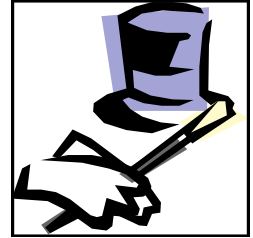
One concern that keeps the two countries apart is that there were many U.S. soldiers who went to fight in the war and didn't return, dead or alive. Their status is "missing in action," and their families in this country still want to know what happened to them. The Vietnamese people also lost countless loved ones. Pete Peterson is working hard to help in the search for clues.

Pete Peterson has also worked hard to remove obstacles to free trade between the two countries. He has traveled to Washington D.C. to encourage legislation that would improve conditions for Americans to do business in Vietnam.

He says, "I want to heal the wounds between the United States and Vietnam. It's a tragic history that we've shared as two peoples. No one can change that, but there is a great deal we can all do about the future. And that's why I'm in Vietnam."

Ambassador Equipment

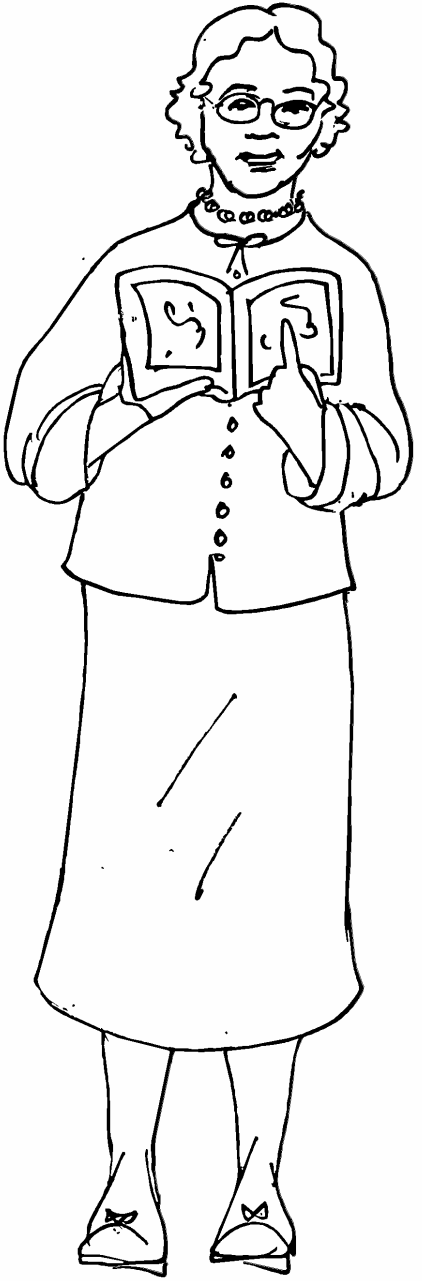
An ambassador is someone who is sent by the leader of his own country to be a spokesman and representative in a foreign country. Circle the things an ambassador might need in order to do his job.

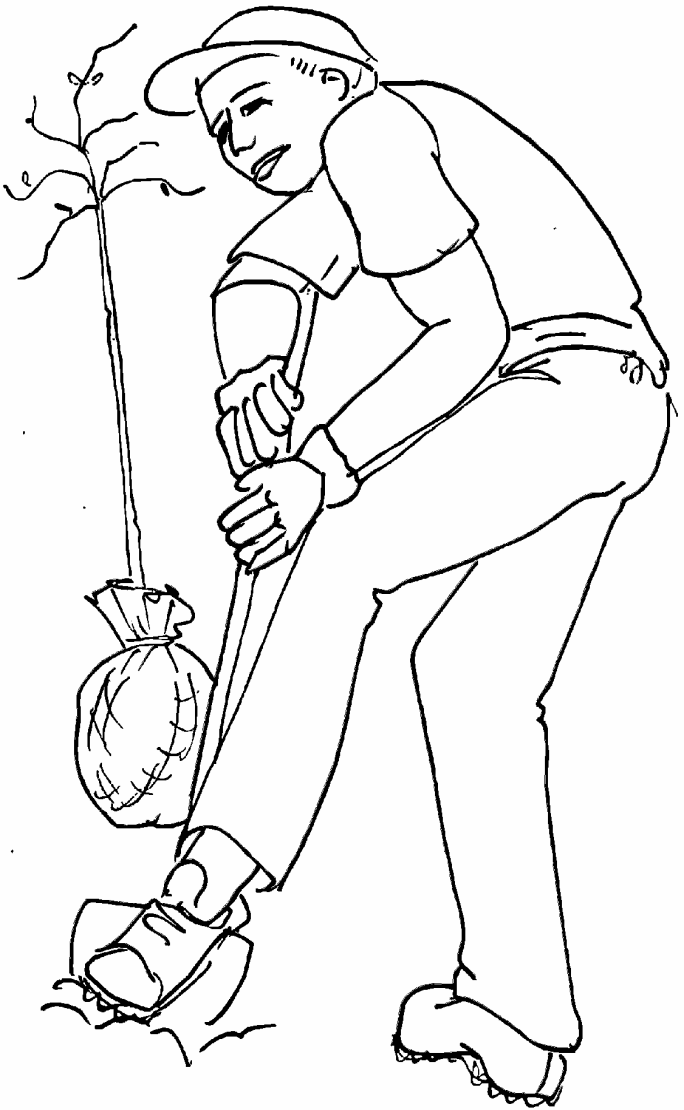


Original Sin





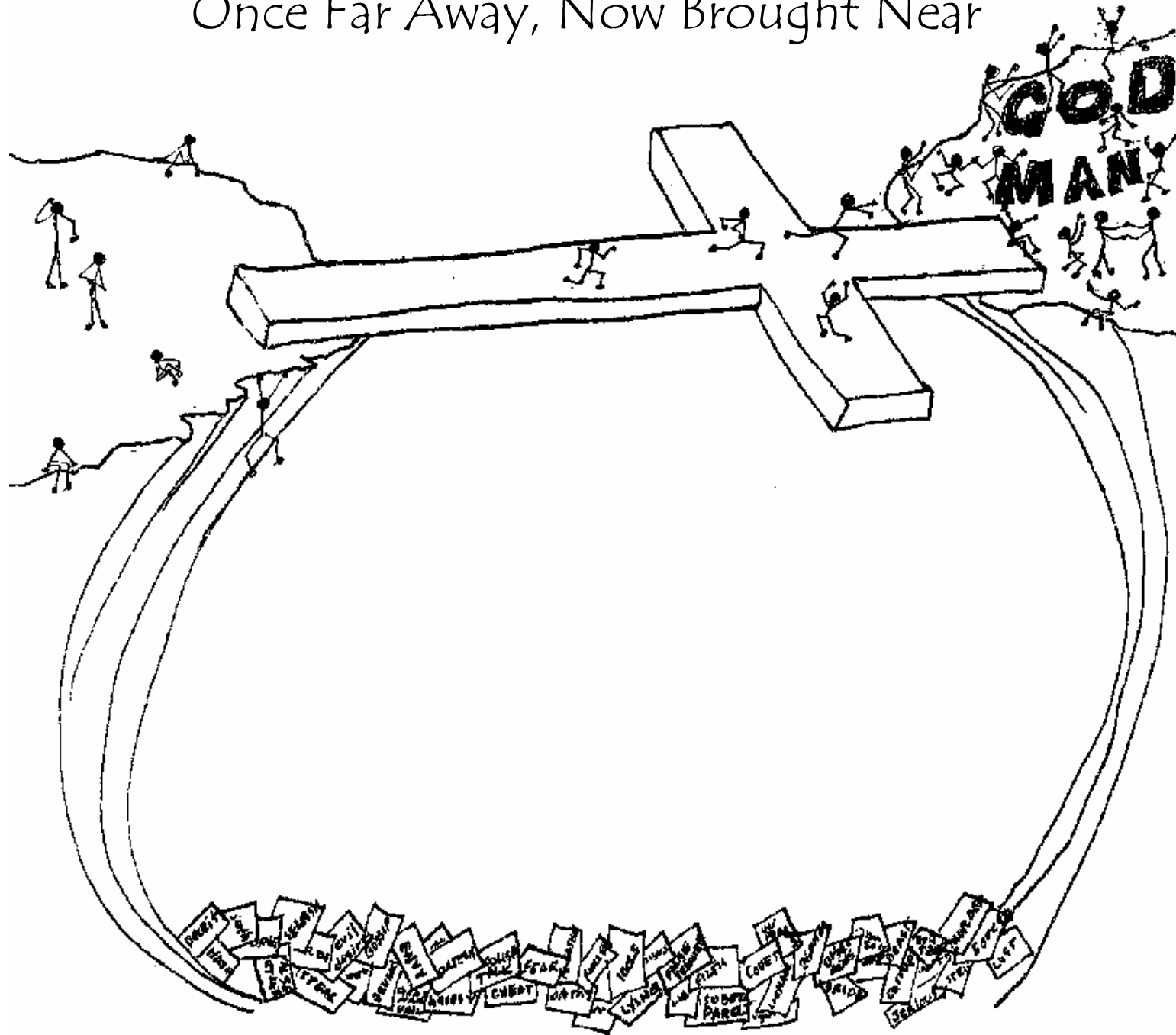




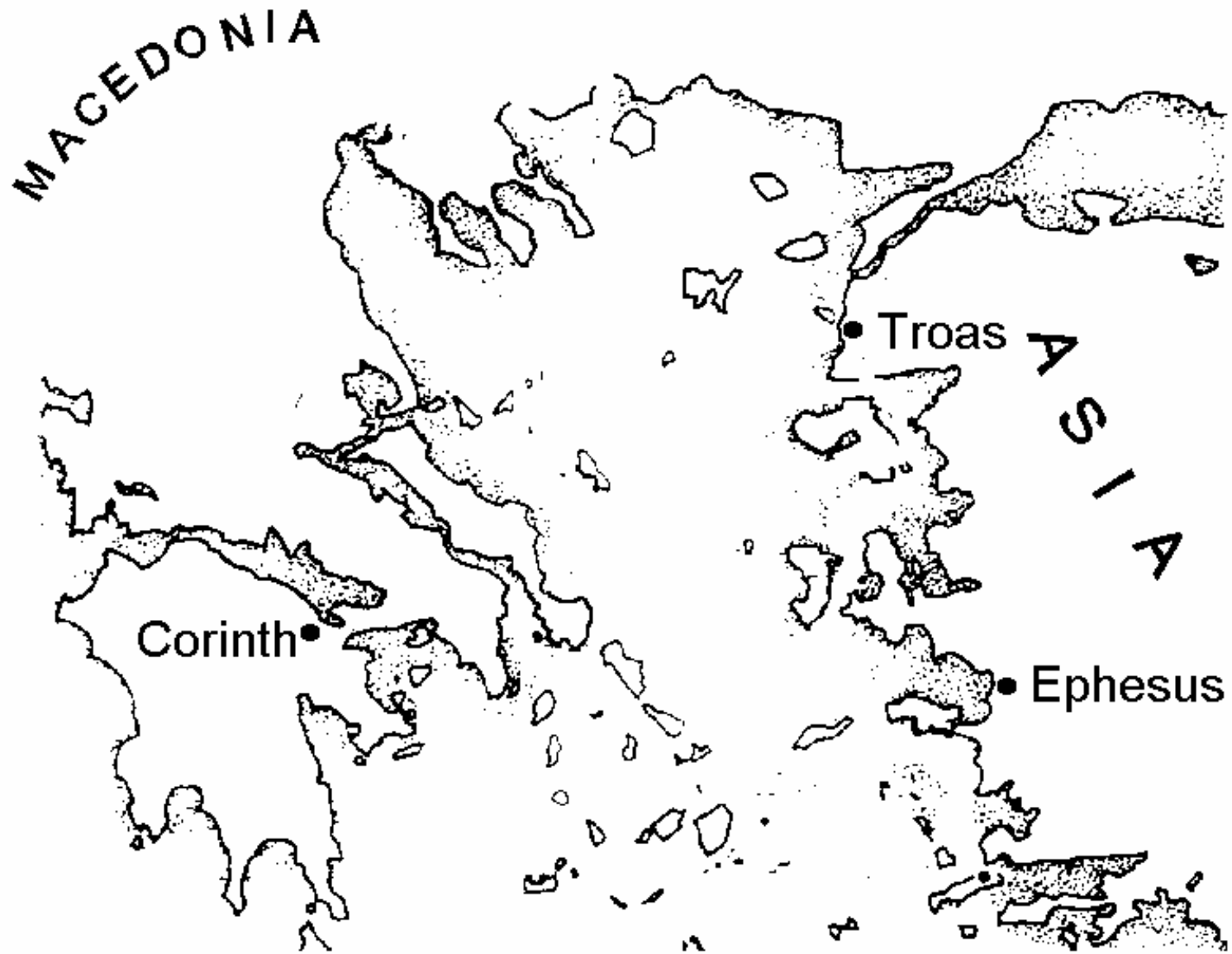
Adam and Eve in Communion with God



Once Far Away, Now Brought Near



Ambassador to Corinth



We are therefore
Christ's ambassadors,
as though

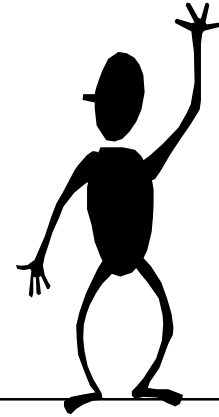


we were making His appeal

We implore you on

us.

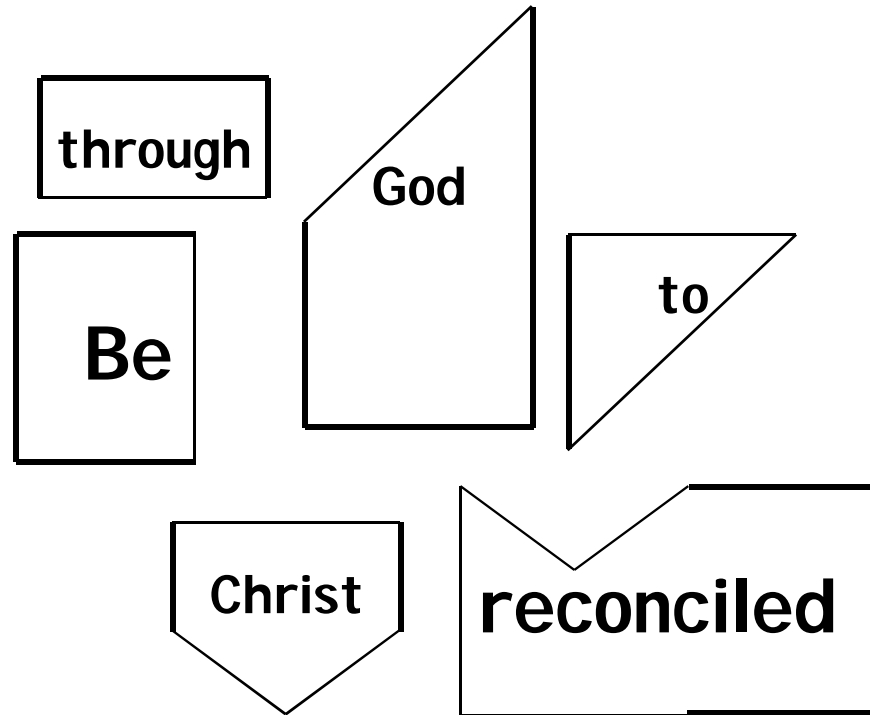
's behalf:



Reconcile the Memory

Verse:

1. Cut out the geometric pieces on this page.
2. Arrange them inside the outline of the cross on the first page so that the words on the cross *reconcile* the memory verse.
3. What is the message of reconciliation hidden in the cross? (Through Christ be reconciled to God.) Repeat the completed memory verse.
4. Color if time allows.



Language Study for Ambassadors

Draw a line to match these words to their definitions:

ambassadors

appeal

committed

counting

creation

implore

ministry

reconciliation

righteousness

Something made by God

Where enemies become friends

Serving God; helping others to grow in their relationship with God

To take into account; hold responsible for a debt

Entrusted for safe delivery

Official representatives sent by a ruler to foreign countries

To earnestly call or plea; to beg

Justice and virtue; true goodness

Use the vocabulary words above to fill in the blanks of this passage from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

(Reconciliation, reconciled, and reconciling are all used.)

Check your comprehension:

Put the verse number in front of the statement that has the same meaning.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____; the old has gone, the new has come!

18 All this is from God, who _____ us to Himself through Christ and gave us the _____ of _____:

19 that God was _____ the world to Himself in Christ, not _____ men's sins against them. And He has _____ to us the message of _____.

20 We are therefore Christ's _____, as though God were making his _____ through us. We _____ you on Christ's behalf: Be _____ to God.

21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the _____ of God.

_____ Jesus was sinless, but God treated Him as if He were guilty like us. That made it possible for God to see us as though we were innocent like Jesus.

_____ When we give our lives to Christ, we are no longer controlled by worldly values and desires, but are transformed by God.

_____ We have been sent as representatives of God to beg you to let Christ bring peace between you and God.

Language Study for Ambassadors - Key

Draw a line to match these words to their definitions:

ambassadors	Something made by God
appeal	Where enemies become friends
committed	Serving God; helping others to grow in their relationship with God
counting	To take into account; hold responsible for a debt
creation	Entrusted for safe delivery
implore	Official representatives sent by a ruler to foreign countries
ministry	To earnestly call or plea; to beg
reconciliation	Justice and virtue; true goodness
righteousness	

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Put the verse number in front of the statement that has the same meaning.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new **creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!

18 All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry** of **reconciliation**:

19 that God was **reconciling** the world to Himself in Christ, not **counting** men's sins against them. And He has **committed** to us the message of **reconciliation**.

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.

21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the **righteousness** of God.

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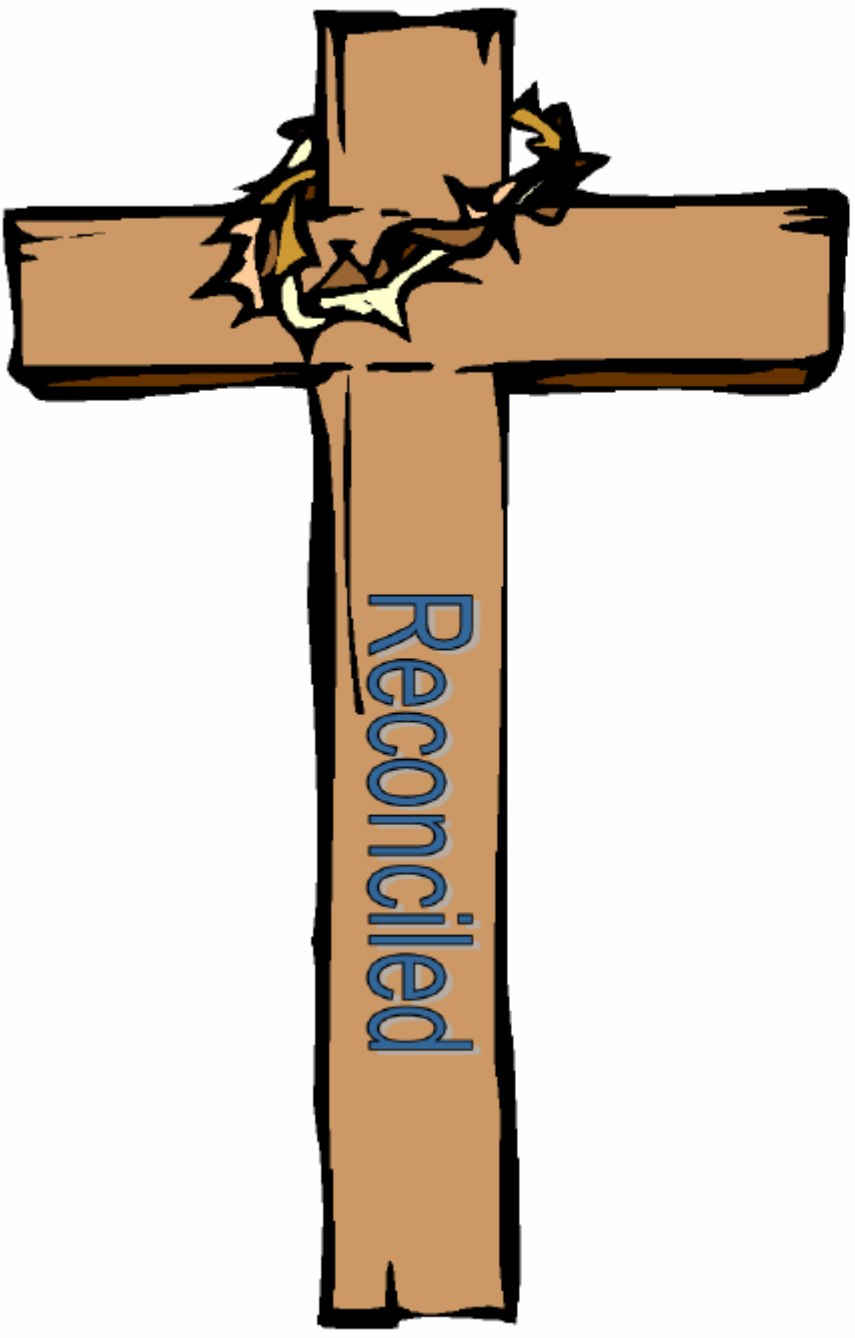
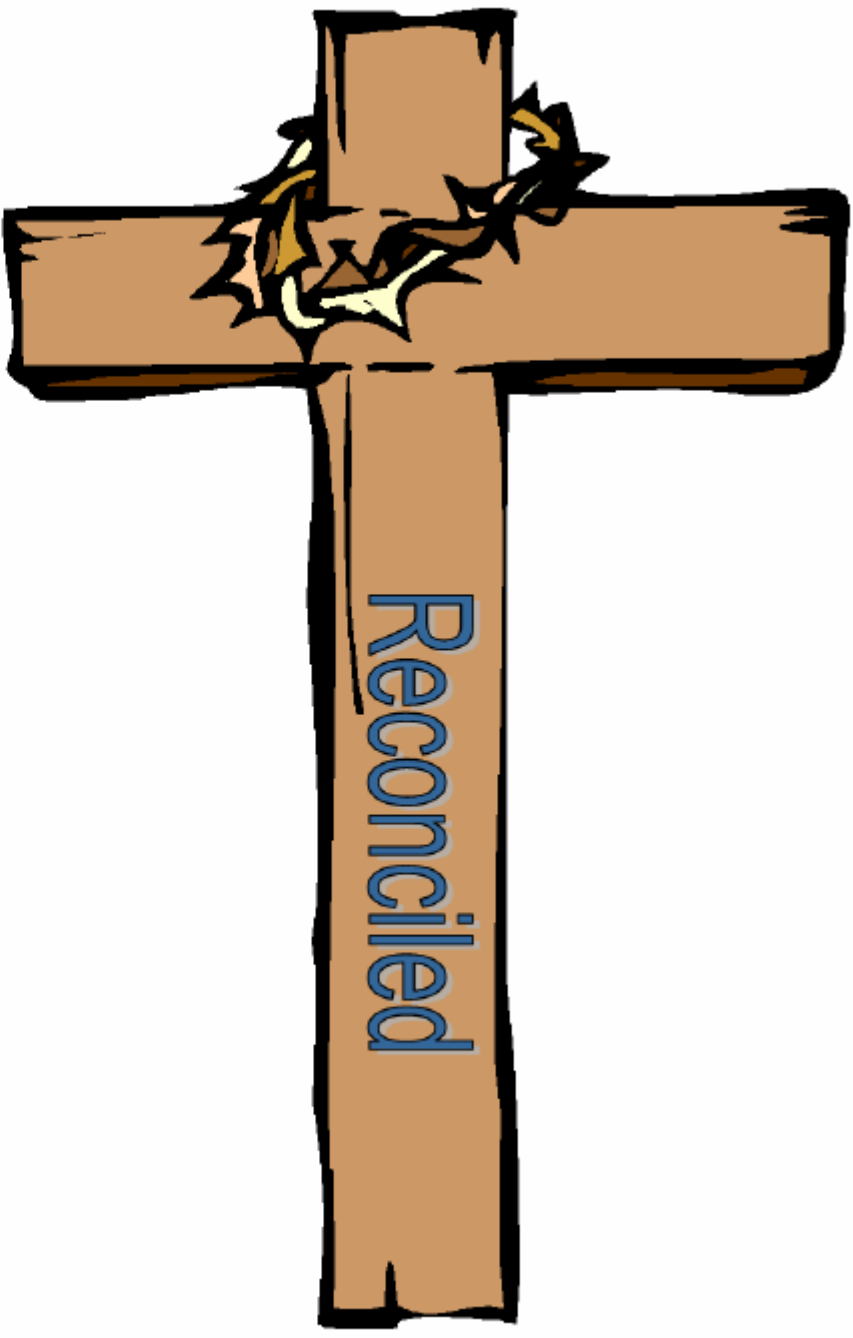
20 We have been sent as representatives of God to beg you to let Christ bring peace between you and God.

Paul's Heart

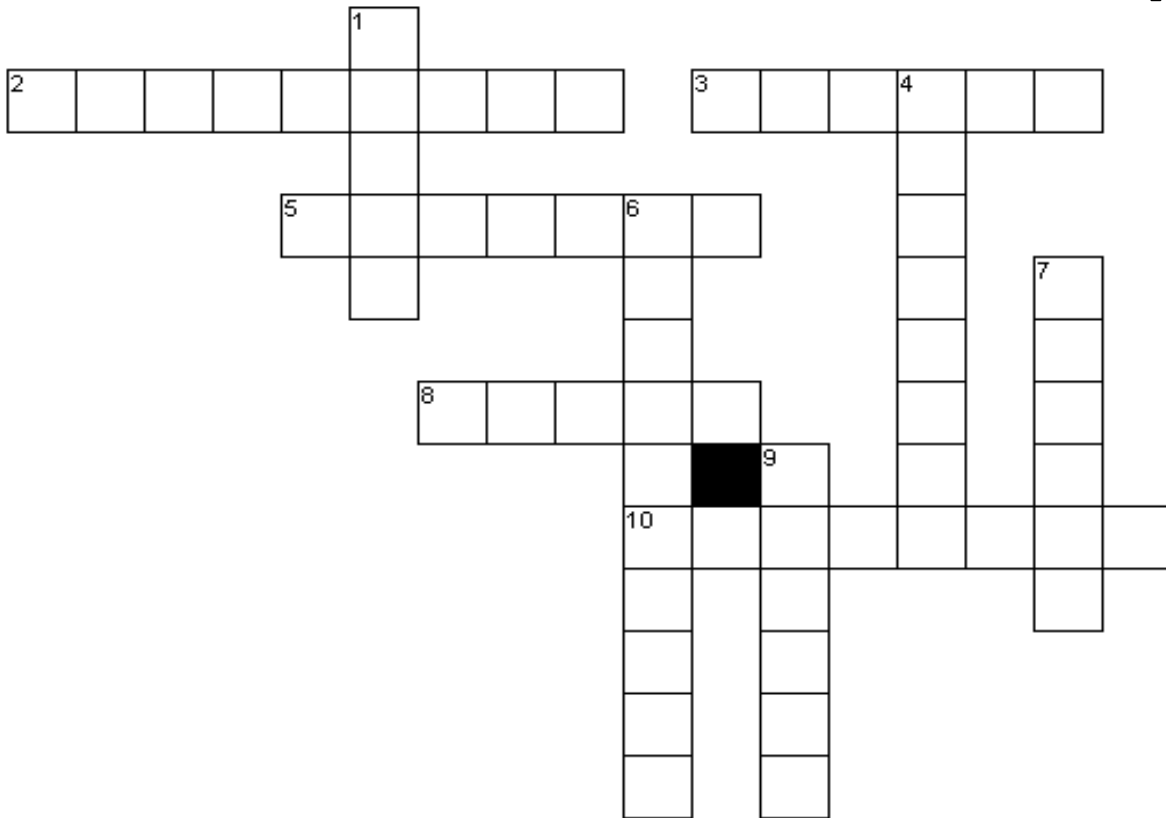


Christ's Heart





Characteristics of Paul's Ministry



Across

2. To go through pain and misery. (6:4, 5, 8-10)
3. Paul was _____ filled. (6:6b)
5. Paul's love was honest. (6:6c)
8. God gave Paul this energy to minister. (6:7b)
10. Paul's speech in the power of God. (6:7a)

Down

1. Paul's body was lacking physical strength. (7:5-7)
4. Paul lived his life to be above criticism or _____. (6:3)
6. Sorrow from Paul's letter led the Corinthian to this. (7:9)
7. Paul took delight in his ministry. (7:4)
9. Paul had this quality of being pure. (6:6a)

Paul's Ministry

Read the descriptions of the characteristics of Paul's ministry. Unscramble the answers and then write the letters in the squares, in order, at the bottom of the page to reveal the purpose of Paul's ministry.

Paul was under the strain of hard labor, hunger, thirst, and continuous persecution from others.

FURFNEGIS _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Paul was all things to all men and did not cause anyone any offense in their consciences.

BVAEO ERROCAHP _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Paul was single-minded in his ambition to reach people who had never heard the Gospel.

ERPU _ _ _ _

Paul's love was evident in his selfless actions to the edification of the churches he oversaw.

ENRESCI NI VELO _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Paul proclaimed the Gospel and relied on the power of God.

LTURHTUF _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

When Paul preached, taught, and disciplined others, this was the result.

TFURI FO EACPENRET _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Paul was controlled by the Holy Spirit, which resulted in all aspects of the fruit of the Spirit being evident.

TSIPRI LEIFLD _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

This was the power that was continually displayed through Paul, which was successfully transforming lives and building up a church for God's glory.

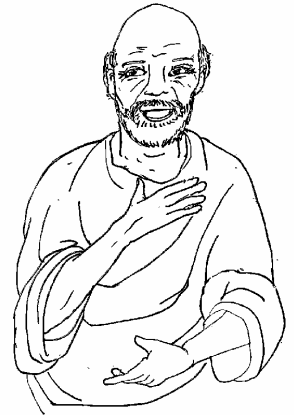
ROPWE FO DGO _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Paul rejoiced in his ministry.

YFOYUJ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Paul was frail and close to death but was confident that God would sustain him as long as He willed.

MUHNA _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _



Purpose of Paul's Ministry

Persuade others to be _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20

To find out what the verse says, turn the letters into words by adding vowels.

“W__ __ r__ th__r__f__r__ Chr__st’s

__mb__ss__d__rs, __s th__ __gh

G__d w__r__ m__k__ng H__s

__pp__ __l thr__ __gh __s.

W__ __mpl__r__ y__ __ __n

Chr__st’s b__h__lf:

B__ r__c__nc__l__d t__ G__d.”

Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Define "ministry."
2. What was Paul's motivation for ministry?
3. What was the purpose of Paul's ministry?
4. What does it mean to be reconciled with God?
5. Name the ten characteristics of Paul's ministry.
6. What are some different kinds of ministry in our church today? How can these ministries lead people toward reconciliation with God?
7. Have you been reconciled with God? How can you begin to minister like Paul?

Paul was convinced of Christ's love and sacrifice and was driven to persuade others also to be reconciled with God through Christ. Christians should have this same purpose in serving others, that they may be reconciled with God and have a maturing relationship with Him.



*"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*

What does Paul have to say about godly sorrow? (7:10, 11)

How did Paul and Titus feel about the Corinthians? (7:13-15)

How did Paul encourage the Corinthians? (7:16)

Passage Review Questions

2 Corinthians 5:11 — 7:16

What did Paul want the Corinthians to see the way he looked on the outside or his heart? (5:11, 12)

Of what was Paul convinced? (5:13, 14)

Who do you think this person is? (5:13-15)

Why does this passage say that Christ died for us? (5:15)

What happens to a person when he or she becomes a Christian? (5:16, 17)

Who is the one who gives us the gift of eternal life? (5:18)

Who bore the sins of men so that they were not counted against them? (5:19)

As Christians with a message from God, what are we to the world? (5:20)

What does Paul say in this verse? (5:21)

What is Paul's message in this passage? (6:1, 2)

How does Paul protect his ministry from the world? (6:3-10)

What are some of the things that Paul endures as a servant of God? (6:9, 10)

What does Paul say is the condition of his heart and that of the Corinthians? (6:11-13)

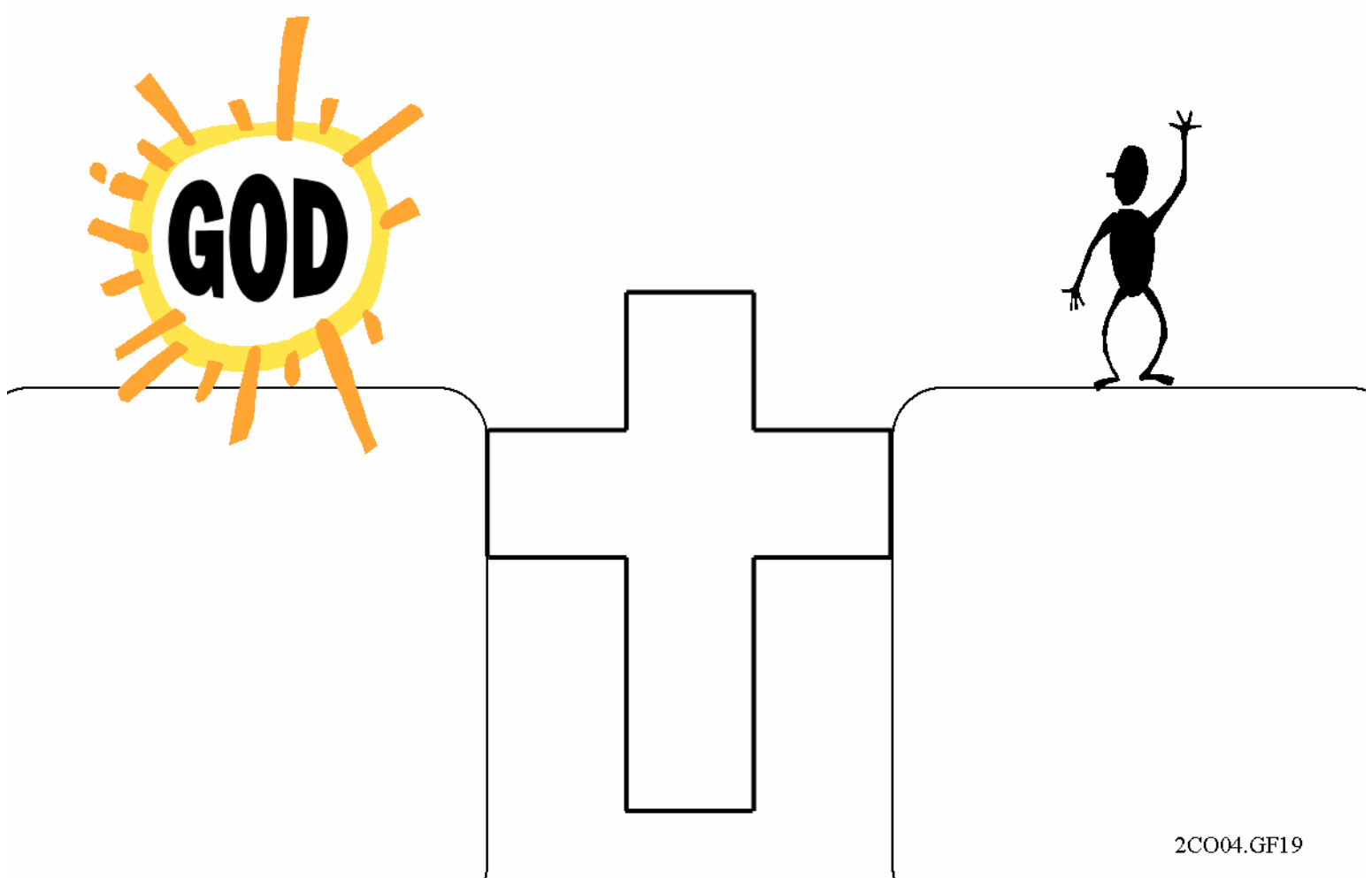
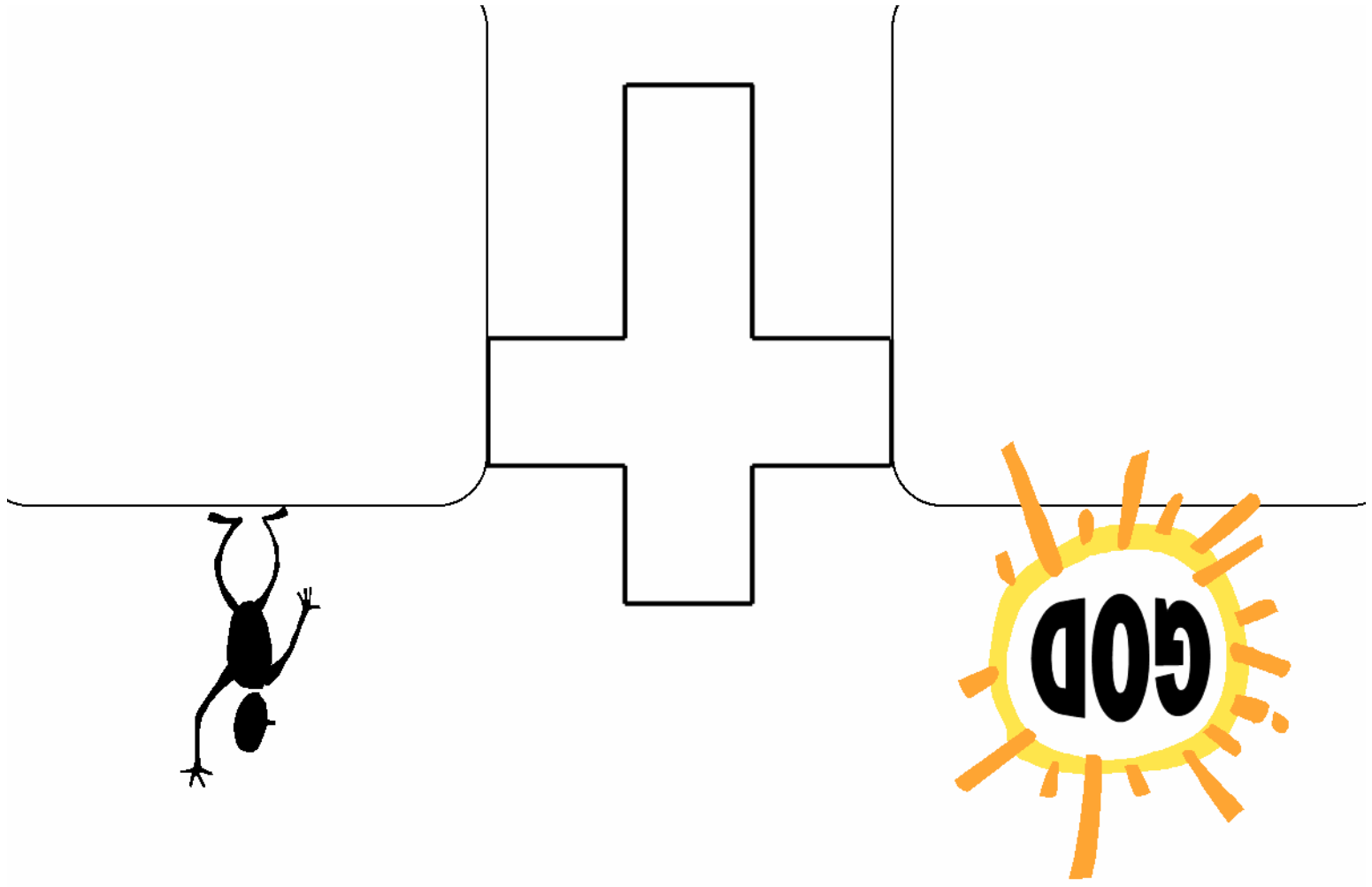
Why does Paul say not to yoke yourself with an unbeliever? (6:14-16)

To what passage does Paul refer in verses 17 and 18? (6:17, 18)

What was Paul's charge to the Corinthians? (7:1)

How was Paul's relationship with the Corinthians? (7:2-4)

How was Paul frustrated and then encouraged in Macedonia? (7:8, 9)



Protocol for Ambassadors

Paul was our example of what an ambassador of Christ should do and be. Match these descriptions of protocol for Christ's ambassadors with the 10 character traits that Paul modeled for us. Look in 2 Corinthians for help.

- 1) Above criticism (6:3)
- 2) With suffering (6:4, 5)
- 3) Pure (6:6a and 6:14-7:1)
- 4) Spirit-filled (6:6b)
- 5) Sincere in love (6:6c)
- 6) Truthful (6:7a)
- 7) In the power of God (6:7b)
- 8) Joyful (7:4)
- 9) Human/Frail (7:5-7)
- 10) Fruit of repentance (7:8-16)



Choose two or three traits that you would like to see improved in your ministry. Pray that God will help you with these. Pray also for your leaders and pastors in the same areas.

_____ We should keep away from situations in the world and close relationships with unbelievers that would influence us to sin.

_____ Our message should always and only come from God's Word.

_____ We should be willing to endure hardship, even persecution, and make sacrifices for others.

_____ We should show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and try to do nothing in our own strength.

_____ We should live our lives with such integrity that our ministry will not be discredited.

_____ People will be sad when they realize how sinful they are but, when they turn to Christ, they will be ready to do whatever it takes to make things right.

_____ We can be greatly encouraged by what God does through our ministry and by the hope of heaven.

_____ We should have the same heart for people that Jesus did when He gave His life for us.

_____ We should trust God to defend us and defeat opposition. There is no limit to what God can do.

_____ God understands our weaknesses and limitations. He will provide for our every need and bring us comfort when we are discouraged.

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