

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 1:8 (ESV)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Psalms 51:5 (NIV)

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

James 2:10 (ESV)

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (ESV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

Ephesians 5:8-9 (NIV)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)".

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift of God is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NASB)

knowing that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but **with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ**.

Key Point: God enlists those He rescues from sin as Ambassadors for King Jesus to be a light on Earth.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Describe a time you experienced "reconciliation"? How did you feel before and after?
- When have you seen someone else's "light" impact you or others?

Everyone Needs Rescue from Sin:

Read Rom 3:23; 1 Jn 1:8; Ps 51:5; Jas 2:10.

- How do these passages collectively shape our understanding of sin and its effect?
- Why do you think people often resist admitting their sinfulness?
- Stephen Davey describes sin as a "spiritual condition" rather than just bad behavior (a gap or chasm between you and God). How does this shift your perspective?

- What are some ways you've seen the effects of sin create distance—from God, from others, or even within yourself?
- Why is it important to understand the bad news before we can appreciate the good news?

A New Creation

Read 2 Cor 5:17-21

- What does it mean to you personally that “the old has passed away; the new has come”?
- How have you experienced this transformation in your life?

The Ministry and Message of Reconciliation

- What does it look like to participate in the “ministry of reconciliation” every day?
- Why do you think God entrusts the message of reconciliation to ordinary believers?

Ambassadors for Christ

- How does thinking of yourself as a citizen of Heaven representing King Jesus on Earth change the way you live?
- Why is it important that we represent Jesus *by name* and not just by good behavior?
- Which setting is most challenging for you to live as an ambassador, and why? Home, work, public spaces, or difficult seasons.
- How do you respond when you have a “not-so-good ambassador moment”?

Light of the World

Read Mt 5:14-16; Eph 5:8-9

- Which of the listed ways of being a light do you find most challenging? Forgiveness, Kindness to all, generosity to those in need, being a source of peace in a troubled world, speaking the truth in love, living with integrity in words and actions.

Salvations: A Free Gift Purchased at a Great Price

Read Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 1:18-19

- Why is it important to acknowledge both the *free gift* and the *great price* of salvation?

Start doing: Given that it is easier to become an ambassador for Christ, but difficult to live it out. What is one practical step you could take to improve your ambassadorship?

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.