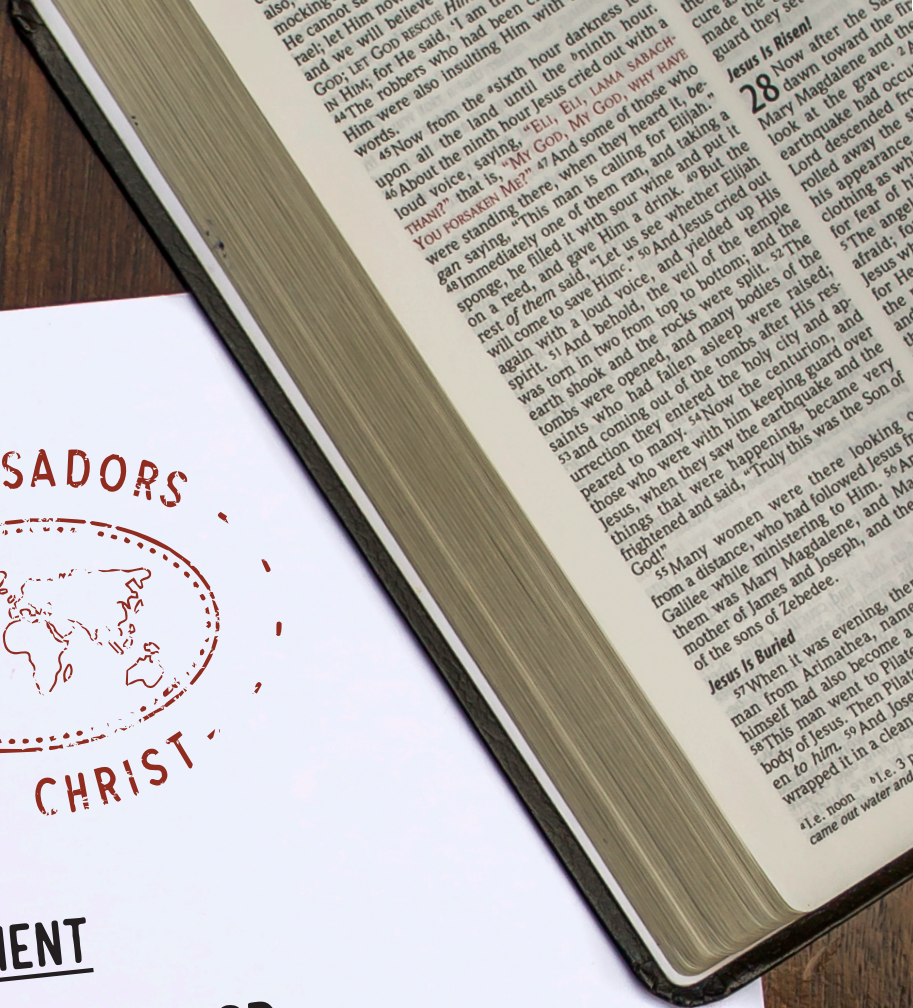




MISSION STATEMENT

1. COMMISSIONED BY GOD
2. TO BUILD HIS CHURCH
3. FOR HIS GLORY IN THE WORLD



AMBASSADORS



FOR CHRIST

KEY VERSE

"I MAKE IT MY AMBITION TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, NOT WHERE CHRIST HAS ALREADY BEEN NAMED, LEST I BUILD ON SOMEONE ELSE'S FOUNDATION."

ROMANS 15:20



INTRODUCTION

This year we have been on a journey that has taken us to some of the most remote areas in the world! These places are not typical travel destinations because they lack many of the comforts and attractions that would draw tourists. But we are not tourists; we are ambassadors! An ambassador is someone who represents or delivers messages from their own country or king to the people of another country, and the king we represent is Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:20 says that we are "ambassadors for Christ" who urge others to be reconciled to God. But it goes beyond the outward action of merely doing what we are told. In Romans 15:20, Paul says that he made it his ambition to preach the gospel. An ambition is a strong desire for something that we are determined to achieve. Reaching the ends of the earth, then, was not just an assignment given to Paul by God, it was an ambition that had deeply penetrated his heart and that he was willing to give anything to achieve.

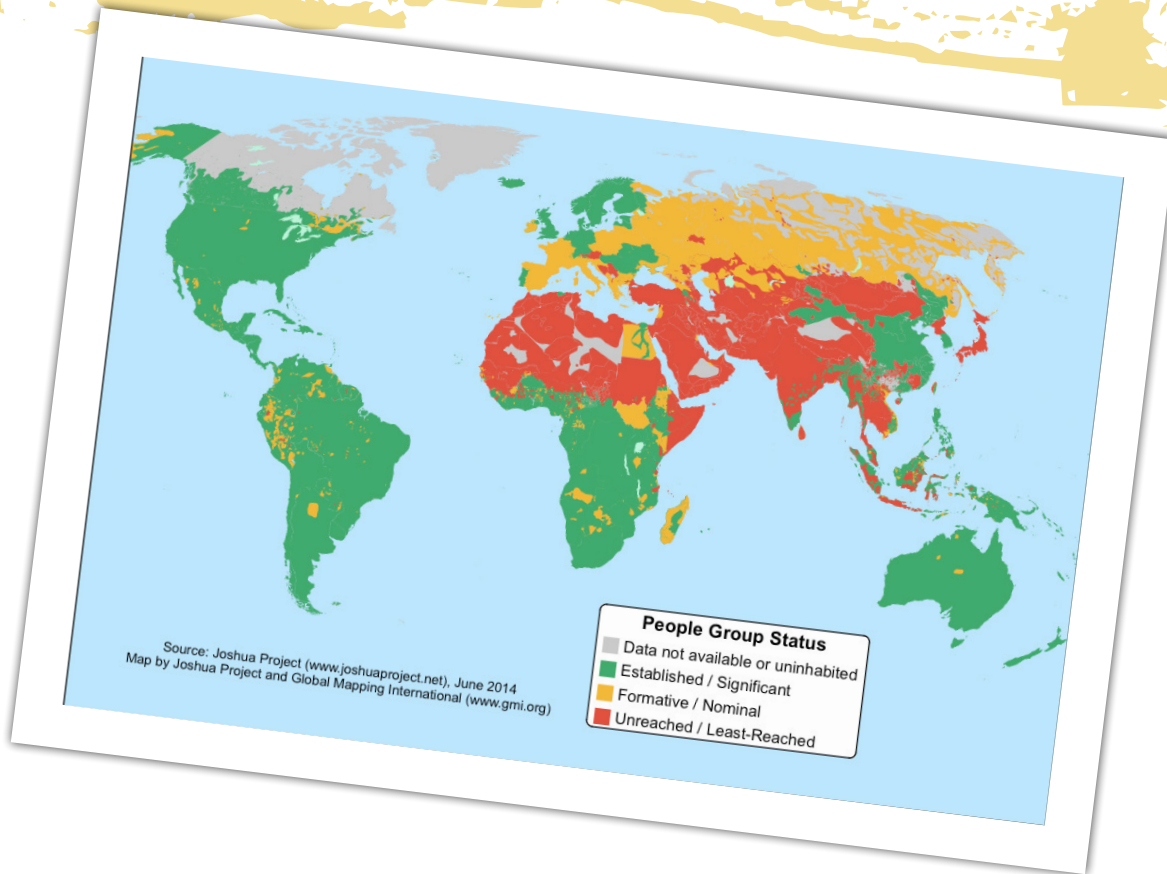
PASSPORT



OVERVIEW

At the beginning of each stage of our journey this year, we have highlighted a new aspect of the mission statement of an ambassador of Christ. When we started this curriculum in October, we began by making it clear that reaching the nations was God's ambition first and he is the one who commissions us. At the beginning of the second stage in January, we articulated that ambassadors for Christ work to build his church. This week is the beginning of the third stage, and we will explain how Christ has placed his light in us so that his character would be clearly communicated to the world.





WHY THE UNREACHED?

Paul's ambition was to take the gospel to places where Christ had not been named (Romans 15:20). His passion reflects God's desire for all nations to hear and receive the gospel. This year we want to grow in our knowledge of God by exploring what he is passionate about, specifically his glory among all peoples. As we do this we will discover implications for our daily lives and how we can join him in his glorious work.



WHO ARE THEY?

This year, we will continue to explore some of the unreached and least-reached people groups in the world. As we travel to different countries around the world, we will discover the great spiritual need of these people and begin envisioning how the gospel could transform their lives. In order to reach the unreached we will keep learning about the customs, beliefs, and political conflicts that create challenges for spreading the gospel to these areas. Each group has an undeniable need for a new identity, community, and greater purpose that is only available through the gospel.





FOR HIS GLORY IN THE WORLD

STAGE 3 | JUNE 9



INTRODUCTION

Today we will begin the last stage of our journey. So far we have seen how our ambition to preach the gospel to those who have never heard it flows from our relationship with God and into the lives of other ambassadors in the church. During the last stage of our journey, as we travel to Russia, India, and Bosnia, we will see how Christ intends his ambassadors to interact with the world.



TODAY'S LESSON

This week we will complete the mission statement of an ambassador for Christ. An important aspect of the job of an ambassador is that their life is congruent with the policies and wishes of the leader who sent them. This helps those who have never seen him to get an accurate picture of who he is. As Christ's ambassadors, we are called to align our lives with his so that others will see his light in us and desire to be part of his kingdom (2 Corinthians 4:5-6). In Matthew 5:16, Jesus charged his disciples to let their light shine before others in such a way that "they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." This passage makes it clear that the ultimate goal of a disciple and ambassador for Christ is that people would get a clear picture of who God is through their words and actions.



PROGRAMMING NOTES

This week, we are introducing the last part of the mission statement of an ambassador. So far this year we've seen that we've been: *Commissioned by God to build the church.* Today we want to add the phrase *'for his glory in the world'* to this definition. Every ambassador, no matter where they live, should be striving with their heart and actions to accurately display this. In 2 Corinthians 4:5-6, Paul says, "what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord." He also says, "we are 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). As ambassadors for Christ, we offer our lives in service to God in order to make his glory known to the ends of the earth.

For the younger kids, this week we will add the phrase *'for his glory in the world'* to the definition of an ambassador. Focus on 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 and 2 Corinthians 5:20. As ambassadors for Christ, we are called to declare God's glory to the world by taking the gospel message to the ends of the earth.



SCRIPTURE

- 2 Corinthians 4:5 – We preach Christ, not ourselves
- 2 Corinthians 4:6 – God has put the light of Christ in us
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 – We are Christ's ambassadors
- Matthew 5:14-16 – You are the light of the world





FOR HIS GLORY IN THE WORLD

STAGE 3 | JUNE 9



ENGAGING THE UNREACHED

This year, we've defined unreached people groups and we have also seen how the church equips us to minister to them. In the final stage of this journey, we will focus on what it means to go and personally engage with the unreached. God has called each of his ambassadors to play a role in his plan to display his glory to the world. Some of us will be goers — those who physically go to the remote villages and unreached peoples. Others will be senders — those who give financially and equip the goers with the resources that they need. Both roles are equally important, and both start with our lives being centered on Christ alone. But whether we're goers or senders, God has called us all to be a part of his work, right here, right now. Even in our everyday lives, there are unreached co-workers, classmates, international students, and family members who still desperately need to hear the gospel. From remote villages to city subdivisions, we have all been given the mission to shine the light of Jesus.



RESOURCES

- [Called to Missions](#)
- [Every Christian is a Missionary](#)
- [Goers, Senders, and the Disobedient](#)
- [Observation Games](#)



RESOURCES IN ACTION

Help the older kids understand what it means to engage with people they don't know anything about using observation games (see the link in the Resources section to the Observation Games). Use video clips of people groups to help them work on their ability to observe details and mannerisms of the people they are observing. You could have them watch a video and then see how many details they recall or ask them specific questions to see how well they were paying attention. Reaching the unreached requires careful thought, diligent study, and love that comes first from God.

For the younger kids, place pictures around the room of various people who need the gospel. Put a symbol on the back of the pictures, labeling them reached or unreached. Give each kid a few crosses to place on the people who they think need the gospel. After the kids have placed their crosses on pictures, have them flip them over and sort by reached or unreached. Once they realize all the groups are unreached, explain that there are people all over the world who need the gospel.

