

Small-Group Discussion Guide (2/22/2026)

Sermon recap: God calls His people to an outward posture of stewardship. In Christ, we have been reconciled to God and made new, and from that identity He entrusts us with the ministry and message of reconciliation. We are not sent in our own strength: Jesus sends us with His authority, the Holy Spirit’s power, and His ongoing presence. Most of the time, this calling is lived out in ordinary places through steady faithfulness as salt and light—distinct, visible, humble lives that point others to the beauty of Jesus and return glory to the Father.

Main passage: 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

All passages used in the sermon: Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:13–16

Additional Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:9–12; Colossians 4:5–6; Philippians 2:14–16; 1 Thessalonians 2:8; John 13:34–35

Brief definitions:

- **Reconciliation:** *God restoring sinners to relationship with Himself through Jesus Christ.*
- **Ambassador:** *A representative sent to speak and live on behalf of another kingdom.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you naturally “share what you love” in everyday life (hobbies, food, work, family rhythms, etc.)? How does that help you understand why outward Christian witness should be normal rather than forced? What makes faith feel harder to speak about than other things you care about?
2. From 2 Cor. 5:17–21, what stands out to you about God’s character (for example: initiator, reconciler, gracious, just, merciful)? How does Paul’s phrase “all this is from God” shape the way we think about stewardship? Which part of God’s character in this passage is most comforting to you right now, and why?
3. The sermon emphasized “identity before performance.” What difference does it make to hear, “You are an ambassador / you are salt / you are light,” instead of “Try harder to become those things”? Where are you currently tempted to live from pressure instead of identity?
4. How do Matthew 28:16–20 and Acts 1:8 keep mission from becoming self-powered effort? Discuss the role of Jesus’ authority, the Holy Spirit’s power, and Christ’s presence. Which of those (authority, power, presence) do you most need to remember this week?
5. The message encouraged believers to “tell your story” in simple ways. What part of your story with Jesus (before, during, or after trusting Him) could be shared naturally with someone this week? What fear usually keeps you from sharing it plainly?
6. In Matthew 5:13–16, what might “distinct” and “visible” faithfulness look like in one ordinary place you regularly inhabit (home, school, work, team, neighborhood, store, online)? Which is harder for you there right now—being distinct (different) or being visible (open)?
7. The sermon’s closing contrast was strong: it is possible to try to represent a King you have not trusted. How would you honestly answer this—am I living from reconciliation with God in Christ, or mainly from religious effort, image, or habit? What would repentance or renewed trust in Jesus look like for you this week?

Prayer

Father, thank You that all this is from You—that through Jesus You reconcile us to Yourself and make us new. We confess that we often hide, live self-protectively, and are shaped more by fear than by the way of Jesus. Forgive us and form us by Your Spirit. This week, give us one clear opportunity to be salt and light—humble, faithful, and visible in the ordinary places You’ve put us. Give us courage to speak of Jesus naturally and point others to You. In Jesus’ name, amen.