

# Agape Life



# “A National Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer”

Proclamation - March 30, 1863

And whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

*Abraham Lincoln*

Thursday is the National Day of Prayer.  
In Humility, Fast and Pray for America.

*FromTheBackPorch.com*

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**Agape  
Life**



# **Ambassadorship 101**

***A Practicum for Ambassadors for Christ***

**2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12;**

**Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8**

# **Standard Operating Procedures**

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**Agape  
Life**

**Week 2**

**April 28, 2024**



# Bible Study Prayer

**Father, as we turn to the Bible,  
What we know not - teach us,  
What we have not - give us,  
What we are not - make us,  
For your Son's sake,  
Amen.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## What is an ambassador for Christ?

**An ambassador for Christ is a citizen of The Kingdom of God who represents God's interests in the foreign kingdom - The World.**

**The primary role of an ambassador is to establish and maintain diplomatic relations between the two realms, facilitate interaction, and promote Kingdom priorities and objectives.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## Duties of an Ambassador for Christ

- 1. Represent God and His Kingdom**
- 2. Build and maintain relationships**
- 3. Negotiate agreements**
- 4. Provide information and advice**
- 5. Protect the people of God's creation**
- 6. Manage relationships within embassy**
- 7. Report back to God all things related to your work as an ambassador**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## 1. Represent God and His Kingdom

**We are representing the Kingdom  
everywhere we go  
and in everything we do  
and in everything we say  
because when we speak as  
ambassadors we speak  
as the voice of the King.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## 2. Build and maintain relationships

### Concentric Circles of Concern

Acts 1:8





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2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## 2. Build and maintain relationships

### Assignment 1 Action Plan

**With each of the people you listed in your concentric circles of concern, write out individual things you can do with that person to build and/or maintain your relationship with them.**

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2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## 2. Build and maintain relationships

# Assignment 2

## Pray

**The people you listed in your concentric circles of concern are the people you should pray for daily. Pray for their well being but, most importantly, pray for their salvation.**

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2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## 2. Build and maintain relationships

### Assignment 1 Review & Report

**With each of the people you listed in your concentric circles of concern, write out individual things you can do with that person to build and/or maintain your relationship with them.**

**What kind of actions did you or would you consider to complete this assignment?**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

## 2. Build and maintain relationships

### Assignment 1

**With each of the people you listed in your concentric circles of concern, write out individual things you can do with that person to build and/or maintain your relationship with them.**

**What kind of actions did you or would you consider to complete this assignment?**

**What kind of actions did you or would you consider and decide against and why?**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements
4. Provide information and advice

**You have to talk.**

**In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.**

**1 Peter 3:15**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements
4. Provide information and advice

**“Preach the Gospel at all times.  
Use words if necessary.”**

**St. Francis of Assisi**

**However, St. Francis  
used words because it  
was and is necessary.**

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2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

**3. Negotiate agreements**

**4. Provide information and advice**

**“His words were neither hollow nor ridiculous, but filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, penetrating the marrow of the heart, so that listeners were turned to great amazement.”**

**[St. Francis was observed] “sometimes preaching in up to five villages a day, often outdoors. In the country, Francis often spoke from a bale of straw or a granary doorway. In town, he would climb on a box or up steps in a public building. He preached to . . . any who gathered to hear the strange but fiery little preacher from Assisi.”**

**Quotes from Thomas of Celano’s biography of St. Francis of Assisi three years after Francis’ death.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements
4. Provide information and advice

## You have to talk . . .

- . . . to negotiate a reconciliation between two opposing parties.
- . . . to negotiate a reconciliation between a Holy God and a sinful human.
- . . . to provide information and advice.



# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements

4. Provide information and advice

## You have to talk!

**13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

**14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?**

**15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

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**3. Negotiate agreements**

**4. Provide information and advice**

**Why are we hesitant to talk about spiritual things?**

**Is our faith a private issue that should remain so?**

**How much of our reluctance to talk about Jesus is tied to our own insecurities?**

**Have you ever been confronted for speaking about your faith?**

**What do we do about these issues?**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements
4. Provide information and advice

**Guidelines for talking with people about spiritual concepts in general and Christian concepts in particular – specifically salvation.**

**1 Peter 3:13-17**

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2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements
4. Provide information and advice

## 1 Peter 3:13-17

**1<sup>3</sup>Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? 1<sup>4</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, 1<sup>5</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1<sup>6</sup>Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. 1<sup>7</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

**3. Negotiate agreements**

**4. Provide information and advice**

**Guidelines for talking with people about spiritual concepts in general and Christian concepts in particular – specifically salvation.**

**1 Peter 3:13-17**

**Know who you are in Christ Jesus.**

**Develop relationships by doing good things for people.**

**Look for “teachable moments” in everyday conversations.**

**Eliminate fear by trusting God to put into your mouth.**

**(Luke 21:12-15)**

**Use the “teachable moments” to share the hope that is in you.**

**Be humble. Be gentle. Don’t be holier than thou or gung-holier than thou.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

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3. Negotiate agreements

4. Provide information and advice

**Guidelines** for talking with people about spiritual concepts in general and Christian concepts in particular – specifically salvation.

1 Peter 3:13-17

# Be the voice of Jesus!

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

3. Negotiate agreements
4. Provide information and advice

## Assignment 3

### Talk

**Watch for the “teachable moment” and say what you have to say – what you know must be said in that moment – but do it with gentleness and kindness as guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.**

# Ambassadorship 101

2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8

**Assignment 1**  
**Action Plan**

**Assignment 2**  
**Pray**

**Assignment 3**  
**Talk**



# **NEXT WEEK**

## **Ambassadorship 101**

*A Practicum for Ambassadors for Christ*

**2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2; 1 Peter 2:9-12;**

**Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8**

## **Standard Operating Procedures**

*Continued*



**Cinco de Mayo, 2024**

