

Series: For the Kingdom

Lesson 2: Diplomatic Mission

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify what it means to be an ambassador
- Identify that God wants them to be his ambassadors
- Imagine relevant scenarios in which people do and do not act as good ambassadors for God

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Double-sided copies of handout “For the Kingdom: Two”
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Board and markers (optional)
- ☐ Bibles

Lead In:

Ask students, *Has anyone ever been to an embassy? What did you do there?* Solicit some responses. Maybe they were getting a passport or travel advice or protesting something. Now ask, *What is an embassy for?* Look for an answer such as this one: an embassy is a representative of one nation in another nation. For example, Japan has an embassy in Ottawa. It is staffed by Japanese people and if you have any concerns related to Japan, you can go there to get them sorted out. It's at 255 Sussex Drive, in case you're on your way there now. And finally, *Okay, so if that's an embassy, what's an ambassador?* An ambassador is a person who represents one person/nation to another person/nation. Tell students that they are going to work together in this lesson to identify what it means to be an ambassador for the kingdom of God and what it means to advocate for something or someone else. We'll begin there.

Task One:

Have students form groups of three to five. You can reuse last lesson's kingdom groups if you like, adding new members where needed. This will help extend the thematic value of those groups.

Give every group pens and double-sided copies of the handout, "For the Kingdom: Two". Instruct each group to complete only Task One together. When they are finished, regather as a large group and solicit answers either verbally or on a board. Here is an overview of what the seven organizations do and one example of how they do it (there could be many more). What other examples did students come up with?

KKK: The Ku Klux Klan advocates white supremacy as well as homophobia, anti-Semitism, racism, anti-Catholicism, and other self-inflating doctrines. One example of their methods is violence against the people they dislike.

NRA: The National Rifle Association advocates in behalf of gun users in the USA. One example of their methods is pressuring governments to pass gun-friendly laws.

Pro-choice Movement: The Pro-choice Movement advocates a woman's right over her own reproductive organs and activities, including but not limited to access to safe abortions. One example of their methods is pressuring governments to legalize abortion.

Pro-life Movement: The Pro-life Movement advocates for the sanctity of all human life and therefore is against practices such as euthanasia and abortion. One example of their methods is protesting outside abortion clinics.

Greenpeace: Greenpeace is an organization, started in Canada, which advocates for environmental and human causes, such as animal rights and nuclear disarmament. One example of their methods is patrolling the seas where whalers and seal hunters operate.

Tom Cruise: Tom Cruise is an influential American actor who advocates in favour of the Church of Scientology and against psychiatry. One example of his methods is maintaining a high personal profile in the media in order to influence others.

The National Christmas Tree Association: The NCTA advocates for the use of real Christmas trees and the interests of those who produce them. One example of their methods is placing real trees in the homes of high-profile people such as the President of the USA.

Task Two:

Instruct the groups to go on to Task Two only. They will need a Bible for this task; make sure that some are available.

When they are finished, they will call you over (according to the instructions on the handout). Go to the groups as they finish, check that they have the following answers (or answers with very similar meanings), and instruct them to go on to Task Three.

“Read 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 and identify the words that Paul, the writer, uses to describe our role as followers of Jesus. Record it here: Ambassadors.

So what does that mean? See if you can fill in these blanks. An ambassador is someone who represents/advocates for one person/nation to another person/nation. Tom Cruise is an ambassador for Scientology. Greenpeace represents/advocates for the environment. And God wants us to be ambassadors for him. So just like Japan has an embassy in Ottawa, God has embassies all over the world: us! We are God’s representatives or ambassadors in our schools and friendships.”

Task Three:

The groups will move on to Task Three at different paces. In Task Three, they will work together to create two scenarios: a positive example of being God’s ambassador and a negative example. Be available to clarify the instructions as needed. The goal of the task is to think of *realistic* scenarios, in other words, scenarios that might really happen to them.

Have groups present their scenarios and have the audience choose the most realistic. Ask why they chose a particular scenario. What was realistic about it? The goal of these scenarios is for students to find an intersection between their real lives and the biblical idea of being an ambassador for God. Guide the discussion towards this point, highlighting what is realistic and meaningful for the students.

Closing:

Bring the lesson to a close by having someone pray that the group and its members would be a good embassy and good ambassadors for God.