



You've learned so far that:

- You are loved by God
- In Christ you do not have to measure up
- You are being changed to be like Christ

But, do you have anything meaningful to contribute to this world?

Have any of you ever struggled with a sense of "what am I supposed to be doing here?"  
Have you hit times in your life when you felt you had nothing to offer? How did you feel at those times?

	1	2	3	4
TRUTH	God loves you	The work is finished	God is Changing You	You are significant
LIE	I am not fully loved	I must do more	I cannot change	I have nothing to offer

***Psalms 139:16 (NIV)***

*All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

***Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)***

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

**God has always had great plans for you. How do these verses make you feel?**

**You were created with great significance. Look at the following passages and discuss the implication of each area of privilege God has given us.**

***Matthew 5:13 (NIV)***

*You are the salt of the earth.*

***Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV)***

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*



You were created to be:

1) SALT

**What does salt accomplish when we place it on food?**

Salt savours or flavours whatever food it comes into contact with. It draws out the richness of the food.

**Teacher's note:**

Roman soldiers used to be paid their salary partially in salt, and it is from this practise we get the word "salary" and the statement, "worth his weight in salt".

**What does Jesus mean when he says we are salt of the earth?**

When we go through this world we bring with us a savouring effect. We bring the presence of God which has the ability to restrain the sinfulness in culture and promote Godly influence.

**We represent:** God's Character

**What are some ways we have a savouring effect on those around us?**

We encourage others to seek and know God.

We encourage others to restrain their sinful behaviour.

We build others up in sacrificial love.

We show grace and mercy when others show judgement.

We value and respect everyone, not based on their performance, but on their God created value.

We give people hope.

**For salt to be effective it requires:** Proximity

**What does this mean for us?**

In order for salt to be effective it has to rub up against something. It is useless if it stays in the salt shaker. In order for us to have a savouring influence we need to be rubbing up against other people in our culture and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us.

**What are some practical examples from your own life that show you can have godly influence in those around?**



**2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV)**

*<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

**1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)**

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

**You were created to be an:**

2) **AMBASSADOR**

**What does an ambassador do in another country?**

Ambassadors represent the presence of their home country in a foreign land. They are there to open channels of communication and develop relationship with the foreign nation in order to express the will of their government back home. They are the voice of their government.

**What does Paul mean when he says we are ambassadors?**

We are citizens of heaven and therefore strangers in a foreign country as we live out our lives in this world. We are here to represent God's character and will in this world. We are his spokesperson to communicate his message of salvation to everyone that will listen.

**We represent:** God's love and forgiveness

**To be an effectiveness ambassador requires:** Opening our mouths

**Why is opening our mouths necessary as an ambassador?**

You will sometimes hear that your actions are the biggest testimony to the non-believer. This is sometimes true, as they need to see the Christ-life lived out before they will value and respect it (SALT). But even if the Christ life is lived out, we still need to be able to verbalize that God loves them and how they can receive his forgiveness. If you stay silent, you will not be a very effective ambassador. You will miss out on the privilege of representing God in such a life-changing way.



**Ambassadors are not always respected in the country in which they reside.**

**How should an ambassador relate when in a hostile country?**

The ambassador will still continue to voice the words of the king but they will usually try to be more tactful and effective in how they communicate that message. This does not mean that they do not stand firm for their country's message, nor will they change the message. The goal is to make sure the message is communicated in a manner where it will be listened to and understood.

Some well-meaning Christians have proclaimed God's message, but not with God's love. The result is that people are offended, not so much because of the message, but because of the attitude with which it was delivered. We need to be careful to deliver God's message in a manner that reflects his love and longing for reconciliation.

**What are some ways you have acted as God's ambassador in this world?**

**Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)**

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)**

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

**You were created to be God's:**

3) **IMAGE**

**What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God?**

The context of image in the Genesis passage has everything to do with rule. God had just created a beautiful planet with all its plants and wildlife, and now placed mankind on it to care for it on his behalf. Everything that God created has been entrusted to our rule and care. What an incredible privilege and responsibility.

We are to represent God's rule wherever we go. We are to also treat others as God's representative rulers, whether they act like it or not.



**What are some practical ways we can live out “image” from day to day?**

- Care for creation: Environmentally aware  
Respect for wildlife
- Be creative as God is creative
- Bring order out of chaos.
- Treat everything and everyone with God’s love and grace
- Promote God’s values
- Push back the realm and influence of Satan wherever we go.
- Etc.

**How did Jesus exercise “image” rule?**

- Calmed storms
- Healed the sick
- Raised the dead
- Cast out demons
- Etc.

**There is a close connection between being children of God and image. Those who are heirs are the ones who rule on the father’s behalf.**

**Romans 8:19-21 (NLT)**

*For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup> Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup> the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.*

**Romans 8:14-15 (NLT)**

*<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”*

**We represent:** God’s rule

**To be an effective ruler requires:** Courage

**Joshua 1:9 (NIV)**

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*



11 times in scripture God says “be strong and courageous”

**Why is courage necessary for an effective ruler?**

We will never be effective rulers on God’s behalf if we cower in fear whenever we face opposition. Fear is never based on the character of God, but a distrust of his love and control.

***Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)***

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

**How does the above verse raise the stakes of our responsibility to rule?**

Because Satan also has his kingdom in this world, we are engaged in a spiritual war. If we do not represent God’s rule in this world, Satan will exercise free, unrestrained reign. The only hope for the world is for God’s representative rulers to stand up and start exercising control over the spiritual realm, pushing back Satan’s influence and rule.

***Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)***

*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise 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 <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)*

**You were created to be:**

4) Light

**What does a light accomplish in a dark place?**

It reveals what is hidden from sight; it reveals any obstacles and shows the way to go.  
Etc.

**What does it mean for us to be a light? What are we radiating?**

We are to shine the glory (character) and truth of God wherever we go. In other words, God’s presence will shine through our presence. As we speak the truth of God, the Holy Spirit brings revelation, conviction and life change. Light helps people see what was previously spiritually hidden from their sight.



**1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT)**

*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

**Revealing God's light is both a matter of words and action combined. Have you had opportunity to share Christ because of the lifestyle you modelled?**

**What are some ways in the past where you have shed God's light into a situation?**

**We represent:** God's truth

**To be effective as a light requires:** Visibility

**Why does a light need visibility to be effective and what does this mean in practical terms for us?**

If we conceal the presence of God in our life we will not shine very brightly. Disciples of Jesus are called to make disciples wherever they go, meaning they will be very upfront about who they are and God's love for all people. They will boldly proclaim God's truth in situations where lies bring darkness and confusion. They will show the true path to God when false teachings want to lead others astray.

The goal of us as lights is ultimately to bring others to the true Light of the World, Jesus himself.

**How can you be more visible this week?**

**SALT**  
**AMBASSADOR**  
**IMAGE**  
**LIGHT**

We are to SAIL into the world bringing each of these forms of impact. Much is entrusted to us as we are God's means of changing this world. He did not create a "PLAN B". We need to take our job description seriously.

**God respects you so much that he leaves his kingdom impact resting in your hands.** Realize your significance, embrace your calling, go out with courage and authority and represent Jesus Christ well.



**AT HOME:**

Each day take one of these verses and spend time reflecting on all its implications. Ask God to help you understand the full extent of the significance with which he created you.

**Genesis 1:26 (NIV)**

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

**Amos 3:7 (NIV)**

*Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.*

**John 15:16 (NIV)**

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.*

**1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)**

*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

**Ephesians 2:6 (NIV)**

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,*

**1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)**

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

**Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

**1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)**

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

**Revelation 22:4-5 (NIV)**

*They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

**Memorize one verse over the next week that encourages you.**

**Start each day this week affirming the fact that you have a significant role to play on God's behalf.**