

According to Paul, what keeps people from understanding and believing the gospel? Does this mean we can give up on some people?

How does Satan blind people to the truth of the gospel today?

What does an ambassador do? (5:18-20) Do you serve as an ambassador to any non-Christians? What is that experience like?

What two motives kept Paul working hard to reconcile people to God? (5:11, 14) Which most motivates you?

REFLECT

What about your new life in Christ would appeal to non-Christians?

RESPOND

Share with your group people with whom you seek to share Christ. Pray for God to protect them from Satan's deception and to help you to find good ways to reach out to them.



We fight the ultimate spiritual warfare when we are sharing Christ with others.

Acts 26:17-19

I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

Luke 8:4-15 (page 707-708)

<sup>11</sup> "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

<sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

POINT OF RESCUE #1:

FULLY SHARING THE GOSPEL.

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Our aim for others: BELIEVING  
Demands of us: courage and clarity

2 Corinthians 4:4

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.



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<sup>13</sup> Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

## POINT OF RESCUE #2: FIRMLY ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY.

_____	Our aim for others: REMAINING Demands of us: <u>love</u> and <u>labor</u>
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_____	

Jude 1:22-23

Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

<sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

## POINT OF RESCUE #3: FAITHFULLY TEACHING THE TRUTH.

_____	Our aim for others: MATURING Demands of us: <u>patience</u> and <u>perseverance</u>
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2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

# RESCUING OTHERS

## LIFE GROUP STUDY

### RELATE

Have you ever seen or been involved in a rescue? What was it like?

Which of the following is most true of non-Christians:

- They aren't interested in Jesus or spiritual things.
- They know the gospel but have rejected it.
- They have wrong ideas about Christianity.
- They will be in heaven if they are basically good people.
- They will spend eternity without access to God.

What principle, insight, idea, or quote was meaningful to you from this week's sermon?

### READ

2 Corinthians 4:1-5; 5:11, 14-21

Paul explains how he conducts his ministry with unbelievers, his motives, and challenges.

How important is it that Paul views himself as one who has received God's mercy? (4:1, 6) How might a deep awareness of God's mercy to you motivate you to share Him with non-Christians, or affect the way you do so?

What does Paul avoid when sharing the good news, and how does he seek to tell the truth about Jesus? (4:2, 5) What negative or unhelpful ways of sharing the gospel have you seen, and what was the effect?