



# reflecting Jesus

BETA

I am an ambassador  
for another world **08**

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*did you know...*

## **an "ambassador" is:**

"a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment"  
(Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition)



**God has called me to be His ambassador!**

"So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'" (2 Corinthians 5:20, NLB)



## *the facts of his story*

The Bible is God's book to show his ambassadors how to live on earth while representing His Kingdom in Heaven. Before sin, we would have known how to live without having it written down because God's laws and principles would have been written on our hearts, that is, in our minds. But while we live with very forgetful memories, God has chosen to write everything down on paper for us.

1. What is the most important message that God's ambassadors are to carry to this world? (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

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2. Though we represent the Kingdom of God, how will some of God's ambassadors be treated? (Ephesians 6: 19-20)

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3. Matthew 5 is the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (from chapter 5-7) where Jesus is describing how ambassadors for the Kingdom of God should live. God had given laws to his people on Mount Sinai, but through the years, they had applied these only to their external behaviour—God's laws hadn't transformed their hearts. So in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is trying to show his disciples that God's law is intended to change their hearts—what is inside of them—how they think and feel. Read the first 12 verses of Matthew 5 and write down a list of how God's ambassadors are to be in their characters.

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## *thinking it through*

1. What was the most important thought you have just seen in the texts, and why?

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2. How is living as an ambassador for the Kingdom of God different from the way most people live today? What challenges are there for you living a life that often goes against our culture?

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## habits for reflecting Jesus ~ become aware of the principles, values and laws that shape my life

Why do you do what you do? What shapes the choices you make each day? What principles, values and laws do you live by? Perhaps you haven't thought about these questions before. But before we go further, what are principles, values, and laws?

A law is something we have to do because we live under someone else's authority. For example, the government of Iceland has decreed, "In Iceland no-one is allowed to drive faster than 90 km per hour." Because we live under the authority of a particular power, we have to obey their laws, or live somewhere else.

A principle is an idea that guides the way we behave. For example, "People matter more than things", or "All people are created equal".

A value is a quality of character that we think is desirable. Here is a list of some of the values that are important to Christians:

Attentiveness	Determination	Hospitality	Perseverance	Service
Boldness	Discernment	Initiative	Persuasiveness	Sincerity
Carefulness	Discretion	Joyfulness	Punctuality	Thoroughness
Commitment	Effort	Justice	Resourcefulness	Thriftness
Compassion	Enthusiasm	Loyalty	Respect	Tolerance
Cooperation	Flexibility	Obedience	Responsibility	Truthfulness
Courage	Forgiveness	Orderliness	Sacrifice	Virtue
Creativity	Generosity	Patience	Self-control	Wisdom
Dependability	Gratefulness	Peacefulness	Sensitivity	

The Kingdom of God is full of principles, values and laws which are very different from the way people live today. That's because the principles, laws and values of Heaven are shaped by who God is Himself. Our challenge is to apply God's laws, principles, and values to our lives. By doing this, we reflect who God is—but living like this is always a choice. As we learn to do this, it is helpful to be conscious of the laws, principles, and values, that are shaping us today.

### becoming aware of what shapes my life

Spend some time to think about the laws, principles, and values that are shaping your life—maybe even without you realising before! You can use your Journal to take notes.

To begin with ask yourself the following questions:

1. What laws am I aware of that are shaping my life today and where are they from?
2. What principles am I aware of that are shaping my life today and where are they from?
3. What values am I aware of that are shaping my life today and where are they from?

### What's Changed?!

Time Magazine reported the following problems at schools in the 1940's compare to the 1980's. Why do you think there was such a change?

1940's	1980's
Talking	Drug Abuse
Chewing gum	Alcohol Abuse
Making Noise	Pregnancy
Running in halls	Suicide
Getting out of place in line	Rape, Robbery Assault,
Improper clothing	Burglary, Arson,
Littering	Bombings

Now think about the way God would like to shape your life in the future. Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as you answer the following questions:

In the future, what

1. laws
2. principles
3. values

do I want to shape my life as I pursue the character of Jesus? What Bible texts will each of my choices be based on?

Once you have some answers, make a simple action plan that shows how you want to begin to making these things a part of your life. Remember, it won't happen by accident, but as you work in partnership with the Holy Spirit. At the same time, as they also say, "Rome was not built in a day". So don't try to do too much at one time. Take one or two things at a time to begin integrating into your life.



## *putting the pieces together*

In "the facts of his story" we saw that choosing to live as an ambassador for the Kingdom of God is choosing to live a very different life to most people today, and often it might be quite difficult. However, living faithfully according to the laws, principles and values of God's government has an eternal reward!

In "thinking it through" you were challenged to think what it would be like for you to live as an ambassador for God. As always, this is a free choice, but there is no greater job on earth!

In "habits for reflecting the mind of Jesus, we looked at how important it is to know what laws, principles, and values are really shaping our lives. If we want to be successful ambassadors, we need to consciously live lives that are shaped by God's word.



## *my time with God*

When we live out the values, principles and laws of the Kingdom of God, we are extending the influence of God's Kingdom here on earth—right in the middle of where Satan is trying to establish his kingdom.

During the next week, read one of the following passages each day, and ask yourself, "What principles, values and laws is Jesus wanting me to live by so I can live as an ambassador for his Kingdom?" You can use your Journal to keep notes.

1. Matthew 5:13-20
2. Matthew 5:21-42
3. Matthew 5:43-6:4
4. Matthew 6:5-24
5. Matthew 6:25-34
6. Matthew 7:1-29



## *pass it on!*

Can you easily explain the differences between a law, principle and value—with examples!



## *extra help*

In Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, Ellen White gives a helpful description of what it is like to live by the principles in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.