

## OVERVIEW OF EPHEISANS LESSONS:

- 1- Praise God for being Chosen as His child – Ephesians 1:1-14; Acts 16:16-40
- 2- Prayer changes our lives - Ephesians 1:15-23; Daniel 6:1-28
- 3- God wants us ALL in His family – Ephesians 2:1-3:13; Acts 10:1-11:18;
- 4- Trust in God takes us beyond ourselves – Ephesians 3:14-21; I KINGS 18:1-39
- 5- God’s family cares about each other – Ephesians 4:1-16; Ruth chapters 1-4
- 6- Being in God’s family changes our lives - Ephesians 4:17-32; Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18;25-27
- 7- God’s family looks like Him - Ephesians 5:1-20; Galatians 5:19-25
- 8- Practice God’s love in your family - Ephesians 5:21-33; John 13:1-17
- 9- Learning to love and honor requires training and instruction - Ephesians 6:1-4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- 10-Practice God’s love at work – Ephesians 6:5-9
- 11-Use God’s power to love the world – Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Samuel 17
- 12-Pray that God’s family will grow – Ephesians 6:18-24; Acts 5:12-32

### 1- EPHESIANS 1:1-14 - PRAISE GOD FOR BEING CHOSEN AS HIS CHILD

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

EPHESIANS 1:1-14  
ACTS 16:16-40 -Paul & Silas visit jail

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

**THINGS/NOUNS:** blessings; slave girl; prison, jailer; inner cell; stocks; midnight; earthquake; sword (no guns!); household; joy;

**ACTIONS:** healing the slave girl; being flogged; carefully guarding; singing; door flew open; chains came loose; trembling; spoke the word; washed wounds;

**IDEAS:** being blessed; being chosen for good; being adopted out of love rather than need; redemption through blood; God chose us for His praise; losing a source of income; being publicly punished for doing something good; taking responsibility (with your life) for losing the prisoners; staying when you could flee; believe in Jesus; baptism was a sign of their being brought into God’s family; being filled with joy; being released “on terms”;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

This is written to SAINTS!

If I had to choose, would I choose a spiritual blessing or a physical one?

Being forgiven makes us rich! Many times when someone lavishly gives to us we become spoiled and self-centered. God lavishes gifts on us with wisdom and understanding. God has let us in on His plan – the end of which is to unify heaven and earth in Jesus. We know this because we have heard His truth, believed, and received the Holy Spirit. How do I show that I value my blessings? Do I praise only in “good” times? Is it a blessing to be a part of a family....in good times and bad? Why did Paul and Silas react as if they were “blessed”? What bad things do I do over money? How do I treat an irritating person? Why did Paul delay in ridding the slave girl of the demon? Why was the guard so afraid of these non-violent prisoners? What would I be doing at midnight after having had such a day? What is the jailer asking when he says, “What must I do to be saved?” How is the jailer “chosen” by God? What does being “chosen” look like to the jailer? Why does the jailer make a “spiritual” response to a natural event? What are the jailer’s response options? What have I seen God do that elicits this response from me and others - “What must I do to be saved?” Paul and Silas had two chances to “slink” away from their unjust situation without making an impact on others. Instead they remained in Jesus until a time when they could make a bold statement for Him. Vs. 21 – If Caesar is god then anything done for/with another god would have been unlawful. Where in our world do we find this and how do we respond to it? God works through ALL THINGS to bring us into a holy relationship with Him. We would like to think that His plan/work only includes what we would consider blessings. Why do we call those other things “blessings in disguise”? (See the beatitudes in Matthew 5!) What is God doing/allowing that will make me holy and depending on Him? What kinds of events do we attach “spiritual” significance to rather than “natural” significance? Why? Do I really understand God’s desire to make me holy?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated) Always praise God for being chosen as His child.

**What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?**

ALWAYS PRAISE GOD FOR BEING CHOSEN AS HIS CHILD

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

**SONGS:**

"Hallelu, Praise Ye The Lord!" (learn this song with Grandma from her Bible Songs dvd, Sing Together Vol. 2 - <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/shop-with-grandma/sing-together-series/> )

"Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!"

"Happy all the Time" (learn this song with Grandma from her Bible Songs dvd, Sing Together Vol. 2 - <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/shop-with-grandma/sing-together-series/> )

**GAMES:**

Play follow the leader. Did our leader do a good job? Let's "praise" him! How do we do that?

(Sing, clap, shout, pat them on the back, give them an award, etc.)

Who should be our leader every day? Does He do a good job? Let's "praise" Him! (Sing, clap, shout, etc. a "hallelu" or "thank you" to Jesus.)

### **KEY PHRASES:**

Let's praise/thank (name) for .....

How do you express/show praise/thanks? (Each of us is a bit different in how we express praise and how we want to receive praise.)

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

God says (in Ephesians) that He gives us a blessing when He makes us a part of His family. What do you think a blessing is?

Part of God's blessing on us is that we were chosen to praise Him. What does that mean?

When do you feel blessed and chosen and like you want to praise God?

Something happened to Paul and Silas that shows us what it is like to be a part of God's family.

(Tell/show/act out the story in Acts 16:16-40.)

What things in this story show that Paul and Silas had been blessed?

What things in this story show that Paul and Silas wanted to praise God?

### **OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Use a balloon to illustrate how God and others notice what we have put in us by what comes out of us. A balloon that has never been filled (never let God fill us up) just lays there. You can poke it and toss it and it just never seems to have any life to it. When you are filled up with God (a blown up balloon) people notice you are fun to be with (toss it around). And when you are stressed or poked, people notice your filling because that is what comes out. Unlike the balloon, God's promise is that He will fill us over and over again so that we will have an unending stream of praise for Him and others to enjoy.

Make & eat popovers. Do you like to eat the empty shells? They are so much better with the filling in them! Our lives are like that when they are filled with JOY!

### **CRAFTS:**

Make paper chains (handcuffs) for wrists and/or feet that have printed "I will Praise the Lord" on them. Make musical instruments (a shaker with streamers?) and prepare a song/dance/cheer to share with others.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

We can PRAISE GOD in all circumstances. One way to praise God is to tell Him how great He is, or sing to Him, etc. Another way to praise God is to tell others how great He is. Another way to praise God is to do something that honors Him. Draw a picture of how you like to praise God. (Older kids can make one large picture.)

Have a "name that tune" contest. Who knows all the words to a song? Memorizing songs (and

Bible verses) can be an important part of life. Just look at how Paul and Silas needed them! Being in a hard situation showed what Paul and Silas valued. What songs are you memorizing? Why?

## **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

How many words can you make from the letters of "PRAISE THE LORD"?

Learn Psalm 150 with Grandma! (learn this song with Grandma from her Bible Songs dvd, Sing Together Vol. 2 - <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/shop-with-grandma/sing-together-series/>)

What would it mean to be publicly escorted to "safety" by those who had threatened you?

What do you think the brothers were doing at Lydia's house?

Which of the blessings listed in Ephesians 1:1-14 is the most significant to you?

Which of these blessings would give you the ability to sing while suffering like Paul and Silas?

Which of the blessings listed in Ephesians 1:1-14 is least significant to you? How do you feel about that?

What was your family of origin like? How does that impact how you respond to God's promise that you can be a part of His family?

How can you better model in your own family what it means to be a part of God's family?

### **Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

One of the key words in the Ephesians passage is adoption. Check out the following resources to understand what this word would probably trigger in the minds of Paul's readers:

- [http://www.eagle10.com/DL/Lomm/Articles/Ephesus\\_Adopt.pdf](http://www.eagle10.com/DL/Lomm/Articles/Ephesus_Adopt.pdf)
- <http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/familyanddailylife/qt/072707exposure.htm> (This article is not from a Christian perspective, but validates the practice of exposing infants.)

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

## 2- EPHESIANS 1:15-23 – Prayer Changes our Lives

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

EPHESIANS 1:15-23  
DANIEL 6:1-28 - DANIEL PRAYS TO GOD

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

**THINGS/NOUNS:** faith and trust in God; love; saints; Darius; Daniel; satraps; three administrators (close helpers to the king); decree; lions' den;

**ACTIONS:** asking; praying; spying; thrown;

**IDEAS:** continually giving thanks; doing such a good job that you get more responsibility and position; jealousy moves us to hurtful actions; being trustworthy and not negligent; obey God rather than men; being upset over something; a "good" idea turned out to be a bad idea; being sealed in the den until morning; the king had a sleepless night; God saw Daniel as innocent and protected him; God did not protect the other satraps; God was praised;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

Does my crankiness come from not continually giving thanks?

Paul's prayer asks for us to have wisdom (how to use-it comes from God-James) and recognize revelation (what to use-the truth) so that we (and others) know God better, that we know hope, recognize God's blessings, and are able to exercise His power that is available for us.

Which is harder, to raise the dead or to keep lions from harming Daniel?

Wouldn't it be wonderful to not have a weak spot that could be used to tempt me to sin?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the only thing others could have against me is that I am like Christ?

The Satraps misuse prayer – turning it into a tool of idolatry and greed. How might I do that?

If Daniel was such a good helper to the king, why didn't the king consult him on the new law? Why didn't the king know this law would be a problem for Daniel?

Didn't the king break the law in saying "May your God rescue you!"? Perhaps he was above the law.

Is God the ultimate judge for whether a law is moral or not? If so, how do we evaluate the laws we do or do not obey? Daniel seems to have violated a law willingly and his only defense seems to be God.

He submits himself to God to either uphold his punishment or declare him innocent.

Acts 5:29-32 reminds us that God is the one who decides our guilt or innocence.

We're not told specifically what Daniel was praying (thanksgiving and help), but his prayers must have been making a difference. Evil men were not getting their way because God's will was being done in the kingdom. Both of these passages are about the sovereignty of God. Both Paul and Daniel firmly believe that prayer makes a difference.

One message on this passage in Ephesians is about vision, clear vision of what God is up to and what He is willing to provide to make that happen.

**ADULT LESSON THEME:** (if coordinated) Prayer Changes our Lives  
What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?  
**Prayer Changes our Lives**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16  
"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

**SONGS:**

"You Are My Strength"  
"Wisdom, God's Wisdom" (Gospel Light)

**GAMES:**

Play musical chairs, the Daniel way. Have the children put on their lion masks (from crafts). Make a circle of chairs, enough for all lions, minus one. The lions roar and move around until Daniel enters the circle. Then they must all sit down quickly and quietly. The lion that doesn't find a seat becomes the next Daniel, until everyone has a turn.

**KEY PHRASES:**

Where can you pray? When should you pray? What do you pray about? Let's pray about that.

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Why do we pray?

Act out the story.

What do the satraps want to happen to Daniel? Why?

Why did Daniel pray? How did Daniel pray? Why did Daniel keep praying? What do you think Daniel was praying for?

How did prayer make a difference in Daniel's life? Who prayed? (Both Daniel and Darius!)

**OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Prayer is like talking to your Father. You can and should tell Him everything and anything. He wants to know what you want, but He also doesn't give you everything you want. He wants to shape and grow you. He wants to do what is best for you.

### **CRAFTS:**

Make a lion mask using a large paper plate. Glue (or hole punch and tie) yarn to the outside circle for a mane. Punch holes for yarn or elastic string to hold on head. Cut holes for eyes, draw or glue nose and mouth.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Play "what changed?". First have everyone "inspect" the room or an area of the room. Then have everyone leave the room except for one person. The person in the room makes changes. You can specify the # of changes. While you are waiting, talk about not knowing what is going on in the room and how hard it is to wait to find out. Can you imagine having to wait overnight like Darius? Can you imagine having to wait until you get to heaven? We don't always get to see right away what God is doing, but we trust that He is working for our good and the good of others. (You probably won't get to talk about all of this in just one round of "what changed?", but continue to talk each time you wait.) When the person says the room is ready, the group enters and tries to guess what all has changed. Then, take turns.

Play "I want". Wrap small gifts, enough for each child. Be sure the gifts are varied in size and in what they are. Let kids see gifts, then they draw a number out of a bag. The # will indicate the order that the kids will get to choose a gift. Have child #1 choose and open a gift. Then child #2 can either take #1's gift or get a gift that hasn't been opened yet. If child #2 takes the gift from child #1, then child #1 gets to choose and open another gift. If child #2 chooses an unopened gift, then he/she opens that gift and child #3 gets to choose EITHER gift from child # 1 or child #2 or choose an unwrapped gift. This continues until the last child gets to choose any of the opened gifts or can choose the last unwrapped gift. After you finish this, talk about jealousy. How did you feel when someone took a gift that you wanted? How did you feel when things were out of your control and you had no choice? Did you try to hide your gift? Did you try to give your gift away so you could have another choice? Did you think any hurtful thoughts? The Satraps were jealous of Daniel, and that jealousy led them to trying to hurt Daniel. God made it so that they actually hurt themselves rather than Daniel. What would have helped you to enjoy the game we just played rather than being jealous? (for one, realizing that things were gifts (blessings) and were not "deserved" or intentionally put there to hurt them or make them jealous...)

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

When you've had a hard time, what has helped you to obey God rather than men?

As you pray for others this week, make a list of the blessings that you know are in their lives. Pray that they will see these blessings and be thankful.

Start every prayer this week with a "thank you, God".

Why does Daniel pray three times a day? Is Daniel praying out of duty to fulfill a command?

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/613\\_commandments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/613_commandments) provides a list of the 613 commands in the Old Testament.

What does Paul ask in his prayer for the church in Ephesus?

What does Paul do to convince the Ephesians that God will answer his prayer?

What will happen to followers of Jesus in Ephesus if God answers Paul's prayer?

Why don't we pray this prayer for our families and churches now?

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

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PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.



### 3-EPHESIANS 2:1-3:13 – God wants us ALL in His family

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

EPHESIANS 2:1-22 - God wants us all in His family  
Acts 10:1-11:18 – Peter and Cornelius

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

**THINGS/NOUNS:** Cornelius; Caesarea; centurion; angel & shining clothes; vision; memorial offering; 2 servants; a devout soldier; roof; Peter/Simon; trance; sheet with 4 corners; three times; wild and unclean beasts; temple; grace; kindness; gift; good works; peace; fellow citizens; foundation; God's dwelling; purpose; foreigners and aliens;

**ACTIONS:** God-fearing; praying; giving generously; send; bring; being hungry and waiting for food; kill and eat – fix your own food; falling at Peter's feet in reverence; listening; speaking; praising God; criticized/accused; created; remember;

**IDEAS:** the mystery – Jews and Gentiles as one in God's family; being a follower of God without being a member at the temple; prayers and gifts as a memorial offering; vision – heaven opened; asking for someone to teach/lead you; taking help/witnesses with you; gathering your family for change; baptism of the spirit and speaking in tongues; following God vs. following the world; making the worthless valuable-greatest recycling plan of all!; hopeful vs. hopeless;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

What do all people have in common when they do not believe the good news that Jesus died for them and rose again?

God brings us from death to life.

We have become partners with God, sitting at His side.

We don't do good works because of our own power. God created us and empowers us to do good works.

Left alone, we make sin and make war. When we partner with God, He brings peace as He lives in us.

God makes the diversity in His people into a beautiful temple where His Spirit dwells.

It is amazing that Paul, an ardent Jew, would be welcoming Gentiles into the church. This is truly a miracle of God. What is it about the law that makes it a barrier to relationship? How do our own backgrounds, cultures, personalities, and expectations create continuing barriers to relationship?

God's purpose –uniting people in His family – was there from the beginning.

We do not get to define what is impure or unclean. God makes those definitions.

Why did the circumcised believers not want Gentiles to share in the good news? Why did they question Peter?

It is a good thing that God told Peter not to hesitate to go with the Gentiles at his door. He even had them come into the house!...and it wasn't his own house!

A good Gentile was respected, even though he was part of a government that was unwanted by the

Jews.

Peter had a tendency to obey quickly, then relent. He later let pressure from Jews temporarily separate him from Gentiles.

What kinds of people do you find “easy” to accept? Who are the most difficult to accept? Isn’t it amazing that we often have an easier time of accepting a Christian who is from way outside our cultural norm than we do in accepting one who is close to our cultural norm?

Here Paul uses a building as a metaphor for what God is doing. Other places he uses more organic metaphors. Can you see any reason for this? What is the purpose of this “building”? What can you do to strengthen the “building”?

What happens when we focus on preserving something rather than growing something?

**ADULT LESSON THEME:** (if coordinated) **TRUSTING GOD TAKES US BEYOND OURSELVES**

What is the **LESSON THEME**, or **GOAL** that you want the kids to learn?

**God wants us ALL in His family!**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.” Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:16

**SONGS:**

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul...

Jesus Love the Little Children

Oh, how He love you and me

**GAMES:**

Find the beasts! Hide plastic or paper “beasts” around the room. Have the children find them and put them back in the “sheet”. It will help to know the # that you have hidden so you will know when you have found them all. Have some of the kids hide them for a 2<sup>nd</sup> game. You might want to give them some rules as to where/how to hide the “beasts”.

**KEY PHRASES:**

God has chosen to love us all. He wants us to love each other; work together; encourage each other; etc.

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Have you ever been in a “club” or special group? What was the club for? Why were you a member? Why wasn’t everyone a member?

God has formed a special group – the church. God alone decides who can and can’t be in the church. We can’t say “Because you are not like me, you can’t be in God’s family.”

Use the plastic/paper animals and sheet from Games to illustrate the story as you tell it.

**OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:** Oil and water – put them in a jar – they don’t mix! You can shake them all you want, but they don’t mix. Sometimes the people around us seem just like that. As people we have a long history of not being “one”. It is only through Jesus that we can and will become one. God works on our “oneness” with Him and each other here on earth and will be sure that our “oneness” is complete in heaven. (Oil and water do go together in a wonderful cake!)

**CRAFTS:** Give everyone different sizes and colors of paper to make paper dolls from. Decorate the room with these dolls. Older children could write names of countries or people on the dolls. We are all different in many ways, but we are not different in how much God loves us.

**GROUP ACTIVITIES:** Have the kids make/prepare snacks at the beginning of the session and wait until later in the session to serve them. No sampling! When you do eat snacks, ask... “Have you been thinking about our snack this whole time?” “Was it hard to wait?” “What does an empty stomach feel like?” “What if you were really hungry and I brought you food that you didn’t want to eat?” “God used food to teach Peter something important. Do you know what that was?”

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** How easy is it to wait for dinner when you are hungry? How do you use your time while you are waiting? Peter used the time to pray. Do you help get dinner ready? Do you sneak a snack? Do you wait patiently? Do you use the time to pray?

Who do you know that believes in God but is not a part of church? Ask and find out why that is so.

What makes your family a unique kind of group? What can you do to strengthen/grow your family?

What is your favorite song about God/Jesus? When do you like to sing it?

### **Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

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GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up"

the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

## 4-Ephesians 3:14-21 Trust in God takes us beyond ourselves

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

Ephesians 3:14-21 - Trust in God takes us beyond ourselves  
I KINGS 18:1-39 – OBADIAH AND ELIJAH FOLLOW GOD IN HARD TIMES

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:**

Ahab; Obadiah; Elijah; prophets/priests of idols (Baal & Asherah); two bulls; wood; fire; 12 stones; glorious riches; MORE;

**ACTIONS:**

pray; dug a trench; poured water; grasp;

**IDEAS:**

Obadiah trusts God; God made Elijah to honor Him; Ahab thought Elijah was a troublemaker; following other gods (idols); call together those who disagree; making a choice - who do you believe?; going first or second; wet wood; Elijah did these things so the people would again honor God;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

What did Elijah believe about God? How did that affect what he did?

What did Baal's prophets believe about God? How did that affect what they did?

What did the people of Israel believe about God? How did that affect what they did?

Do I trust others who follow God?

Do I shout, dance, and abuse myself when trying to get God's attention? Do I think of God as being too busy or too tired to hear me or answer me?

Do I pay more attention to people who attract attention or do I pay attention to those who are following God?

Contrast the chaos of Baal's prophets with the deliberate actions of Elijah. Whose style do you identify with?

Elijah repaired the altar. It is significant that the idolaters were not using it.

When does wet wood burn?

"At the time of the sacrifice" – this is yet another reason, besides good psychology and a wonderful grand finale, why Elijah had them go first.

Paul prays that we will understand how BIG God's love is – that His family and His plan are beyond our own limits and judgments.

Do I grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ? If I did, how would that change my life?

The Israelites didn't totally reject God. They just didn't follow Him with all their heart, so their indecision crippled them.

Do I recognize that what God has done in my life through Jesus is far greater than what God did through Elijah?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

**God helps us do more than we can ask or imagine**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

"All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43

**SONGS:**

"He Is The Way"

"I Will Call Upon the Lord" "

"With Jesus In My Vessel I Can Smile At The Storm" (learn this song with Grandma from her Bible Songs dvd, Sing Together Vol. 2 -

<http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/shop-with-grandma/sing-together-series/>)

"Deep & Wide"

"Cares Chorus"

"Love Him In The Morning"

Special Music:

"We've come This Far By Faith"

"Through It All"

**GAMES:**

"Pour the water on the rocks (or wood)" relay – Give each relay team a bucket filled with water and a small cup. Place a pile of rocks (The pile made during the group activity?) or wood for them to put the water on. Have the kids take turns scooping up a cup of water and running to put it on the rocks/wood. Whichever team empties their bucket first wins. Have all the kids jump and shout "The Lord, He is God!"

**KEY PHRASES:**

Elijah's trust in God helped him do AMAZING things. What amazing things have you done with God's help? What amazing things could you do with God's help?

That was a hard thing to do. Aren't you glad that God helped you to do it?

That will be a hard thing to do. Let's ask God to help you do it.

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Act out the story around the rocks from the group activity.

Was this a hard thing for Elijah to do? Why was Elijah so bold and strong?

What happened because Elijah was willing to do such a hard thing?

Can you think of a hard thing that God might want you to do? Let's pray about it...

**OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

We can trust God to rescue us. However, God sometimes helps us by making pearls. (Note the irritation in the oyster.) He brings good things out of our hard times.

What is it about the way God has designed the church that helps us withstand the pressures of the world? Have volunteers build 3 towers: 1 of jiggler jello cubes; one of wood or sugar blocks; one of legos. Which tower will last the longest? Why?

**CRAFTS:**

Can you think of a hard thing that God might want you to do? Draw a picture of it.

Make a playdough altar, jug, trench, wood, etc.

**GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Take the kids outside to collect 12 stones and some sticks. Have them stack the stones, place the sticks on top, and pour water over everything. (Or make these using playdough for the rocks so kids can take them home.) In this way act out the story and talk about faith. Have the kids dance around the altar and call out to Baal, then quietly pray to God as they act out the story.

Play "loud/pray" around the rock altar. When you hold up a sign with the word "loud" on it, the kids should dance and shout and wave and holler, etc. When you turn the sign over to the word "pray" stand still and raise their hands to heaven in quiet prayer. Is it hard to know when the sign changes? Why? (They are making too much noise, fun, etc. or they have their eyes closed and are concentrating on God, etc.) Our "fun" can sometimes distract us from God. Does God want us to always stand with our eyes closed and our hands raised? Elijah did many things to honor God.....

**INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

How big do you think \_\_\_\_\_ is? Or how many \_\_\_\_\_ do you think are in this jar? Guess its size in feet, inches, pounds, numbers, etc. Then do/tell an actual measurement.

Make a list of "good things" to do in your family, in your neighborhood, and in your community. Choose one that you can all help with and do it!

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

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PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.



## 5- Ephesians 4: God's family cares about each other

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

Ephesians 4:1-16  
Ruth – Naomi and Ruth

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:** the number ONE-unity; apostles; prophets; evangelists; pastors; teachers; maturity; cunning and crafty men; Elimelech; Naomi; 2 sons; Ruth; Orpah; Bethlehem; Boaz;

**ACTIONS:** giving gifts; preparing people for works of service; growing up; picking up grain/gleaning;

**IDEAS:** a worthy life; humble; gentle; bearing each other's burdens; being built up; being tossed back and forth; speaking the truth in love; returning home after a long time; leaving your home and your culture to be with someone you love; relatives (family) and their responsibility/care for each other; asking permission to glean;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

How do I live - unworthy of grace yet receiving grace?

How is love a burden, something to bear?

How do peace and unity fit together? What place do conflict and diversity have in unity and peace?

Jesus is our example and our King, on earth and in heaven.

What does being mature in Christ mean? What does that look like – in me?

Jesus is the head and also holds the body/family together.

What is my part? What gifts or roles has He given me? Am I functioning?

So many people have no idea what it is to walk through life with someone by their side. They don't have someone like that in their life and they don't know how to be that someone.

Naomi was bitter, but Ruth didn't seem to be. Ruth seemed determined to care for that crabby old lady! Naomi seemed to do all the scheming (she knew the culture) and Ruth seems to be obedient and loving.

What gifts/roles was Naomi given? What gifts/roles was Ruth given? Boaz? How well do they live their gifts/roles?

What does a marriage proposal look like where you live?

Ruth chooses to be a part of Naomi's family rather than staying in her own land. The kinsman-redeemer also is able to choose who is a part of his family. He decides that Ruth will not be. We have a choice to make as to whether we want to be in God's family. We do not have a choice as to who else will be in the family.

What does a healthy family look like? How does my part in the family affect the health of the family?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

**God's family cares about each other.**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

"All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

**SONGS:**

"I am the church, you are the church" <http://www.pateys.nf.ca/cgi-bin/lyrics.pl?hymnnumber=475>

**GAMES:**

Have 3 legged races. (Two people tie one of their legs to the other's leg.) How's that working? Is it easier when we tie two people the same size (or the same age, etc.) together or two people of different sizes? What if we all tied our legs together? That's how God expects us to work together. You may not be tied right next to me, but what I do still affects you. God calls us to be ONE.

**KEY PHRASES:**

Let's work together. Let's be patient with each other. Let's help each other.

Whose job is that? Who do you think would do a good job with that?

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

What does the story of Ruth and Naomi say about caring for each other.

Elimelech cared when he took his family to another country for food and shelter.

Naomi cared when she tried to send her daughters-in-law back to their families.

Ruth cared when she stayed with Naomi and obeyed her.

Boaz cared when he took care of Ruth and Naomi.

Each of these "carings" were choices. God says when we make the choice to care and to work together that we are growing up.

**OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Play the Mousetrap Game (or similar game with parts that need to work together)

Cook/bake something, but with one hand not wanting to cooperate. Let your hands talk with each other.

Have several fruits to eat for snacks, some of them ripe and others that are not ripe. God wants us to mature/ripen so that we are good fo/with each other.

### **CRAFTS:**

Make "suitcases" by folding cardstock in half and cutting a handle out of the non-fold side. Have kids find pictures in magazines to glue in their suitcase. What would you take on your trip? What would go in your suitcase, in your parent's suitcase?

Have everyone make one picture, but each draw their own part of it. (Each person chooses one colored marker or crayon. Pass the paper around and use a timer to keep the paper moving. Have everyone try to make one picture, each building on what the others have drawn.) Does our picture show how we are working together?

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Where have you traveled? How is it different there from your home?

What do you want to be when you grow up? The Bible says that when we grow up we will be ONE - unified.

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

How do we help each other? Ephesians talks about cunning and crafty men who confuse people. We are all growing up and we need to help each other not be confused. The Bible says we should speak the truth in love to each other and help each other.

How do you see this happening in your church family? How is your church family working together to grow up into acts of loving service? What are you learning to do that is part of the church family?

Have you ever had someone who walked beside you like Ruth walked with Naomi? Tell you family about that experience.

Who is the "crabby old lady" that you are loving?

### **Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you

get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

## 6- BEING IN GOD'S FAMILY CHANGES OUR LIVES

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

Ephesians 4:17-32

Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62 John 18:15-18;25-27 - Peter tells a lie:

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:** Gentiles; Peter; courtyard; a servant girl; gateway; another girl; crowd; an oath; an accent – the way you talk; rooster;

**ACTIONS:** put off the old, put on the new; cursing; lying; crowing; disown; weeping bitterly; warming yourself by the fire; looking closely at someone; following at a distance;

**IDEAS:** futile thinking; don't lie, speak the truth; giving the devil a foothold; do not steal; waiting to see what will happen; making eye contact with someone who has betrayed you;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

Vs. 18 – Isn't it interesting that Paul doesn't say "separated from the love of God" but he does say "separated from the life of God"? His love is always available to us, but the life that comes with knowing Him is amazing!

Where is my heart hardened? Where am I missing the beauty of God in my life?

Vs. 19- Is there something that I can't get enough of? Is there something that the more I have of it the more I want?

Do I focus on meeting my own needs or do I work to have something to share? Sharing is a big part of a healthy life and of healthy relationships.

When have I let my anger turn into bitterness and revenge?

Is my talk wholesome? Who am I intentionally building up? Who am I unintentionally tearing down?

Who is listening to me? Am I noticing their needs?

Have I backed off from knowing Jesus? When? Why?

Am I kicking myself for my past failures or have I asked for forgiveness and boldness?

When have I needed to be corrected and restored? How did restoration feel?

What part of lying do I accept and what part do I abhor? How do I redefine what is lying to make me more comfortable? Which of the following descriptions do I prefer to use rather than "lie"?... deceit, rationalization, fib, spin, just not the whole truth, tact, etc. Discuss what lines you and others draw around "lie" to make you more comfortable.

**ADULT LESSON THEME:** (if coordinated)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

**God's children tell the truth**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."  
Ephesians 4:32

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

"All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

### **SONGS:**

"I Will Trust & Not Be Afraid"

"O be careful little mouth what you say"

### **GAMES:**

Who do you look like? Play charades, acting out someone that the children can guess. Peter was recognized by his voice and his looks as a follower of Jesus.

Have a group stand behind a door or screen and have only one of them say/read a phrase. Can the rest of you guess who it is?

Play "follow the leader". Is there ever a time when you don't want to follow what the leader is doing? Peter was trying to follow Jesus, and Peter wanted to know what would happen to Jesus when Jesus was arrested. But, Peter wasn't sure he wanted to be so close to Jesus that others would recognize that Peter loved Jesus. So, Peter went to the back of the line and sort-of "hung out". How do you think that made Jesus feel? Have you ever had a friend that didn't want to be with you?

Play "who's by the gate and who's by the fire?" Have places (by the gate, by the fire) set up where all the kids can sit. Two people are "it" – one from the fire and one from the gate. While their eyes are covered, have two of the kids (one from the gate area and one from the fire area) trade places. Each "It" then tries to say who the new person is to their area. If they are right, they trade places with the new person. Make the game harder by having all the kids in each area move around within their area as well so that they are not always in the same order.

### **KEY PHRASES:**

Is that the truth? Why do you say that? That was a helpful thing to say. Your words are very kind.

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Use the areas you set up for the "Who's by the gate? Who's by the fire?" game for the kids to move to and sit in as you tell the story of Peter and Jesus' trial.

### **OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Explore different accents – from both your own country and others – and see if you can tell where people are from. Can people tell that you love Jesus by the way you talk?

### **CRAFTS:**

Make turtles from paper plates. Staple two plates together after placing a head, 4 feet, and a tail between the plates. Have kids glue cheerios (?) on the turtle's back or just color the plate to look like a turtle. What kind of turtle are you? When you are afraid do you hide in your shell, pretend it didn't happen, lie? Or do you stick your neck out and tell the truth? Which did Peter do?

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Have a rooster crowing contest. Who does the loudest crow? The cutest? The longest? The scariest? Etc. Would you like it if every time you lied or said a bad word, a rooster would crow? (Perhaps your family might like to begin a tradition of crowing to help each other with a bad habit.)

Have a "stare" contest. Pair up and look directly into each other's eyes until someone breaks eye contact. Is this easy to do? Would it be easier or harder if you did or didn't like the person you were looking at? Jesus' and Peter's eyes connected just after Peter had lied about knowing Jesus. How did each of them feel? Did either one of them want to look away rather than look each other in the eye? (Perhaps a wink might also be a good signal to help with a bad habit.)

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

When and why do we lie? Is that what God wants for or from us? How can we help each other NOT to lie. Will crowing help? Will winking help?

### **Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

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the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

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## 7-EPHESIANS 5:1-20 -GOD'S FAMILY LOOKS LIKE HIM

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

EPHESIANS 5:1-20

Galatians 5:19-25

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:** God; Jesus; me; life; fragrant offering/sacrifice; thanksgiving; idolater; inheritance; partners; light; darkness; Spirit; imitators; God's wrath; fruit;

**ACTIONS:** imitating God; talking foolishly; giving thanks; live; find out; expose; shine; understand; be filled; speak; sing;

**IDEAS:** loving others the way God does; right and wrong are obvious; holiness; inheritance in the kingdom of God; being deceived; being partners with others; darkness vs. light; expose the dark; avoid hints of evil; choose partners carefully; unwise living vs. wise living;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

There are many "dos" as well as "don'ts" in this passage. List them. Following Jesus is not passive.

Do I know God well enough to even try to imitate Him? How will I get to know Him better?

Do I have a daddy that inspires me to be like him? How did Jesus imitate God?

As a partner in life with others, am I (and God) influencing them, or are they (or the devil) influencing me?

Do I pray for and seek wisdom?

What opportunities do I see that I am not taking advantage of?

When I allow God to live in me, His Spirit changes me and brings fruit that both I and others will notice.

Do I pursue the fruit rather than the Spirit? Why is pursuing just the fruit not a good idea?

**ADULT LESSON THEME:** (if coordinated)

What is the **LESSON THEME**, or **GOAL** that you want the kids to learn?

**We should find out what pleases God and do that, be that.**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise" Ephesians 5:15

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.:" Ephesians 4:2

"All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

### **SONGS:**

"If You Want to be Wise" (Proverbs by Janet McMahan)

"If You're Happy & You Know It"

### **GAMES:**

Play Simon says or follow the leader.

Imitation game - Choose someone to be "it". "It" will sit, move, etc., like someone in the group.

Kids will guess who it is and take turns being "it".

Play "fruit of the spirit bingo" and/or "fruit of the spirit match game" - found at:

<http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/fruit-of-the-spirit/>

### **KEY PHRASES:**

Who did you learn that from? Who did that sound like? Let's be like Jesus...

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Bring in pictures of your family and talk about who they look like. Talk about how their interests and talents are often the same. Not always, but families tend to look like each other and have the same talents, interests, goals, etc.

God says that His family is like that. We are each different, but we are each growing up to be like Him. What does that look like? God describes it as "fruit". Here are some of the ways He says we will be like Him. The Bible uses fruit to help us understand these things. As we look at each fruit we'll talk about how we are to be like God....

Love – strawberry - because it is often shaped like a heart and is red

Joy – peach – because it just BURSTS with juice when you bite into it

Peace – pear – because it isn't round to roll around like some of the other fruits. It tends to settle in one place and to stay there.

Patience – pineapple – because it takes a long time of hard work to get to eat it

Kindness – lemon – because you can make lemonade to give to someone when they are thirsty

Goodness – apple – because an apple a day can make you healthy and strong

Faithfulness - watermelon – because it is a fruit that easily replaces itself and grows more of itself with the seeds that are in it (well, seeds used to be in all watermelons!)

Gentleness – banana – because you must handle them carefully or they will bruise

Self-control – grapes – because it is hard to eat just one

Have all the fruits for snack time.

### **OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Talk about trees & fruit, seeds & plants and how they grow to be like their original patterns.

### **CRAFTS:**

Make a basket and fill it with fruit. Have the kids "role play" to show what each of the fruit of the spirit is/does. (You can get ideas for the fruits from Grandma's fruit of the spirit lesson series at <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/bible-fun-with-grandma/family-bible-activities/fruit-of-the-spirit/>)

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Where do we look to find out about God & what He's like? We can hold up a mirror to see what we look like. We can use our eyes to see what others look like. How do we see what God is like?

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

Who do you want to grow up to look like? drive like? cook like? talk like? etc. Start thinking now about wanting to grow up to be like Jesus and what that looks like.

Make a list of things you know are right. Make a list of things you know are wrong. Talk about why you sometimes get mixed up and do the wrong thing. What do you do when you realize you've done something wrong?

### **Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

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## 8 - EPHESIANS 5:21-33- Practice God's love in your family

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

EPHESIANS 5:21-33 - INSTRUCTIONS FOR HUSBANDS & WIVES

John 13:1-17 – Jesus washes the disciples feet

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:** wives; husbands; Lord; head; church; body; Savior/Christ; everything; water; word/scripture; stain/wrinkle/blemish; members; father and mother; one flesh; mystery; Passover; Jesus; meal; devil; towel; outer clothing; water; servant; master;

**ACTIONS:** submit; love; giving of self; making holy; cleansing; washing; presenting; hating; feeding and caring; leave; united; become; respect; washing;

**IDEAS:** wives submit to husbands; husband/Christ as head of the wife/church; God's has modeled the relationships/benefits of marriage/family in Christ and His church/family – specifically His love on the cross; the purpose of God's love is to make us holy and blameless; "one body" in marriage and in God's family; the full extent of love;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

How does the list of "dos" and "don'ts" from your previous reading of Ephesians affect the concept of submit?

What does "submit" mean? Do I want to know the real definition?

Jesus had "all authority" yet He washed feet. What does that tell me about submission?

Jesus took off His outer clothing. Am I willing to be in a position where I don't look my best in order to serve someone else? How do I prepare to submit? What does that require of me? How does my submission affect the person I am submitting to?

How does verse 21 (which seems to indicate we all submit to each other) mesh with submission specifically being applied to wife/husband?

How does our submission affect God's desire for our unity? In marriage? In relationships? In the church?

How do the terms "submission" and "respect" relate? How does that compare to "love"?

Do I see myself as becoming clean, holy, blameless? If so, who gets the credit? If not, who do I blame?

Do we treat one another as if we were "one body"? How does this differ from the slave/owner; gentile/Jew; property/owner; etc., relationship?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

**Practice God's love in your family**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” Ephesians 5:21

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise” Ephesians 5:15

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

“All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.” Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:16

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

**SONGS:**

“The Family of God”

“Love one Another”

**GAMES:**

Play “musical chairs” the normal way – trying to win. Then play “musical chairs” the abnormal way – trying to give others your seat. Why doesn’t that work as well? How hard is it to let someone else go first?

Have a 3 legged race. (Teams of two, then teams of three, then teams of four, etc.) How well do you race? Do you have to work out a system or choose a leader? God wants us to work together in our family and that means that someone has to have the “final say”.

**KEY PHRASES:**

Who made that decision? Why did you let them make that decision? Who let you go first? Why did they let you go first? Good job! You were thinking about someone else. Nice listening. Thank you for obeying.

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Use a wedding picture and a picture of the cross to describe what love and submission look like. How did Jesus show submission to His Father? (See Mark 14:32-36) to us? (See John 13:1-17) How do we show submission to others in our family? How do we show love? (Use this for group activities)

**OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Use a rag and some cleaning supplies to show how our “love” job is the same as God’s. We are not in relationship to hurt or destroy each other but to gently clean the world and each other up.

Use a flat board and blocks to illustrate the concept of submission – standing up under. What happens when the board does not have “full” support?

**CRAFTS:**

Make scented soap? – We are to gently clean each other up.

Make a “heart sticker” chart. Put pictures or descriptions of things you can do to show love to others down the left side of the chart and the days of the week across the top of the chart. Cut out hearts to glue on the chart when you do a “love” activity.

Make mobile of family members. Put the cross (with a heart on it?) at the center/top of the mobile. Jesus’ LOVE is what holds us all together.

**GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Make a written list (or make a picture list) of things you can do to put others first. (Opening the door, taking someone’s dishes to the sink, etc.) Then play charades. Each charade should be something that is done to put others first. It could be something on the list or something else that can be added to the list.

**INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

For the last lesson, you made a list of things that you know are right and things that you know are wrong. How can you practice the “right” things in your family? In your neighborhood? In your church?

Have each person in the family think of something they need to work on that will make them more like Jesus. Each one then can give someone else in the family (or all the family) the opportunity to help them change. It may be that Dad gets fined a quarter for each bad word he says. Or Junior may get an extra cookie each time he gets his homework done before dinner or eats all his dinner without complaining. BE CREATIVE, but use your hearts to help each other “clean up”.

Play "The Man in the House" (like the "Farmer in the Dell" at:

<http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/sing-with-grandma/the-farmer-in-the-dell/> ) The man takes a wife, the wife takes a child, the child takes a dog, the dog takes a cat, the cat takes a mouse, etc. What responsibility does each person in this game have toward what it chooses?

Re-shoe the family – Have the family take off and put away all their shoes (and socks too!). Put all the names of the family on “draw” cards and put the cards in a bag. Have each family member run to get what is needed to “re-shoe” their family member.

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

**#9 - Learning to love and honor requires training and instruction - EPHESIANS 6:1-4**

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

EPHESIANS 6:1-4  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:** children; parents; Lord; right/good; father/s; mother; commandments; promise; long life; earth; training; instruction; commandments; hearts; home; road; symbols; foreheads; doorframes; houses; gates; God; heart; soul; strength;

**ACTIONS:** obey; honor; enjoy; exasperate; bring them up; impress; talk; sit; walk; lie down; get up; tie; bind; write; love;

**IDEAS:** obedience from the inside, not the outside; there is right and wrong; a commandment with a promise; obeying because it is good for ME; long life on earth; exasperating vs. training/instructing; honor/training/instruction in the LORD; learning is both verbal and by example; to teach something you have to DO something;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

The family is really where we learn obedience. How can we love/obey a God we haven't seen if we can't love/obey the people we have seen?

God made families for a purpose. The family is God's primary way of passing on what is "right". The method/s of passing things on (training, etc.) may change but the "right" (instruction) does not change.

Training methods are ACTIVE and INTENTIONAL and NOTICEABLE.

The goal of training is to change the heart. The wrong attitude with the right behavior is not the goal. The right behavior with the right attitude is the goal.

Greek word for training/discipline: to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior - 'to teach, to instruct, to train, teaching, instruction.'

Education tries to transfer knowledge. Discipline tries to develop character by building habits.

Families that honor God will also honor one another.

When I obey and honor others (submit) I receive a benefit.

Power corrupts. It is easy for a father/parent/authority to misuse their God-given responsibility/authority.

Exodus 20 – It is interesting that God placed the "honor your parents" command right after the trusting/honoring God commandments and before all the "behavior" commandments. Our home life should be an expression of our trust in God. Our behavior/s will come from that.



A loving adult does more than provide for a child.

A loving adult grows with a child.

That is why the world and the people in it need children. ([www.mygrandmatime.com](http://www.mygrandmatime.com))

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

**God gave parents the job of teaching how to love and honor others.**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

### MEMORY VERSE:

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving to you." Exodus 20:12

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" Ephesians 5:21

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise" Ephesians 5:15

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

"All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

### SONGS:

"O Be Careful Little Eyes"

"God's Wisdom" – Gospel Light

### GAMES:

Play "Red Light, Green Light" (obeying, listening)

Simon Says (Who do you obey? Are you listening?)

Mother, May I? (Who do you obey?)

Follow the leader (Who do you grow up to be like?)

### KEY PHRASES:

Who taught you that? Who is teaching you this? God has given your parents the job of teaching you....(right/wrong; good/bad; how to treat people; good things to eat/do; etc.)

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Bring some “how to parent” books from the library to show the kids. Lots of people have good advice on how to be a good parent and what to teach your children. God says it is your parent’s job to teach you. You learn from your parents in a lot of different ways.

God says your parents should teach you in these ways: When they talk; when they sit with you; when they walk with you; when you are resting; and when you get up from resting. God says your parents should use things around you to remind you of what they are trying to teach you.

God wants you to obey your parents, to honor and respect them. The Bible says “honor your father and your mother”. Let’s work to learn this the way your parents might teach you....

Have the kids say “honor your father and your mother” after you while they are sitting.

Have the kids say “honor your father and your mother” while you are doing a “tap” walk dance.

Have the kids lie down on the floor and say “honor your father and your mother”.

Have the kids jump up in the air while saying “honor your father and your mother”.

Have the kids make a necklace/bracelet that says “honor your father and your mother”.

Have a relay race to put the letters up on the wall that say “honor your father and your mother”.

### **OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Set up an obstacle course. Blindfold a child and have them try to get through the obstacle course. They will have to go slow and will have some bumps along the way. Then have their parent lead the blindfolded child through the obstacle course. Our parents have a better view of life than we do and God has given them the job of helping us get through life without so many bumps and bruises and wrong turns.

### **CRAFTS:**

Make a “thank you” card for mom/dad.

Make a sign to tie on the front of your house – “We love the Lord” or “Honor your Father and Mother” or “submit to one another”, etc.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Name or draw a picture of something your parents are teaching you and tell how they are helping you to learn it.

What does “honor” look like? Act out some ways that show honor and dishonor of parents.

Go on a walk. Who did you talk to? What did you talk about? What things did you see to talk about?

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

## **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

Play Chutes & Ladders (having good things & bad things happen to you). Talk about how the things that happen to you in the game are good or bad. Mom/Dad should have a treat for everyone at the end of the game.

Choose an exercise goal. Begin "small" and train towards your goal together.

Choose a lifestyle goal. Begin "small" and train towards your goal together.

Make a list of your family's "rules". Are they rules of convenience (exasperation!) or do they teach respect/submission/honor?

**Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

<https://www.quora.com/Who-said-this-quote-Gandhi-or-Margaret-Thatcher>

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

## #10 - Practice God's love at work – Ephesians 6:5-9

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

Ephesians 6:5-9

**READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:**

**THINGS/NOUNS:** slaves; masters; respect; fear; sincerity; heart; Christ; favor; eye; men; reward; heaven; favoritism;

**ACTIONS:** obey; win; doing; serve; reward; treat; threaten;

**IDEAS:** slaves/masters; serving with heart (inside motivation) vs. serving out of coercion/duty; serving others like you would serve Jesus; getting a reward from God because we do good things; treat your slaves/employees as you would treat Jesus; God doesn't see us as slaves/masters but see us all as servants;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

There seems no limit to this submission/obedience thing! - except that we submit to do what Jesus would do, not submit to something that He would not approve of.

God is always the CEO of whatever job we take on. Our goal is to please Him. Any earthly boss we have should be overjoyed if we do that.

There are many ways that I can see God: sustainer; creator; boss; savior; comforter; father; king; lord; etc.

How does the way I look at God reflect in my relationship with God? Do I focus on only one aspect of God? Can I really look at God and not have an element of fear and respect?

When I look at God with my own level of comfort, am I making an idol of Him?

What is the difference between viewing God as my boss and viewing God as my sustainer/provider/lover?

I get paid for doing my job, but God rewards me for doing my job for Him. He has already promised me heaven. So what does that reward look like? Money? A cleaner heart? Better relationships? Better life?

It is easier to "play the martyr" and do Christ-like things for my boss than it is to treat someone underneath me as if they were Jesus. Why does power/authority do that to me?

God doesn't view one sin as worse than another and He doesn't view one person as more valuable than another.

Vs 5 – With sincerity of heart - ἀπλότης, ητος *f*: the quality of sincerity as an expression of singleness of purpose or motivation - 'sincerity, purity of motive.' ὑπακούετε κατὰ πάντα τοῖς κατὰ σάρκα κυρίοις ... ἐν ἀπλότητι καρδίας 'obey your human masters in all things ... with sincerity of heart' or '... with a heart

which seeks only one purpose' Col 3.22. The idea seems to be that a servant should be 100% focused on the best interests of the master. This is consistent with our position as citizens of the kingdom. The good subject submits totally to the will of the King. Paul has used 3 different human relationships – marriage, parent/child, master/slave – to help us understand and live out our relationship with God.

**ADULT LESSON THEME:** (if coordinated)

What is the **LESSON THEME**, or **GOAL** that you want the kids to learn?

**Practice God's love whoever you are, wherever you are, and whatever you do!**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men" Ephesians 6:7

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving to you." Exodus 20:12

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" Ephesians 5:21

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise" Ephesians 5:15

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

"All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name." Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

**SONGS:**

I Surrender All

Be So Kind (Gospel Light)

The Servant Song (Richard Gillard c.1977)

**GAMES:**

Follow the leader – Have the leaders do some really challenging moves and also some easier ones. Who is easy to follow? Who is hard to follow? Why? It is easier to follow someone who thinks about who you are and what you can do. God says that we should think about that when we ask someone to do something.

Have a "set the table" relay. Have a tablecloth, placemat, knife, fork, spoon, plate, napkin, glass, vase,

flowers, etc. for each team. Each team member puts one thing on the table. See which team can set the table the fastest. Do it again and see who can set it the nicest. Which way would Jesus have you set the table?

### **KEY PHRASES:**

Would you please....? Let me help you. Would you like me to show you how? Thank you. How can I help you? **What can I do to help?**

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

What is a slave? There are different kinds of slaves – people who owe others money; people who have been captured; people who are not treated like people but like animals; people who have agreed to work for money; etc. God says that EVERYONE should do their work as if they were doing it for Jesus. How would you do something if it was for Jesus? How would you treat someone if you were the boss?

### **OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

How do you see God? Show pics that you can see in several ways. (Search for “optical illusions”.) Sometimes we see God as only one aspect of His character and we miss the other aspects of His character. We can see God as Lord, but miss Him as Comforter. We can see God as Lover, but miss Him as King, etc.

### **CRAFTS:**

Make snacks together. Set the table and serve each other.  
Make a big poster for the classroom. Cover a board with pictures of tools people use for their work. Over the background pictures put the words “We work for Jesus”.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Charades – Act out different “jobs” and have others guess what they are. If needed, add sounds but not words.

Role play how you would tell someone else what they should do. Make a list of things that could/should be done, cut them apart and put them in a bag. Have each person draw out one task/paper. Then have everyone take turns picking someone to do the job that they have drawn. The person with the task/paper is the “boss” and the person they choose is the slave/worker. How does the “boss” tell the “slave” what needs to be done? How does the boss help them do it? Does the “slave” do it with all their heart, as if it was done for Jesus?

## **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

Make it a habit to ask “What can I do to help?” daily to each member of your family.

Each evening at dinner talk about someone that you helped during that day.

Talk about your work. Do you work for Jesus? Or for your boss? Or your teacher? Or yourself? Or money?

### **Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.**

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

## #11 - Use God's power to love the world – Ephesians 6:10-18

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

Ephesians 6:10-18  
David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

**THINGS/NOUNS:** David; Goliath; Saul; Philistines; war; battle lines; champion; giant; Mighty power;/strength; FULL Armor; schemes; the devil/evil one; struggle/fight; flesh and blood; rulers/authorities/powers of the dark world/spiritual forces; belt of truth; breastplate of righteousness; feet; gospel of peace; shield of faith; flaming arrows; helmet of salvation; sword of the Spirit; word of God; prayers and requests; saints; day of evil; waist;

**ACTIONS:** pitched camp; drew battle lines; putting on armor/getting and being ready; take your stand/stand your ground; fighting; take up; extinguish; pray; be alert; buckled;

**IDEAS:** drawing battle lines; having one person fight for the whole group; becoming a slave of the one who wins a fight; we equate size with might; being strong; being strong because of someone else; spiritual forces of both good and evil; having things in place;

**READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.**

How did David's faith get so big? Do I face each day like David or like his brothers?

What kind of armor did David wear into his battle with Goliath?

Is my everyday life building armor for God's battles? How?

Why did David fight? Why do I fight?

**ADULT LESSON THEME:** (if coordinated)

There are people all around us who need to be loved: cared for and protected. Often they are participating in or victims of evil. It takes courage and strength to stand against evil and for people.

Discussion Questions:

What is our source of strength?

Why do we need strength that is beyond our own strength?

What is the truth that will give you the strength to stand?

What is the source of our righteousness and what is it protecting? Proverbs 4:23

Why are the confidence and contentment that come from God, His peace, so important if we are to stand?

What do you believe? Where do you place your trust? Are these the same? If not, why not?

What does your salvation protect?



Why are your weapons limited to the word of God?  
How do you access all of this armor that Paul is writing about?

Application:

Identify a place where you are allowing evil into your family.  
Take a stand against evil and for your family trusting in the strength that only God can provide.

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

**Taking a stand for God is showing love to the world.**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

“All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give all of you into our hands.” 1 Samuel 17:45

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” Ephesians 6:7

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.” Exodus 20:12

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” Ephesians 5:21

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise” Ephesians 5:15

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

“All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.” Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:16

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

### **SONGS:**

Great and Mighty is He

The Lord is a Mighty God

I’m Gonna Get Strong (Gospel Light -TEAM VBS)

### **GAMES:**

Play “King of the Hill”. Can you stand/defend your ground?

Divide into two or more teams. Have each team pick a champion to compete for them. Have the champions compete in a contest of your choice – spelling bee; assembly activity; obstacle course, singing; etc. Talk about how you pick a champion and what you expect a champion to do.

**KEY PHRASES:** Do you need a champion to help you or are you the champion for this job? What do you need so you can do this/that? Who are you doing that for? How is that showing love?

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Tell the story of David and Goliath (or have the kids tell it to you!). How did David defeat Goliath? God says we are also in a fight. Who are we fighting? (not people) Why are we fighting? (to bring truth, peace, salvation, God's love) How can fighting bring/show love? Why do we have to be alert? How can we help each other to be alert?

**OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

Putting on Armor: How do you prepare to fight a fire? How do you prepare to perform a surgery? How do you prepare to love the world?

Weak vs. Strong: What things look strong, but are really weak? What things look weak, but are really strong? (What makes them weak/strong?) Which are you? Which do you want to be? How do you expect to become strong?

**CRAFTS:**

Suggestions to make armor – bleach bottle for helmets; grocery brown bags for breastplates; pizza rounds for shields; shoe boxes for feet; paint stir stick for sword; men's ties for belts; etc.

Sandals – trace feet on heavy cardstock. Cut out and lace to feet with yarn. It takes a lot of work to bring peace!

Draw a "light" and "dark" picture. The "light" side should have a shining warrior. The "dark" side should have shifting shapes of deceit and flaming arrows.

**GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

Who can build a structure (out of legos, cards, rocks, toothpicks, sticks – whatever you have) that is strong? What will it withstand? What makes it so strong?

**INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

Read mygrandmatime's book (to be released in 2016?) "Fighting the Dragon" by Tena Brown and do the family discussion activities.

Have each of you pick someone and something specific about them to pray for this week. Pray for them every day.

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

## #12 - Pray that God's family will grow – Ephesians 6:18-24

**DATE FOR LESSON:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:**

Ephesians 6:18-24

Peter and the Apostles are bold – Acts 5:12-32

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

**THINGS/NOUNS:** miracles; jealousy; jail; angel; orders; mouth; words; mystery of the Gospel; ambassador; chains; undying love; Sanhedrin;

**ACTIONS:** arrested; opened; teach; replied; pray; open; fearlessly speak; declare; encourage;

**IDEAS:** Be willing to draw attention to God; People REALLY want their needs met; fear of “the people” can change the behavior of leaders; God’s heart and words can shine through in tough times; share your life/God stories with each other for encouragement;

READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.

How can anyone be against a message of repentance and forgiveness?

Does my delivery of the message reflect the message itself? Is my boldness accompanied by love?

**ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated) Big Idea: Pray that God's family will grow**

**Opening Question: What are some things that keep God's family from growing?**

Read through the following passages: Ephesians 6:18-24; Acts 4:24-31; Acts 5:12-32

Discussion Questions:

What is the common theme of these passages?

What is Paul's specific request for prayer?

Why is Paul, a prisoner, asking for fearlessness?

What does the church pray for in Acts 4:24?

What is the short-term result in Acts 4 and 5?

What is the long-term result in Acts 6 thru 8?

Why don't Paul and the early church pray for the persecution to stop?

How should we pray for those who are being persecuted today?

What should be at the top of our own prayer lists?

Application:

Try addressing God in prayer as Sovereign Lord every time you pray this week and see what changes?

Go to the Voice of the Martyrs web site and pick a prayer request to bring before God.

<http://www.persecution.com/public/pray.aspx?clickfrom=%3d6d61696e5f6d656e75>

**What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?**  
**Let God be seen in ME**

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” Ephesians 6:19

“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.” Acts 5:20

“Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!” Acts 5:29

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” Ephesians 6:10

“All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s and He will give all of you into our hands.”

1 Samuel 17:45

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” Ephesians 6:7

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.” Exodus 20:12

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” Ephesians 5:21

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise” Ephesians 5:15

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.: Ephesians 4:2

“All the prophets testify about Him- that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.” Acts 10:43

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:16

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

**SONGS:**

This little light of mine

How Can I Keep from Singing? (Chris Tomlin)

**GAMES:**

Play “hide and seek”. The leaders could not find Peter and the apostles. Why?

Play “charades”. How hard is it to communicate without your mouth?

**KEY PHRASES:**

Your words tell me that.... Your actions tell me that.....I can see that you.....

**STORY TELLING STYLE:** (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Act out the story as you read it from the Bible.

Act the story a second time, pausing at each part to find out how the disciples are feeling and what decisions they face.

How does what we do/decide to do affect the people around us?

How do we have the power to make good and helpful decisions?

Why do we need to pray for boldness?

Why do we need to pray for each other?

### **OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:**

What can you tell about this person based on what you see? (Show pictures of different people.)

What can you tell about this person based on what you hear? (Play words/quotes/songs, etc.)

How do you see someone's heart? God wants others to see our hearts so that they can see HIS heart.

### **CRAFTS:**

Make paper chains with the words to a memory verse on them, or pictures of mouths/lips on them.

Make a stained glass window of a heart and a cross.

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES:**

What are you afraid of saying? (Telling the truth; admitting that I love/don't love Jesus; that I messed up, etc.) Why are you afraid of saying it?

### **INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:**

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES:**

Each of you share something good that happened during your day/week. Celebrate together each good thing.

Each of you share something not so good that happened during your day/week. Talk about what you might have done differently. Forgive and encourage each other.

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

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