

EPHEEL



Ephesians

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

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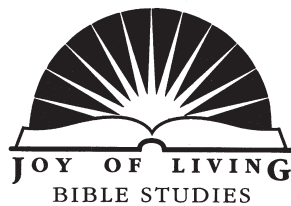
Joy of Living Ephesians Youth Bible Study

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Ephesians

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga



Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living Study**.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps... (then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.

- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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Shepherd's Notes, Ephesians, Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1997.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Editors John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck. Victor Books, A Division of Scripture Press Publications, Inc. 1983

The Holt Intermediate Dictionary of American English. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. 1967

The International Bible Commentary, with the New International Version. Originally Edited by F. F. Bruce, H. L. Ellison, G.C.D. Howley. First published 1979. Based on RSV version of the Bible. Copyright Picering & Inglis Ltd. 1979. New Edition 1986. Based on the New International Version of the Bible. Copyright Marshall Morgan and Scott Publications Ltd. 1986, England and Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Scripture quotations in this course are from:

Life Application Bible, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL; and Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI. 1991

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The Guideposts Parallel Bible, King James Version, originally published as The New Layman's Parallel Bible, copyright 1981 by The Zondervan Corporation, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

The Holy Bible, New International Version, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 1986

The Quest Study Bible, New International Version, (QUEST) copyright 1994 by Zondervan Corporation, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids Michigan

Suggested Crafts in this course are from:

Celebrating our Families, Crafts for Kids, Gospel Light, Ventura, CA 93006. 1995

Pac-o-Fun, From the Crafts'n Things Family, Pac-o-Fun, Inc. Des Plains, IL 60018-4618. February, 1997

Treasure Chest of Crafts, Gospel Light Publications, Ventura, CA 93006. 1985

Ephesians — Game & Craft List

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EPHESIANS - WEEK ONE

NO DISCUSSION LESSON

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: SIMPLE RELAY

You will need a ping pong ball, a large spoon, and a container for each team. Divide class into teams. With masking tape, mark start and finish lines on the floor. Give the first player on each team a spoon. Place ball in front of each team. Place the container at the finish line. At the signal, the first player picks up the ball with the spoon, races to the finish line, drops the ball in the container, races back to the next in line, hands off the spoon, and goes to the end of the line. The next team player races to the container, picks the ball out of the container with the spoon, returns to the next team player, hands off the ball, goes to the end of the line. The next player repeats the first sequence. Play continues until one team has all players in their starting positions.

15 - 20 minutes discuss class rules and goals

to end of class CRAFT: NOTE PAD & MINI CANDLE HOLDER

NOTE PAD:

3" x 8 1/2" construction paper	scissors
white paper	stapler
markers/crayons/colored pencils	ruler

On the construction paper, measure 1/2" from one 3" edge, and fold. Fold the paper in half so that it measures 3" x 4". Cut the white paper into 3" x 4" strips. Place these strips under the 1/2" fold and staple together. Construction paper cover can now be decorated with markers, crayons or colored pencils. Use the note pad to write memory verse so that it is always handy.

CANDLE HOLDER:

large empty thread spool	yarn
glue gun/liquid glue	small candle to fit inside spool hole
small object to sit alongside candle (figure, shell, etc.)	

Glue one end of yarn onto the empty spool. Wrap yarn around spool until the entire spool is covered. Cut and glue yarn end to wound yarn. Attach small figure or other decorative object to top. Insert small candle into hole. More than one candle holder can be made if you have time.

EPHESIANS - LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Ephesians chapter 1, verses 1 – 8.

Ephesus was a very rich city. It was a political, religious and commercial centers in Asia Minor. Ephesus was built between two rivers, which made it ideal for shipping, much like Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, Seattle, or other port cities in the United States. But as the centuries passed, and silt deposited from the river built up, Ephesus was no longer near enough to remain a port city. It is now five to six miles inland. When Paul wrote this letter, Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the world. Its population was about 250,000. At one time, Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Archaeologists have uncovered a public auditorium, gyms, public baths, a 24,000 seat theater or arena, houses, and the head and forearm of a huge statue.

1. What did Paul say about the Christians, or saints, who lived in Ephesus?

2. **CHALLENGE:** When Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians, he was living somewhere else under difficult circumstances. What are the clues given in Acts 28:16,20 that tell us where and how Paul was living?

The dictionary (HOLT) gives the meaning of the following words:

blessing "Something that makes for happiness, health, or good fortune."

redemption "Act of redeeming or buying back. Deliverance from sin; salvation."

3. **RISKY:** Many people think the only blessings God gives are giving us things or making us rich. But Paul says something different in Ephesians 1:3. Where and what does Paul say are God's blessings?

4. We must remember Paul is writing to the Christians in Ephesus, not to people who don't know Christ. When did God choose these people to be Christians?

5. Who was with Him when God made His choices? See Colossians 1:16,17 for your answer.

6. What did God plan before the creation of the world? Read 1 Peter 1:19,20.

7. How are Christians adopted as God's sons?

8. How do we know God loves us? See Romans 5:8 for your answer.

9. **PERSONAL:** Are you God's adopted child? Do you want to be? Read the following scriptures to help you become God's child.
Romans 3:23 "Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God's perfect glory."
Romans 6:23 "Sin makes us die. Through Christ, God gives us life that never ends."
1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins."
Romans 10:9 "This is how you will be saved. Tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Also, believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead."

Read Ephesians chapter 1, verses 9 – 14.

1. In several letters Paul writes about a mystery or secret. What is the mystery or secret in Colossians 1:26,27?

2. How will Jesus bring all things together according to Colossians 1:20?

3. *Deposit* is a business term used for money given as a down payment when you buy something. The money you give as a deposit is your promise to pay for an item and take it home. God gave Christians the Holy Spirit as the deposit (promise) for the inheritance promised by Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 1:4, how does Peter describe this inheritance?

Read Ephesians chapter 1, verses 15 – 23.

1. What does Philippians 2:10,11 say will happen when all things will come under Christ's feet, or under His authority?
2. Paul prays for several things for the Ephesian Christians. What are they?
3. **CHALLENGE:** How does Paul describe God's power?
4. What does Jesus say about Himself in Matthew 28:18?
5. What is the church called in Ephesians 1:23?
6. Who is head of the church according to Colossians 1:18?
7. **PERSONAL:** Did you memorize any verses? Memorizing scripture helps us to think about the things of God. Knowing what the Word of God says helps us to quickly find a scripture when we are asked about our faith.

EPHESIANS - WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON ONE

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BASE TAG

Use old file folders cut in half or cereal box sides for “bases,” one for each player. Scatter bases around the playing area. Choose IT, who stands on one of the bases near the center of the playing area. Other players each stand on one base. When IT leaves his base, so must the others. IT tries to tag a player before the player reaches a new base. Only one player may stand on a single base. If a player is tagged, he becomes the new IT.

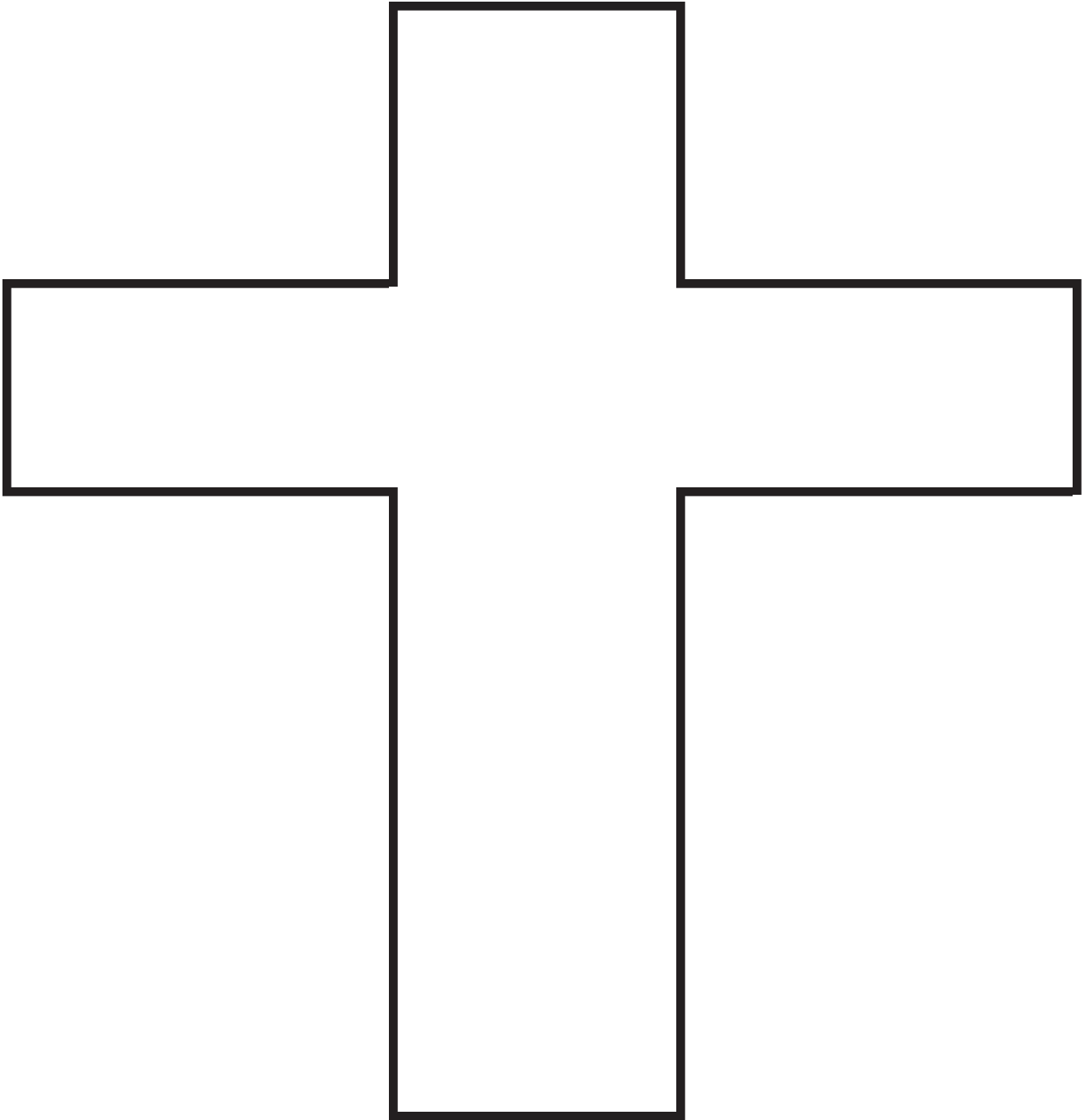
15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: MANY PARTS CROSS

MATERIALS:

poster board or construction paper	jumbo craft sticks
extra fine black markers	glue
recycled small jigsaw puzzle pieces	scissors
6” length of 1/8” ribbon or yarn	spray shellac

Before class, cut one cross for each student out of the poster board or construction paper from the pattern on page 12. Form a cross from two jumbo craft sticks, glue together at the center. Choose one or more of this week’s verses to write around the edges of the poster board cross with the marker. Center the craft stick cross onto the poster board cross and glue together. Glue one layer of puzzle pieces onto craft stick cross. For second layer, choose puzzle pieces that resemble little bodies; if necessary, trim ends of puzzle pieces to resemble people. Draw faces (two dot eyes & a mouth) on top rounded end. When first layer is dry, glue puzzle piece “people” on top of first layer. Let dry. To hang, glue ribbon or yarn ends to top back of poster board. Spray with shellac.



EPHESIANS LESSON 1 — ANSWERS

Read Ephesians chapter 1, verses 1 – 8.

Ephesus was a very rich city. It was a political, religious and commercial centers in Asia Minor. Ephesus was built between two rivers, which made it ideal for shipping, much like Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, Seattle, or other port cities in the United States. But as the centuries passed, and silt deposited from the river built up, Ephesus was no longer near enough to remain a port city. It is now five to six miles inland. When Paul wrote this letter, Ephesus was the fourth largest city in the world. Its population was about 250,000. At one time, Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia. Archaeologists have uncovered a public auditorium, gyms, public baths, a 24,000 seat theater or arena, houses, and the head and forearm of a huge statue.

1. What did Paul say about the Christians, or saints, who lived in Ephesus? Verse 1a: “This is Paul writing to the Christians at Ephesus who are **loyal to the Lord.**” [“Saints” refers to those set apart for God.]
2. **CHALLENGE:** When Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians, he was living somewhere else under difficult circumstances. What are the clues given in Acts 28:16,20 that tell us where and how Paul was living? Acts 28:16: “When we got to **Rome**, Paul was allowed to live wherever he wanted to. However, he was **guarded by a soldier** at all times.” Verse 20: “I asked you to come here today so we could meet each other. And I wanted to tell you why I am a **prisoner**. It is because I believe the Messiah has already come!”

The dictionary (HOLT) gives the meaning of the following words:

blessing “Something that makes for happiness, health, or good fortune.”

redemption “Act of redeeming or buying back. Deliverance from sin; salvation.”

3. **RISKY:** Many people think the only blessings God gives are giving us things or making us rich. But Paul says something different in Ephesians 1:3. Where and what does Paul say are God’s blessings? “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” (NIV).
4. We must remember Paul is writing to the Christians in Ephesus, not to people who don’t know Christ. When did God choose these people to be Christians? Verse 4: “Long ago, **before he made the world**, God chose us to be his very own. He did this because of what Christ would do for us. He decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault. We stand before him covered with his love.”

5. Who was with Him when God made His choices? See Colossians 1:16,17 for your answer. “Christ created everything in Heaven and earth. He created the things we can see and the things we can’t see. All kings and kingdoms, rulers and powers were made by Christ. He made them for his own use and glory. He was before all else began. His power holds everything together.”
6. What did God plan before the creation of the world? Read 1 Peter 1:19,20. “But he paid for you with the precious **blood of Christ**. He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God **chose** him for this purpose long before the world began. Only recently was he brought into public view as a blessing to you.”
7. How are Christians adopted as God’s sons? Verses 4b,5: “We stand before him covered with his love. His plan has always been to adopt us into his own family. He would do this by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!”
8. How do we know God loves us? See Romans 5:8 for your answer. “But God showed his great love for us. He sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”
9. **PERSONAL:** Are you God’s adopted child? Do you want to be? Read the following scriptures to help you become God’s child.

Romans 3:23 “Yes, all have sinned. All fall short of God’s perfect glory.”

Romans 6:23 “Sin makes us die. Through Christ, God gives us life that never ends.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

Romans 10:9 “This is how you will be saved. Tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Also, believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead.”

Read Ephesians chapter 1, verses 9 – 14.

1. In several letters Paul writes about a mystery or secret. What is the mystery or secret in Colossians 1:26,27? “He has kept this secret for centuries and generations past. But now he is pleased to tell it to the brothers and sisters. The riches and glory of his plan are for you Gentiles, too. This is the secret: Christ in your hearts is your only hope of glory.”
2. How will Jesus bring all things together according to Colossians 1:20? “Because of what his Son did, God cleared a path for everything to come to him. Everything means all things in Heaven and on earth. Christ’s death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood.”

3. *Deposit* is a business term used for money given as a down payment when you buy something. The money you give as a deposit is your promise to pay for an item and take it home. God gave Christians the Holy Spirit as the deposit (promise) for the inheritance promised by Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 1:4, how does Peter describe this inheritance? “God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life. It is kept in Heaven for you. It is pure and spotless. It is beyond the reach of change and decay.”

Read Ephesians chapter 1, verses 15 – 23.

1. What does Philippians 2:10,11 say will happen when all things will come under Christ’s feet, or under His authority? “At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in Heaven and on earth and under the earth. Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is to the glory of God the Father.”
2. Paul prays for several things for the Ephesian Christians. What are they? Verses 17-19a: “I ask God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you **wisdom**. Then you will see and **understand[ing]** who Christ is and what he has done. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with **light**. Then you can see something of the future he has called you to share. You can see that God is rich because we have been given to him! I pray you will **know** how great his **power** is for those who believe him.”
3. **CHALLENGE:** How does Paul describe God’s power? Verses 19b,20: “It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. It seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in Heaven.”
4. What does Jesus say about Himself in Matthew 28:18? “He told his disciples, ‘I have been given all power in Heaven and earth.’”
5. What is the church called in Ephesians 1:23? “The Church is his body. It is filled with himself. He is the Author and Giver of everything everywhere.”
6. Who is head of the church according to Colossians 1:18? “He is the Head of the body which is his Church. He is the beginning. He is the Leader of all those who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.”
7. **PERSONAL:** Did you memorize any verses? Memorizing scripture helps us to think about the things of God. Knowing what the Word of God says helps us to quickly find a scripture when we are asked about our faith.

EPHESIANS LESSON 2

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Ephesians chapter 2, verses 1 – 10.

1. The Bible tells us everyone has sinned. Why do you think people keep on sinning? See the following verses to help with your answer.

1 John 3:8

John 8:44

2. **RISKY:** What does Paul say about the Christians in Ephesus and how they used to live?
3. How do you think the people of Ephesus stopped practicing sin? John gives us an answer. What does he say in 1 John 3:9?
4. What does Paul say God did for us in Ephesians 2:4,5?
5. How can we be born of God? See 1 John 5:1 for your answer.

6. **PERSONAL:** Are you born of God? You can be. Romans 10:9 says: “This is how you will be saved. Tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Also, believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead.”
7. Why does Paul say faith is a gift from God? See Ephesians 2 for your answer

Read Ephesians chapter 2, verses 11 – 22.

1. Who were called the “uncircumcised”?
2. Who were called the “circumcised”?
3. **HARD:** The “circumcised” Jews had received God’s covenant (His promise of salvation), but the “uncircumcised” did not have this hope and were far away from God. In fact, the two groups of people were enemies. The “uncircumcised” were also called “foreigners.” That means they weren’t citizens of Israel. How were these two people groups brought back together (near to God)?
4. **CHALLENGE:** Do you understand Ephesians 2:13? What do the following verses say to help you better understand this verse?

Colossians 1:20

Hebrews 9:22

5. What does Paul say Jesus did for the Jews and the Gentiles when He died on the cross?
6. As you read your Bible, you will see the word “reconcile” or “reconciled” many times. To reconcile means “to bring together after a quarrel; make peace between; to bring into harmony; to bring into agreement (with)” (HOLT). In Jesus Christ we are at peace with God. Use the telephone-like keypad below to decode the following scripture and see how Christ has given us peace with God.

	ABC	DEF
1	2	3
GHI	JKL	MNO
4	5	6
PRS	TUV	WXYZ
7	8	9

2 5 7 6 8 4 3 2 5 6 6 3

6 3 5 3 7 8 7 4 4 7 7 6 6

2 5 3 2 6 7 3 7 8 7 3 7 6 6

3 8 3 7 9 7 4 6

1 5 6 4 6 1:7b

EPHESIANS - WEEK THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON TWO

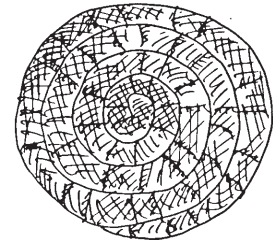
15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BASKETBALL RELAY

Form two equal teams for this relay game. Each team has a basketball, or any kind of ball. At the signal, the front player passes the ball over her head to the player behind. That player passes it between his legs. The next player passes the ball over his head, and so the play continues. Once the ball leaves a player's hands, he sits down. The first team sitting wins the game. You can make this interesting by adding additional balls or other objects.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 2

to end of class CRAFT: COIL TRIVET

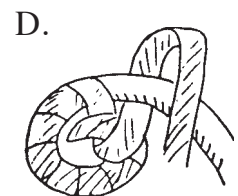
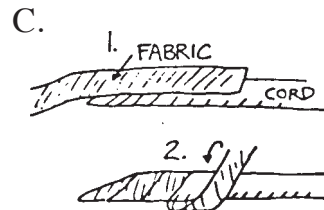
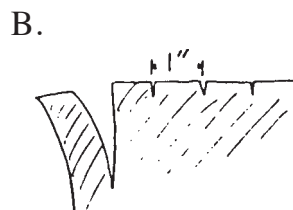
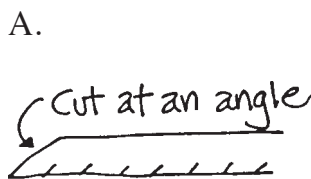


MATERIALS:

7 feet of 1/2" craft cord or rope
1/4" yard cotton cloth

glue
scissors

Before class, cut each end of the cord at an angle (diagram A). Tear fabric into 1" strips. Do this by cutting slits an inch apart at one end of the fabric and tearing the fabric at each slit (B). Place one end of a fabric strip along one end of the cord as shown (C-1). Reverse direction and wrap the strip around the cord (C-2). As you wrap, overlap each previous strip so that no cord shows. When you have wrapped about 4" of cord, bend the wrapped portion into a tight circle. Secure it in place by wrapping the fabric strip in a figure-eight that loops through the circle and back out to the yet unwrapped portion of the cord (D). Continue wrapping the cord and coiling it, holding the coils in place with figure-eight twists every 2 or 3 inches. When you have used up one fabric strip, wrap the start of another under the tail of the previous strip. When circle is complete slip the remaining tail of cloth into a loop, and glue to secure.



EPHESIANS LESSON 2 – ANSWERS

Read Ephesians chapter 2, verses 1 – 10.

1. The Bible tells us everyone has sinned. Why do you think people keep on sinning? See the following verses to help with your answer.

1 John 3:8 “But if you keep on sinning, it shows you belong to Satan. He has been sinning from the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.”

John 8:44 “For you are the children of your father the devil. You love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. There is no truth in him. When he lies, it is perfectly normal. For he is the father of lies.”

2. **RISKY:** What does Paul say about the Christians in Ephesus and how they used to live? Verses 1,2: “Once you were under God’s curse, doomed forever for your sins. You went along with the crowd and were just like all the others. You were full of sin, obeying Satan, the prince of the power of the air. He is at work right now in those who are against the Lord.”
3. How do you think the people of Ephesus stopped practicing sin? John gives us an answer. What does he say in 1 John 3:9? “Anyone born into God’s family doesn’t practice sin. God’s life is in him, so he can’t keep on sinning. This new life has been born into him and controls him. He has been born again.”
4. What does Paul say God did for us in Ephesians 2:4,5? “But God is so rich in mercy. He loved us so much. We were dead in our spirit and doomed by our sins. But he gave us back our lives again when he raised Christ from the dead. Only by his favor and grace have we ever been saved.”
5. How can we be born of God? See 1 John 5:1 for your answer. “If you believe Jesus is the Christ then you are a child of God. And all who love the Father love his children too.”
6. **PERSONAL:** Are you born of God? You can be. Romans 10:9 says: “This is how you will be saved. Tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord. Also, believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead.”
7. Why does Paul say faith is a gift from God? See Ephesians 2 for your answer. Verses 9,10: “Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done. So none of us can take any credit for it. It is God himself who has made us what we are. He has given us new lives from Christ Jesus. Long ago he planned that we should spend our lives in helping others.”

Read Ephesians chapter 2, verses 11 – 22.

1. Who were called the “uncircumcised”? Depending on the translation, it’s Gentiles, heathen, or pagans.
2. Who were called the “circumcised”? Jews.
3. **HARD:** The “circumcised” Jews had received God’s covenant (His promise of salvation), but the “uncircumcised” did not have this hope and were far away from God. In fact, the two groups

of people were enemies. The “uncircumcised” were also called “foreigners.” That means they weren’t citizens of Israel. How were these two people groups brought back together (near to God)? Verse 13: “But now you belong to Christ Jesus. You once were far away from God. But now you have been brought near to him. This happened because of what Jesus Christ has done for you with his blood.”

4. **CHALLENGE:** Do you understand Ephesians 2:13? What do the following verses say to help you better understand this verse?

Colossians 1:20 “Because of what his Son did, God cleared a path for everything to come to him. Everything means all things in Heaven and on earth. Christ’s death on the cross has made peace with God for all by his blood.”

Hebrews 9:22 “In the old agreement almost everything was cleansed by sprinkling it with blood. Unless blood is shed there is no forgiveness of sins.”

5. What does Paul say Jesus did for the Jews and the Gentiles when He died on the cross? Verses 17,18: “You Gentiles were very far away from him. But he has brought this Good News of peace to you. And, he brought it to us Jews who were near him. Now, both Jews and Gentiles may come to God the Father. We do this with the Holy Spirit’s help because of what Christ has done.”
6. As you read your Bible, you will see the word “reconcile” or “reconciled” many times. To reconcile means “to bring together after a quarrel; make peace between; to bring into harmony; to bring into agreement (with).” (HOLT) In Jesus Christ we are at peace with God. Use the telephone-like keypad below to decode the following scripture and see how Christ has given us peace with God.

	ABC	DEF
1	2	3
GHI	JKL	MNO
4	5	6
PRS	TUV	WXY
7	8	9

A l s o, t h e b l o o d
 2 5 7 6 8 4 3 2 5 6 6 3

o f J e s u s h i s S o n
 6 3 5 3 7 8 7 4 4 7 7 6 6

c l e a n s e s u s f r o m
 2 5 3 2 6 7 3 7 8 7 3 7 6 6

e v e r y s i n.
 3 8 3 7 9 7 4 6

1 J o h n 1:7b
 5 6 4 6

EPHESIANS - LESSON 3

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Ephesians chapter 3, verses 1 – 13.

In some Bible translations, Paul begins chapter three with the words "For this reason." His "reason" takes the reader back to 2:11-22, which is the section talking about the unity of the church. However, Paul gets caught up in explaining why he is a prisoner of Christ. He eventually returns to the subject of the unity of the church.

The dictionary says a mystery is: "Something that is secret, hidden, or unexplained." It's "something not known or not understandable" (HOLT).

In Bible terms the word mystery "does not refer to a riddle or a secret," but "refers to a spiritual insight or revelation from God unknown to previous generations. The Old Testament revealed that Gentiles would be saved. But only in the New Testament is the method of salvation made clear and the mystery solved: it is through Jesus Christ, his sacrificial death and his resurrection. Now, by faith, both Jews and Gentiles are heirs together of eternal life and will receive the same inheritance in Christ" (QUEST NOTES).

1. Who did God give the mystery or plan to?

2. What is the mystery or secret Paul is talking about?

3. **HARD:** The Old Testament hinted that Gentiles would be part of God's family. How do we know that?

Genesis 18:18

Genesis 22:18

Acts 3:25

Galatians 3:8,9

4. **RISKY:** What do these verses say about offspring, which is another name for children or descendants?

Genesis 3:15

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 9:6

5. **CHALLENGE:** When were the prophecies of the verses in question 4 fulfilled?

Luke 2:10,11

Galatians 4:4

6. Who gave Paul the right to preach the Gospel?

7. When was Paul given this assignment, and who gave it to him? See Acts 9:3,5,15 for your answer.

8. God had a plan. And now He was using the united church, Jews and Gentiles, to complete His plan. When did God make His plan to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews?

9. Why can we come into God's presence without fear?

Read Ephesians chapter 3, verses 14 – 21.

1. Paul now tells the Ephesians that he prays for them. What is the first thing he asks God for them?

2. Where is Christ supposed to live?

3. There was a saying some time ago that said, "I asked Jesus how much He loved me. And He stretched out His arms and died." Can you measure God's love?

4. **CHALLENGE:** What does David say about God's love in Psalm 139:7-12? You can summarize these verses if you want.

5. What happens when we ask God to help us do something?

6. **PERSONAL:** Which verse or verses did you memorize this week?

EPHESIANS - WEEK FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON THREE

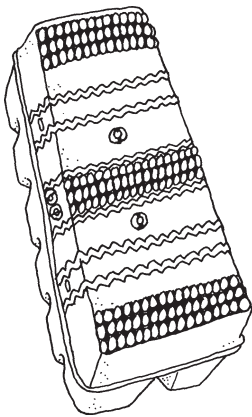
- 15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: FOLLOW THE STEPS

A variation of the old “Twister” floor game. You will need at least 10 footprints. On four of the prints write one letter of the word PAUL. Add them to the other prints and toss onto the floor. One person at a time places one foot on a footprint and tries to spell PAUL. It is OK to step on an unmarked footprint, but PAUL needs to be spelled in order. Give each player a turn. The one who does it wins. If there is more than one winner, you may time the players to see who can spell PAUL first.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 3
- to end of class CRAFT: TREASURE CHEST*

MATERIALS:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| styrofoam egg cartons | lentils, pasta shapes, rice, seeds |
| rickrack, ribbon | scissors |
| glue | glitter |
| gold or silver spray paint | newspapers |
| large, deep cardboard box | optional: “treasures” to go in box
(stickers, gum, nuts, etc.) |
| 3x5 cards | |



Before class: Cut ribbon and rickrack into 5-inch lengths. Spread newspapers around working area. Optional— Write Bible verse on 3x5 cards: “I pray that his glorious riches will strengthen you inwardly. He will do this through his Holy Spirit” Ephesians 3:16. (Or let each student write on his own card.)

Lay egg carton opened flat on working area. Glue lentils, pasta, rice, seeds, rickrack and ribbon to top of carton in any pattern student desires. Place egg carton in cardboard box, and teacher lightly sprays with paint. Child can sprinkle it with glitter before paint dries. If possible, spray paint outside, or open window for ventilation. When paint is dry, close boxes. Insert Bible verse card and “treasures.”

*from *Treasure Chest of Crafts*, page 36

EPHESIANS LESSON 3 — ANSWERS

Read Ephesians chapter 3, verses 1 – 13.

In some Bible translations, Paul begins chapter three with the words “For this reason.” His “reason” takes the reader back to 2:11-22, which is the section talking about the unity of the church. However, Paul gets caught up in explaining why he is a prisoner of Christ. He eventually returns to the subject of the unity of the church.

The dictionary says a mystery is: “Something that is secret, hidden, or unexplained.” It’s “something not known or not understandable” (HOLT).

In Bible terms the word mystery “does not refer to a riddle or a secret,” but “refers to a spiritual insight or revelation from God unknown to previous generations. The Old Testament revealed that Gentiles would be saved. But only in the New Testament is the method of salvation made clear and the mystery solved: it is through Jesus Christ, his sacrificial death and his resurrection. Now, by faith, both Jews and Gentiles are heirs together of eternal life and will receive the same inheritance in Christ” (QUEST NOTES).

1. Who did God give the mystery or plan to? Verse 5: “In olden times God did not share this plan with his people. But now he has shown it to his apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”
2. What is the mystery or secret Paul is talking about? Verse 6: “The secret is that the Gentiles will share with the Jews in all God’s riches. They are invited to belong to his Church. All of God’s promises through Christ are theirs too. This happens when they accept the good News about Christ.”
3. **HARD:** The Old Testament hinted that Gentiles would be part of God’s family. How do we know that?

Genesis 18:18 “For Abraham shall become a mighty nation. And he will be a source of blessing for all the nations of the earth.”

Genesis 22:18 “And your offspring will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth — all because you have obeyed me.”

Acts 3:25 “You are the children of those prophets. And you are included in God’s promise to your ancestors. God promised to bless the whole world through the Jewish race. Yes, that is the promise God gave to Abraham.”

Galatians 3:8,9 “The Bible knew that God would save the Gentiles by their faith. God told Abraham about this long ago. He said, ‘I will bless those in every nation who trust in me as you do.’ And so all who trust in Christ share the same blessing Abraham was given.”

4. **RISKY:** What do these verses say about offspring, which is another name for children or descendants?

Genesis 3:15 “From now you and the woman will be enemies, as will your offspring and hers. You will strike his heel, but he will crush your head.” [Her offspring will be hurt, but the serpent’s will be destroyed.]

Isaiah 7:14 “All right then, the Lord himself will choose the sign. A child shall be born to a virgin! And she shall call him Immanuel. This name means, ‘God is with us.’”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders. He will be call ‘Wonderful Counselor,’ ‘The Mighty God,’ ‘The Prince of Peace.’”

5. **CHALLENGE:** When were the prophecies of the verses in question 4 fulfilled?

Luke 2:10,11 “But the angel comforted them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you the most joyful news ever told! And it’s for everyone! The Savior has been born tonight in Bethlehem! Yes, this is the Messiah, the Lord!’”

Galatians 4:4 “But when the right time came, God sent his Son. He was born of a woman and as a Jew.”

6. Who gave Paul the right to preach the Gospel? Verse 7: “God has made me the person to tell everyone about his plan. He has given me his power and special ability to do it well.”
7. When was Paul given this assignment, and who gave it to him? See Acts 9:3,5,15 for your answer. “Saul was almost to Damascus to arrest the believers there. But suddenly a bright light from Heaven shone down on him!... ‘Who is speaking, sir?’ Saul asked. And the voice replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are trying to hurt!’... But the Lord said, ‘Go and do what I say. For Saul is my chosen instrument. He will preach my message to the Gentiles and their kings. He also will preach to the people of Israel.’”
8. God had a plan. And now He was using the united church, Jews and Gentiles, to complete His plan. When did God make His plan to save the Gentiles as well as the Jews? Verse 9: “I explain to everyone that God is the Savior of the Gentiles too. He secretly planned this in the beginning when he made all things.”
9. Why can we come into God’s presence without fear? Verse 12: “Now we can come fearlessly right into God’s presence. Why? Because we are sure to be welcomed because we believe in Christ.”

Read Ephesians chapter 3, verses 14 – 21.

1. Paul now tells the Ephesians that he prays for them. What is the first thing he asks God for them?
Verse 16: “I pray that his glorious riches will strengthen you inwardly. He will do this through his Holy Spirit.” [Inner man strengthened.]
2. Where is Christ supposed to live? Verse 17: “I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts. He will live within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s love.” [In the believer’s heart.]
3. There was a saying some time ago that said, “I asked Jesus how much He loved me. And He stretched out His arms and died.” Can you measure God’s love? NO. Verses 18-19: “May you be able to know, with all God’s children, God’s love. May you know how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love is. May you taste this love for yourselves. It is so great you will never see the end of it. You won’t fully know or understand it. But at last you will be filled up with God himself.”
4. **CHALLENGE:** What does David say about God’s love in Psalm 139:7-12? You can summarize these verses if you want. “I can never be lost to your Spirit! I can never get away from my God! If I go up to heaven, you are there. If I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. I might ride the morning winds. I might sail to the farthest oceans. But even there, your hand will guide me. Even there, your strength will support me. I might try to hide in the darkness. But the night becomes light around me. For even darkness cannot hide from God. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are both the same to you.”
5. What happens when we ask God to help us do something? Verse 20: “Praise God! When his power works in us we do much more than we prayed that we would. We do more than we hoped that we would.”
6. **PERSONAL:** Which verse or verses did you memorize this week?

EPHESIANS LESSON 4

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1 – 16.

1. Paul told the Ephesians to live in a way that would please God. How were they to live?

2. There is no way Christians can do what Paul tells us without help. Who helps us live in the way that would please God?

3. There are many parts of the body, each having a special purpose. We know that the eye does not hear, so God gave us ears. We know our ears cannot speak, so God gave us a mouth. Just as God made our bodies like this, He also made the church to have many parts to it, and each part has a special thing to do. What are some of the parts Paul lists?

4. What do the following verses say about the gifts or abilities God has given to His church, Christians? Underline the gifts or special abilities. Some will be the same in Ephesians, Romans, and 1 Corinthians.

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:6-10

5. **HARD:** When were these special abilities or gifts given, and who gave them?
6. How should Christians live so that the body of Christ grows? See verses 15,16 for your answer.

Read Ephesians chapter 4, verses 17 – 32.

1. Why does Paul tell Christians not to live like the unsaved?
2. **CHALLENGE:** Why do the unsaved live like they do?
3. What does Galatians 5:19-21 say are some of the other ways the unsaved live?
4. How are Christians supposed to live to show the unsaved that Christians are different? See Galatians 5:22,23 for your answer.
5. **RISKY:** What has the Christian done so that the fruit of the Spirit is alive instead of the fruit of their old evil nature? See Galatians 5:24.

6. What does Paul say in Ephesians we should do about our old evil nature and why?
7. Paul tells Christians what they should and should not do. These are called opposites. For example, the opposite of “high” is “low.” In the list below, match what Christians should do with what they should not do.

SHOULD:

- tell the truth
- not let the sun set on anger
- use hands usefully
- use good words

SHOULD NOT:

- use bad language
- steal
- lie
- be angry

8. The following scripture is from Ephesians. Fill in the blanks to find out how we are to live, and which chapter and verse the scripture is from.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	N	O	R	S	T	U	V	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

A B C D E F G H I J K L N O R S T U V Y
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

9 13 16 17 5 1 4 2 5 11 9 13 4 17 14 5 1 3 8

14 17 8 5 15 1 13 4 17 5 13 4 5 15 8 5 1 15 17 5 4

6 14 15 7 9 19 5 14 13 5 1 13 14 17 8 5 15 10 18 16 17 1 16

7 14 4 8 1 16 6 14 15 7 9 19 5 13 20 14 18

2 5 3 1 18 16 5 20 14 18 2 5 12 14 13 7 17 14

3 8 15 9 16 17

EPHESIANS : D C B

EPHESIANS - WEEK FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON FOUR

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BEDLAM

This game requires four teams of equal size. Each team takes one corner of the room or playing field. The play area can be either square or rectangular. On a signal (e.g., whistle) each team attempts to move as quickly as possible to the corner diagonally across from their corner, performing an announced activity as they go. The first team to get all its members into its new corner wins that particular round. The first round can be simply running to the opposite corner, but after that you can use any number of possibilities: walking backward, wheelbarrow racing (one person is the wheelbarrow), piggyback, rolling somersaults, hopping on one foot, skipping, crab walking, etc. There will be literally mass bedlam in the center as all four teams crisscross. Alert your safety guards to referee the confusion in the middle where the lines cross.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 4

to end of class CRAFT: WOODEN NECKLACE

MATERIALS:

1/2", 1 1/2" round and flat wooden beads	newspapers
small & medium empty wooden thread spools	
brushes	bowls
yarn or lacing from craft store	acrylic paints

Spread work area with newspaper. Pour paint into bowls. Paint the thread spools and wooden beads with dots, stripes, solids, wobble lines, etc. (A pencil eraser works well for the dots.) The number of beads and spools you will need depends on the design the necklace takes. When paint is dry, string the beads and spools into individual designs. Knot at the back.

EPHESIANS LESSON 4 — ANSWERS

Read Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1 – 16.

1. Paul told the Ephesians to live in a way that would please God. How were they to live? Verse 2: “Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other. Allow for each other’s faults. Because of your love.”
2. There is no way Christians can do what Paul tells us without help. Who helps us live in the way that would please God? Verse 3: “Try always to be led together by the Holy Spirit. Then you can be at peace with one another.”
3. There are many parts of the body, each having a special purpose. We know that the eye does not hear, so God gave us ears. We know our ears cannot speak, so God gave us a mouth. Just as God made our bodies like this, He also made the church to have many parts to it, and each part has a special thing to do. What are some of the parts Paul lists? Verse 11: “Some of us have been given special ability as **apostles**. To others he has given the gift of being able to **preach** well. Some have special ability in **winning people to Christ**. They help people to trust him as their Savior. Others have a gift for **caring** for God’s people. Like a **shepherd** does sheep. He **leads** them and **teaches** them in the ways of God.”
4. What do the following verses say about the gifts or abilities God has given to His church, Christians? Underline the gifts or special abilities. Some will be the same in Ephesians, Romans, and 1 Corinthians.

Romans 12:6-8 “God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. God may have given you the ability to prophesy. If so, you should **prophesy** as often as your faith is strong enough to do it. If your gift is that of **servicing others**, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If you are a **preacher**, your sermons should be strong and helpful. If God has given you **money, be generous in helping others** with it. If God has put you in charge of the **work of others**, do this job well. Those who **comfort** people who are sad should do it with cheer.”

1 Corinthians 12:6-10 “There are many ways in which God works in our lives. But it is the same God who works in all of us. The Holy Spirit shows God’s power through each of us. It is a way of helping the whole church. To one person the spirit gives the ability to give **wise advice**. Someone else may be good at **studying and teaching**. This is his gift from the same Spirit. He gives **special faith** to another. To someone else he gives the power to **heal the sick**. He gives power for **doing miracles** to some. To others he gives power to **prophesy** and **preach**. Another knows if a **spirit is of God or not**. Another person is able to **speak in languages** he never learned. Others are given power to **understand what he is saying**.”

5. **HARD:** When were these special abilities or gifts given, and who gave them? Verse 8: “The Psalmist tells about this. He says that Christ went back to Heaven after his resurrection and victory over Satan. Then he gave generous gifts to men.” [After the resurrection Christ gave the gifts by the Holy Spirit.]
6. How should Christians live so that the body of Christ grows? See verses 15,16 for your answer. “Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times. We will speak truly, deal truly, and live truly. So we will become more in every way like Christ. He is the Head of his body, the Church. Under his direction, the whole body is put together perfectly. Each part helps the other parts in its own special way. Then the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Read Ephesians chapter 4, verses 17 – 32.

1. Why does Paul tell Christians not to live like the unsaved? Verses 18: “They are blinded and confused. Their closed hearts are full of darkness. They are far away from the life of God. Why? Because they have shut their minds against him. They can’t understand his ways.”
2. **CHALLENGE:** Why do the unsaved live like they do? Verse 19: “They don’t care anymore about right and wrong. They have given themselves over to doing wrong things. They stop at nothing. They are driven by their evil minds and reckless lusts.”
3. What does Galatians 5:19-21 say are some of the other ways the unsaved live? “But when you follow your own natural desires there will be evil results. There are impure thoughts, lustful pleasures, idolatry, spiritism, hatred, and fighting. There are jealousy and anger, arguments and criticism. People feel that everyone else is wrong except those in their own little group. There will be wrong doctrine, envy, and murder. People will be drunk at wild parties and do all these sorts of things. Let me tell you again what I have told you before. Anyone living that sort of life will not enter the Kingdom of God.”
4. How are Christians supposed to live to show the unsaved that Christians are different? See Galatians 5:22,23 for your answer. “But with the Holy Spirit in our lives there will be different kinds of fruit. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faith. People with the spirit are gentle and have self-control. None of these things are against the Jewish laws.”
5. **RISKY:** What has the Christian done so that the fruit of the Spirit is alive instead of the fruit of their old evil nature? See Galatians 5:24. “Those who belong to Christ have killed their natural evil desires on the cross.” [The nailing of our natural evil desires on the cross “refers to the fact that by means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Christians were identified with Christ in His death and resurrection” (Donald K. Campbell, WALVOORD). However, once nailed, or turned away from our sins, this “doesn’t mean that we will never see traces of its evil desires again. As Christians we still have the capacity to sin, but we have been set free from sin’s power over us and no longer have to give in to it. We must daily commit our sinful tendencies to God’s control, daily crucify them, and moment by moment draw on the spirit’s power to overcome them” (LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE notes).]

6. What does Paul say in Ephesians we should do about our old evil nature and why? Verse 22: “Then throw off your old evil nature. It is the old you that was a partner in your evil ways. It is rotten through and through, full of lust and lies.”
7. Paul tells Christians what they should and should not do. These are called opposites. For example, the opposite of “high” is “low.” In the list below, match what Christians should do with what they should not do.

SHOULD:

tell the truth
 not let the sun set on anger
 use hands usefully
 use good words

SHOULD NOT:

lie
 be angry
 steal
 use bad language

8. The following scripture is from Ephesians. Fill in the blanks to find out how we are to live, and which chapter and verse the scripture is from.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	N	O	R	S	T	U	V	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

I N S T E A D, B E K I N D T O E A C H
 9 13 16 17 5 1 4 2 5 11 9 13 4 17 14 5 1 3 8

O T H E R A N D T E N D E R H E A R T E D.
 14 17 8 5 15 1 13 4 17 5 13 4 5 15 8 5 1 15 17 5 4

F O R G I V E O N E A N O T H E R J U S T A S
 6 14 15 7 9 19 5 14 13 5 1 13 14 17 8 5 15 10 18 16 17 1 16

G O D H A S F O R G I V E N Y O U
 7 14 4 8 1 16 6 14 15 7 9 19 5 13 20 14 18

B E C A U S E Y O U B E L O N G T O
 2 5 3 1 18 16 5 20 14 18 2 5 12 14 13 7 17 14

C H R I S T.
 3 8 15 9 16 17

EPHESIANS 4: 3 2
 D C B

EPHESIANS LESSON 5

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 1 – 6.

1. Who does Paul tell the Ephesians and us to imitate? (Imitate means to copy someone else.)

2. Who are God's people NOT to imitate in Deuteronomy 18:9?

3. What does Paul tell the Romans in Romans 12:2?

4. How are we supposed to live according to Ephesians 5?

5. How did Christ show His love to us so that it was like sweet perfume to God? See John 15:13 for your answer.

6. **PERSONAL:** Do you think you could love someone so much that you would be willing to do what John 15:13 says?

7. Paul gives hints to his Ephesian readers to help them know what they are not to do. What are these directions?

Read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 7 – 20.

1. The world we live in today does everything Paul tells the Ephesians not to do. He also says, “Don’t even spend time with such people.” What does he say about the kinds of friends we have in 1 Corinthians 15:33?
2. What did Jesus say about Himself in John 8:12?
3. **CHALLENGE:** In the Bible, sometimes “darkness” means people who don’t know the things of God, and sin against Him all the time. And “light” means people who do know the things of God, and are righteous through Jesus Christ. John 3:18-21 says: “Eternal judgment does not wait for these who trust him to save them. But those who don’t trust him have already been judged. But they do not believe in the only Son of God. The Light from Heaven came into the world. But they loved the darkness more than the Light. For their deeds were evil. They hated the heavenly Light because they wanted to sin in the darkness. They stayed away from that Light. They feared their sins would be seen and they would be punished. But those doing right come to the Light. When they do so, they see they are doing what God wants.” Knowing all this about light and darkness, what does Jesus say in Matthew 5:14-16 Christians are supposed to do?
4. When Christians do what Christ says to do in Matthew 5:14-16, they are His witnesses in the world. What will happen to some people because they listened to Jesus Christ’s witnesses? See Ephesians 5 for your answer.
5. What does Paul say about wine in Ephesians 5:18?

6. How are Christians to talk to each other?

Read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 21 – 33.

1. How do Christians honor Christ?

2. Why are wives to submit to their husbands?

3. How are husbands to submit to Christ?

4. To submit to someone doesn't mean you become a doormat, or that people can be mean to you and hurt you. It means giving up what you want, and putting what is best for someone else first. How does Jesus say this in Luke 6:31?

5. How are husbands to love their wives?

6. **RISKY:** What does Paul call the husband and wife?

7. Paul says this is hard to understand. But what does it mean?

8. **PERSONAL:** Which Bible verse did you memorize?

EPHESIANS - WEEK SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON FIVE

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players are chosen to be IT. They join hands and with their free hands try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two IT. The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two IT. Only end players (IT) may tag. It is permissible for a player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become IT. Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 5

to end of class CRAFT: TREFOIL (A symbol of the Trinity)*

MATERIALS:

old file folders, other lightweight cardboard, or poster board

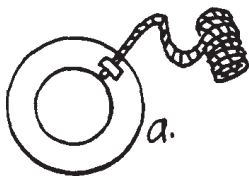
3 colors of yarn, 7 yards of each color per student; plus 12” extra per student of one color (for hanger)

glue

scissors

tape

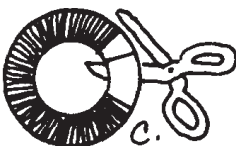
pencils



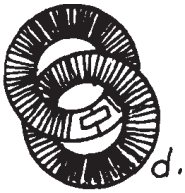
Before class: Use pattern on page 40 to draw three trefoil rings per student on the old file folders. Cut yarn into the 7-yard pieces (1 of each color per student) and the 12” pieces (1 of any color per student). Fold each student’s yarn pieces together and place in an envelope or bag.



In class, have the students cut out their 3 trefoil rings. Tape end of one 7-yard piece of yarn to back of one circle (diagram A). Wrap yarn around circle until entire circle is covered with yarn (B). Push yarn close together as you wrap so the yarn is tightly packed. Tape other end of yarn to back of circle.

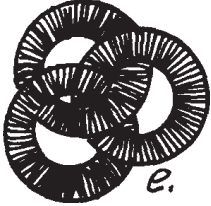


On second circle, use a contrasting color of yarn. Wrap until 6 inches of cardboard remains uncovered. Cut apart the second circle in the uncovered area (C). Place cut end of second circle through first circle so they are entwined (D).

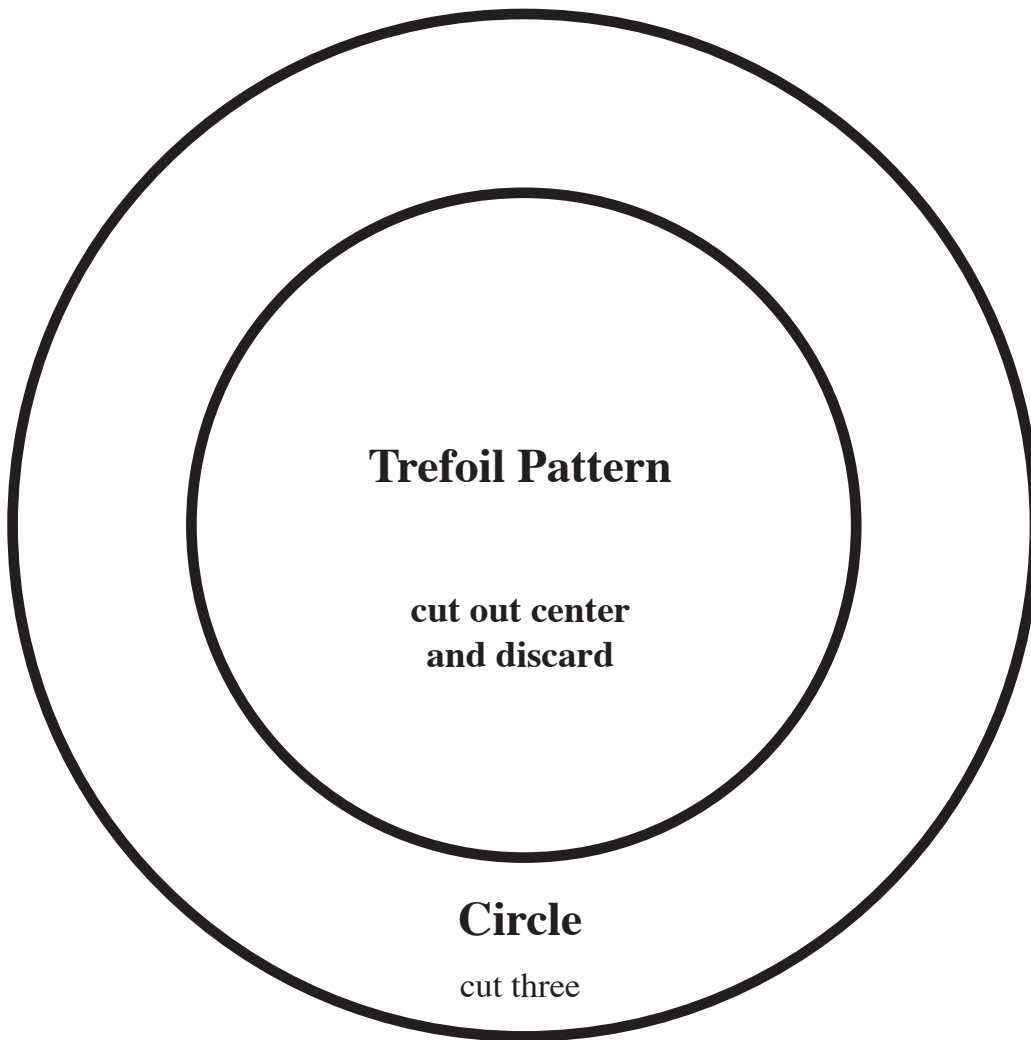


Tape together cut ends on front and back of second circle. Continue wrapping yarn around second circle. Tape end of yarn to back of circle.

Repeat for third circle so the three circles are entwined (E). Tie a 12” piece of yarn through top circle for a hanger.



Tell the children: “A circle, having no beginning or ending, symbolizes the eternity of God. Because a circle is perfect, it also symbolizes that God is perfect. The three rings on your trefoil represent the three persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”



EPHESIANS LESSON 5 — ANSWERS

Read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 1 – 6.

1. Who does Paul tell the Ephesians and us to imitate? (Imitate means to copy someone else.)
GOD. Verse 1: “Follow God’s example in everything you do. Be like a much loved child who follows his father.”
2. Who are God’s people NOT to imitate in Deuteronomy 18:9? “When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there” (NIV).
3. What does Paul tell the Romans in Romans 12:2? “Don’t copy the world. Be a different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn his ways will really satisfy you.”
4. How are we supposed to live according to Ephesians 5? Verse 2: “Be full of love for others. Follow the example of Christ. He loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice for your sins. And God was pleased about this. Christ’s love for you was like sweet perfume to him.”
5. How did Christ show His love to us so that it was like sweet perfume to God? See John 15:13 for your answer. “And here is how to measure it [love]. The greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends.”
6. **PERSONAL:** Do you think you could love someone so much that you would be willing to do what John 15:13 says?
7. Paul gives hints to his Ephesian readers to help them know what they are not to do. What are these directions? Verses 3,4: “Let there be no sex sin, impurity, or greed among you. Let no one be able to accuse you of any such things. Dirty stories, foul talk, and coarse jokes are not for you. Instead, remind each other of God’s goodness and be thankful.”

Read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 7 – 20.

1. The world we live in today does everything Paul tells the Ephesians not to do. He also says, “Don’t even spend time with such people.” What does he say about the kinds of friends we have in 1 Corinthians 15:33? “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character’” (NIV).
2. What did Jesus say about Himself in John 8:12? “Later, Jesus spoke to the people. He said, ‘I am the Light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t stumble through the darkness. Living light will guide your path.’”

3. **CHALLENGE:** In the Bible, sometimes “darkness” means people who don’t know the things of God, and sin against Him all the time. And “light” means people who do know the things of God, and are righteous through Jesus Christ. John 3:18-21 says: “Eternal judgment does not wait for these who trust him to save them. But those who don’t trust him have already been judged. But they do not believe in the only Son of God. The Light from Heaven came into the world. But they loved the darkness more than the Light. For their deeds were evil. They hated the heavenly Light because they wanted to sin in the darkness. They stayed away from that Light. They feared their sins would be seen and they would be punished. But those doing right come to the Light. When they do so, they see they are doing what God wants.” Knowing all this about light and darkness, what does Jesus say in Matthew 5:14-16 Christians are supposed to do? “You are the world’s light. You are a city on a hill. You glow in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light! Let it shine for all. Let your good deeds glow for all to see. That way they will praise your heavenly Father.”
4. When Christians do what Christ says to do in Matthew 5:14-16, they are His witnesses in the world. What will happen to some people because they listened to Jesus Christ’s witnesses? See Ephesians 5 for your answer. Verse 13: “But when you expose them, the light shines in upon their sin. When they see how wrong they are, some of them will become children of light!” [Even Jesus ate with sinners (Luke 5:30-32). So Paul doesn’t mean to completely stay away from sinners, but not to condone “the lifestyle of people who make excuses for bad behavior and recommend its practice to others— whether they are in the church or outside of it. We must befriend unbelievers if we are to lead them to Christ, but we must be wary of those who are viciously evil, immoral, or opposed to all that Christianity stands for. Such people are more likely to influence us for evil than we are likely to influence them for good” (LAB notes).
5. What does Paul say about wine in Ephesians 5:18? “Don’t drink too much wine. Many evils lie along that path. Be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and be controlled by him.”
6. How are Christians to talk to each other? Verse 19: “Talk with each other about the Lord. Quote psalms and hymns and sing sacred songs. Make music in your hearts to the Lord.”

Read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 21 – 33.

1. How do Christians honor Christ? Verse 21: “Honor Christ by submitting to each other.”
2. Why are wives to submit to their husbands? Verse 22: “Wives, submit to your husbands’ leadership the way you submit to the Lord.”
3. How are husbands to submit to Christ? Verse 23: “A husband is in charge of his wife. And in the same way, Christ is in charge of the Church. He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!”

4. To submit to someone doesn't mean you become a doormat, or that people can be mean to you and hurt you. It means giving up what you want, and putting what is best for someone else first. How does Jesus say this in Luke 6:31? "Treat others as you want them to treat you."
5. How are husbands to love their wives? Verses 25,28: "Husbands, love your wives like Christ loved the Church when he died for her.... That is how husbands should treat their wives, loving them as parts of themselves. A man and his wife are now one. So a man is doing himself a favor when he loves his wife!"
6. **RISKY:** What does Paul call the husband and wife? Verse 31: "The husband and wife are **one body**. This is proved by the Bible. It says, 'A man must leave his father and mother when he marries. Then he can be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one.'"
7. Paul says this is hard to understand. But what does it mean? Verse 32: "I know this is hard to understand. It shows us the way **we are parts of the body of Christ.**"
8. **PERSONAL:** Which Bible verse did you memorize?

EPHESIANS LESSON 6

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's ok to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 1 – 9.

1. In chapter 6, Paul is going to talk about certain people and tell them how they should live, just as he talked to husbands and wives in the last part of chapter 5. Who are the first group of readers he talks to, and what does he tell them?

2. The commandment Paul mentions is the fifth of the Ten Commandments, and can be found in Exodus 20:12. It is the first commandment to end in a promise. What is the promise?

3. Next Paul speaks to fathers or parents. What are parents NOT to do?

4. Hold on a minute! Paul's words do not mean you can do anything you want. Remember what you learned in questions 1 & 2? You can't say to your parents, "Don't bug me to do my homework, or chores, or pick up the mess I made, or come to dinner. The Bible says you're not supposed to do that." Instead, you are to obey your parents' requests. How does the writer of Proverbs encourage parents to deal with their child? See Proverbs 22:6 for your answer.

5. Paul has given instructions to husbands, wives, children, parents, and now to slaves and masters. Paul is talking to slaves and masters because slavery was part of life in his day. Today, slaves would be called employees and masters would be called employers or bosses. How is an employee or a slave to do his job?

6. The words Paul gives to slaves, or employees, apply to everyone. Whatever you are supposed to do, do it as if working to please the Lord. That means school work, house chores, church service, everything. Even bosses need to do what Paul suggests. How are masters to treat their slaves? Are masters to beat their slaves?

Read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 10 – 20.

1. Paul tells the Ephesians to be strong. What do the following verses say about being strong?

Psalm 27:14

Zechariah 4:6

Philippians 4:13

2. Why does Paul tell us to put on the armor of God?

3. How does Satan attack Christians?

4. **CHALLENGE:** What does 1 Thessalonians 5:22 tell you to do? Ephesians 4:27 tells the reason why you should do this.

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Ephesians 4:27

5. **HARD:** Paul lists the armor of God in Ephesians 6:14-18. As you get dressed in the morning, put on God's armor. As you brush your hair, think of God's helmet, which protects our thoughts. When you put on your shirt, you are putting on God's breastplate of righteousness, which protects our attitudes. As you put on your belt to hold up your pants, you are tightening God's belt of truth you found in the Bible. When you put on your shoes remember God's shoes of peace, because no matter where we go, we should be ready to tell others about Jesus. As you repeat your memory verse you are wielding your sword of the Spirit, and your shield of faith helps you to depend on God for protection. It is put together when you talk with God in prayer. Why do you need this armor of God?
6. The following scriptures will also help you remember God's armor, especially if you memorize them.

Philippians 4:8 - **Helmet of salvation**

James 1:14 – **Breastplate of righteousness**

John 14:6 – **Girdle (belt) of truth**

Romans 10:15 – **Sandals (shoes) of peace**

Luke 7:50 – **Shield of faith**

Isaiah 41:10 (GOD SAYS)

Luke 21:33 – **Sword of the Spirit**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - **Prayer**

Tychicus was a fellow worker with Paul. Paul gave him this letter for the Ephesians. It is said that Tychicus, whose name means “fortunate” died a martyr (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).

7. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you memorized? How about adding two or three more, so you’ll have them ready when you need them?

EPHESIANS — WEEK SEVEN

DISCUSSION LESSON SIX

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: INDOOR TREASURE HUNT

Place about 25 objects around the room, or rooms if you have more than one room, in plain view. Each object is given a number attached to it. Each player is given a list of the objects (without the numbers listed). The idea is to be the first to find the objects on the list and write down the numbers attached. No one can move or touch an object when it is found, but must simply record the number attached to it. The winner might receive one of the items on the list. A sample list might look like this:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. earring | 11. poster |
| 2. sock | 12. paper clip |
| 3. button | 13. ring |
| 4. pin | 14. key |
| 5. Bible | 15. ball |
| 6. plant | 16. dime |
| 7. video | 17. brush |
| 8. comb | 18. penny |
| 9. candy | 19. gum |
| 10. spoon | 20. bat |

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 6

to end of class CRAFT: PUZZLE PHOTO FRAME *

MATERIALS:

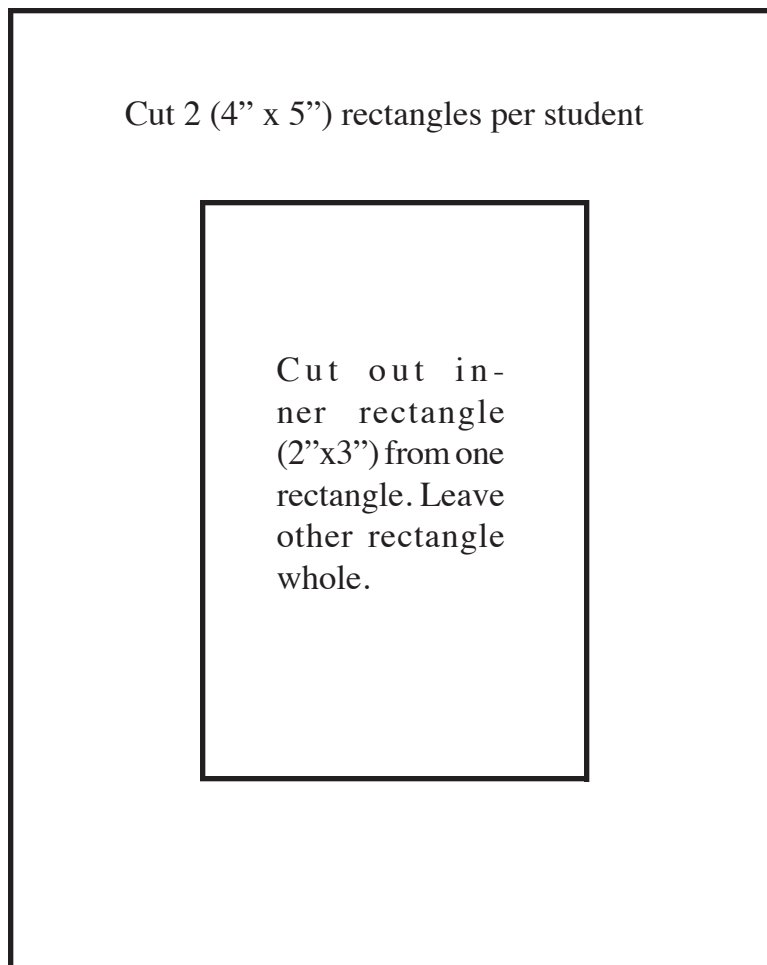
old puzzle pieces	spray paint
poster board	12" length of ribbon
stapler/staples	newspaper
craft glue	craft knife and/or scissors

Each student will need 20 puzzle pieces. Outdoors, cover work area with newspaper and spray paint front of puzzle pieces in a variety of colors. (Or they can be left unpainted, if desired.) Cut poster board into 4" x 5" rectangles, two for each student. (See pattern on next page.) Cut a 2" x 3" opening from the center of one of the rectangles to make a frame.

Staple each end of the ribbon near each corner of the uncut rectangle. Spread glue on the sides and bottom of the back of the frame. Be sure to leave top center un-glued. Place the uncut rectangle on top of the back side of the frame with staples facing in. (The ribbon is between the two pieces of poster board.) Overlap and glue puzzle pieces around front of frame to decorate. Allow glue to dry.

Frame can be taken home and a family photo can be slid into the top of the frame and hung. Or a photo of the child can be taken in class and the frame and photo can be a gift for a family member.

*From *Celebrating Our Families*



EPHESIANS LESSON 6 — ANSWERS

Read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 1 – 9.

1. In chapter 6, Paul is going to talk about certain people and tell them how they should live, just as he talked to husbands and wives in the last part of chapter 5. Who are the first group of readers he talks to, and what does he tell them? Verse 1: “Children, obey your parents. This is the right thing to do.”
2. The commandment Paul mentions is the fifth of the Ten Commandments, and can be found in Exodus 20:12. It is the first commandment to end in a promise. What is the promise? Verse 3: “The promise is that you will have a long life, full of blessing.”
3. Next Paul speaks to fathers or parents. What are parents NOT to do? Verse 4: “And now a word to you parents. Don’t keep on scolding and nagging your children. This makes them angry and bitter. Rather, bring them up with the Lord’s loving discipline and godly advice.”
4. Hold on a minute! Paul’s words do not mean you can do anything you want. Remember what you learned in questions 1 & 2? You can’t say to your parents, “Don’t bug me to do my homework, or chores, or pick up the mess I made, or come to dinner. The Bible says you’re not supposed to do that.” Instead, you are to obey your parents’ requests. How does the writer of Proverbs encourage parents to deal with their child? See Proverbs 22:6 for your answer. “Teach a child how to choose the right path. When he is older, he will still be on it.”
5. Paul has given instructions to husbands, wives, children, parents, and now to slaves and masters. Paul is talking to slaves and masters because slavery was part of life in his day. Today, slaves would be called employees and masters would be called employers or bosses. How is an employee or a slave to do his job? Verses 5-7: “Slaves, obey your masters. Be eager to give them your very best. Serve then as you would Christ. Don’t work only when your master is watching. For then you will be lazy when he isn’t looking. Work hard and with gladness all the time. Do everything as if you are working for Christ. Do the will of God with all your hearts.”
6. The words Paul gives to slaves, or employees, apply to everyone. Whatever you are supposed to do, do it as if working to please the Lord. That means school work, house chores, church service, everything. Even bosses need to do what Paul suggests. How are masters to treat their slaves? Are masters to beat their slaves? NO. Verse 9: “And you slave owners must treat your slaves right. Do just as I have told them to treat you. Don’t keep threatening them. Remember, you are slaves to Christ. You have the same Master they do, and he has no favorites.”

Read Ephesians chapter 6, verses 10 – 20.

1. Paul tells the Ephesians to be strong. What do the following verses say about being strong?

Psalm 27:14 “Don’t be impatient. Wait for the Lord. He will come and save you! Be brave and take courage! Yes, wait and he will help you.”

Zechariah 4:6 “So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.””

Philippians 4:13 “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ. He gives me strength and power.”

2. Why does Paul tell us to put on the armor of God? Verse 11: “Put on all of God’s armor. Then you will be safe from Satan’s attacks.”
3. How does Satan attack Christians? Verse 12: “We are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood. We are fighting against persons without bodies. They are the evil rulers of the unseen world. They are the satanic beings and evil princes of darkness who rule this world. They are the huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.”
4. **CHALLENGE:** What does 1 Thessalonians 5:22 tell you to do? Ephesians 4:27 tells the reason why you should do this.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” (KJV) [In other words, don’t do anything that might be evil, or sinful, because...]

Ephesians 4:27 “And do not give the devil a foothold.” (NIV) [...you will give Satan an opportunity to encourage you to keep on sinning.]

5. **HARD:** Paul lists the armor of God in Ephesians 6:14-18. As you get dressed in the morning, put on God’s armor. As you brush your hair, think of God’s helmet, which protects our thoughts. When you put on your shirt, you are putting on God’s breastplate of righteousness, which protects our attitudes. As you put on your belt to hold up your pants, you are tightening God’s belt of truth you found in the Bible. When you put on your shoes remember God’s shoes of peace, because no matter where we go, we should be ready to tell others about Jesus. As you repeat your memory verse you are wielding your sword of the Spirit, and your shield of faith helps you to depend on God for protection. It is put together when you talk with God in prayer. Why do you need this armor of God? Verse 13: “So use every piece of God’s armor to fight the enemy whenever he attacks. Then when it is all over, you will be standing up.”

6. The following scriptures will also help you remember God's armor, especially if you memorize them.

Philippians 4:8 - **Helmet of salvation** "And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say one more thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely. Dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about." [With our brain we realize we have sinned against God. We put the helmet of salvation on and it helps us think like Jesus thinks. It keeps good thoughts in our head.]

James 1:14 – **Breastplate of righteousness** "Temptation is the pull of man's own evil thoughts and wishes." [This protects our attitudes. When Satan tempts us to sin, we need to remember God doesn't want us to sin. We can't do that alone, we need the Holy Spirit to help us.]

John 14:6 – **Girdle (belt) of truth** "Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can get to the Father except through me.'" [Truth is found in the Bible. We remember God's truth by memorizing verses. And a child of God always tells the truth.]

Romans 10:15 – **Sandals (shoes) of peace** "And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him? That is why the Bible says, 'People who preach the Good News of peace have beautiful feet. They bring glad tidings of good things.' In other words, how welcome are those who come preaching God's Good News!" [No matter where we go we should be ready to tell others about Jesus, as well as not to fight and help others not to fight.]

Luke 7:50 – **Shield of faith** "And Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.'"

Isaiah 41:10 – **Shield of faith** (God says) "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my strong right hand." [The Roman shield was big enough to completely cover the soldier. Sometimes a soldier would have two. One he stuck in the ground to stand behind, and one to lift over his head. The shield was made of wood and leather, and soaked in water so that when an enemy shot flaming arrows, the soldier would be completely protected overhead and in front. The soldier depended on his shield to protect his body. We need to depend on God to protect us.]

Luke 21:33 – **Sword of the Spirit** "All heaven and earth shall pass away. But my words remain forever true." [The Holy Bible, God's Word. We need to know what God says so we can live to please Him.]

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - **Prayer** “Always keep on praying.” [Prayer is our connection to God. God wants us to talk to Him, just like we talk to our friends.]

Tychicus was a fellow worker with Paul. Paul gave him this letter for the Ephesians. It is said Tychicus, “whose name means ‘fortunate’ died a martyr” (SHEPHERD’S NOTES).

7. **PERSONAL:** How many verses have you memorized? How about adding two or three more, so you’ll have them ready when you need them?