

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **August 7, 2022** Family Theme | **Saved by Grace**
Study Text | **Ephesians 2:1-22**

Objective: Family members rejoice in God's gift of salvation and do the good works He has prepared for them to do.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome around AD 61 or 62. In this section of the letter, Paul explained the key truth that all people can be saved by grace through faith in Christ, and not by works.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **What is mankind's relationship with God apart from Christ? Answer:** All human beings are made in the image of God. However, because of Adam's fall into sin, all are born with a sinful nature, are guilty before God, and are spiritually separated from Him (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Read the Word: Ephesians 2:1-22

Disciple Your Kids

Discuss with family members how all people are spiritually dead and separated from God until they trust in Christ for salvation, how we cannot earn salvation by doing good works, how God has prepared good works for us to do *after* we are saved, and how all believers are part of God's household.

Key Truth: All People Are Spiritually Dead Apart From Christ (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Verses 1-3 focus on the common spiritual plight of all unbelievers — they are dead in sin and transgression. The spiritual vitality of unbelievers is that of a dead person. Sin is the pattern of life for unbelievers. They follow the ways of the world. They follow a leader, a ruler, Satan himself. Everyone seeks to please their sinful nature with its ungodly desires and ways of thinking. We all, by nature, deserve God's wrath, but God loved us so much that He sent His Son to save us. We were slaves to sin until God redeemed us from it.

Key Truth: People Are Saved By Grace Through Faith in Christ and Are Given Divine Purpose (Ephesians 2:4-10)

We were completely unsuitable to know God and be part of His plan (verses 1-3), but God's love and mercy did their work. God made us spiritually alive in Christ. He also raised us from spiritual death and seated us with Christ in Heaven through union with Him. That is our position in Christ, even though we do not yet fully experience or realize that position. God determined to use His kindness to us in Christ to display just how rich His grace is. Good works have a place in the life of a Christian — not in becoming right with God, but as a result of being right with God. Our joy at such deliverance should motivate us to do the good works God has prepared for us to do just because we want to please Him.

Key Truth: Key Truth: All Who Trust in Christ Are United as Part of God's Household (Ephesians 2:11-22)

Paul then reminded the Gentile Ephesian believers that they used to be aliens and foreigners to God and His people. They did not have the Scriptures or the promises of God. The expected Messiah was not considered to be theirs. They were therefore without hope and without God. Yet God brought the estranged Gentiles close to Himself through the blood of Christ. Christ is our peace. He removed the old Jew-Gentile division and made them one, new persons. All now have access to God the Father and are part of His household. The Holy Spirit is building up all believers into the new temple, the body of Christ.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What was our spiritual condition before we trusted Christ for salvation?
- **What does it mean that we are saved by grace through faith?**
- What role do good works play in our lives as Christians?
- How should our unity in Christ affect our relationships with all believers?
- For what blessings will you praise and thank God this week?
- What will you do this week to fulfill the purpose God has for you?
- How do you need to demonstrate unity with another believer this week?
- **How can you have an attitude of gratitude towards God's grace this week?**

Everyday Extras

We are **saved by grace** (Ephesians 2:8–9). We cannot save ourselves; only by God's gift of grace can we be part of His family. Offer your children a wonderful prize (like an ice cream cone or a bike riding adventure) when they complete all three of these tasks: doing 66 jumping jacks while saying the books of the Bible backwards; walking 30 steps while balancing three books on their heads, blindfolded; and hopping with a ball between their knees from the backyard to the front yard without dropping or touching the ball. They will soon realize the tasks are too hard for them. Step in with grace — giving the prize anyway — to help them understand God's grace is not earned or deserved. It is a wonderful gift!

From a door frame, suspend pieces of paper with holes of varying sizes cut out of them. Have a paper airplane contest to see if your children can fly their planes through the holes. You can award varying points for more difficult holes, if you want to. Put up another target with an impossibly small hole. After the children realize their planes could never succeed in flying through it, remind them of the truth that our accomplishments and abilities cannot make us right with God; only grace allows us to become part of His family.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the believers in Ephesus were having trouble getting along with each other. Paul wrote in his letter for them to treat each other nicely, be patient with one another, be truthful, and have self-control. As part of God's family, we should do those same things. **I Can Obey God's Word** and live in ways that honor and please Him.

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **August 14, 2022** Family Theme | **Walk in Love**
Study Text | **Ephesians 5:1-21**

Objective: Family members live like Christ, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome around AD 61 or 62. In this section of the letter, Paul explained that believers are to live as Christ did, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Bible Basics: Go over the following question and answer each day this week and work with family members to do so as well. **How can a person experience forgiveness of sins? Answer:** A person's sins are forgiven and he is saved when through faith he commits his life in obedience to Jesus (Ephesians 1:7) and repents of his sin (Luke 13:3).

Read the Word: Ephesians 5:1-21

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we are to imitate Christ in the way we live and learn to follow the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit daily.



Key Truth: Believers Imitate Christ, Having Nothing to Do With Sinful Attitudes and Actions (Ephesians 5:1-14)

Paul began this section by encouraging believers to imitate God. Little children imitate their parents and learn how to do many things. As God's children, it is completely proper for us to imitate Him and His ways. Purity is part of that. Paul made it clear that sexual immorality and other kinds of impurity are not acceptable Christian behavior. That includes greed, obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking. How we live really matters. We are not to join the lost in sinful behavior. We are to live as Christ lived, displaying the light of goodness, righteousness, and truth instead of sinful deeds of darkness. Our behavior should contrast with the behavior of darkness and sin in a way that exposes it and shows it for what it is.



Key Truth: Believers Follow the Guiding and Controlling Influence of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-21)

Paul moved next to the contrast of wisdom and foolishness. To live carelessly is to show folly, not wisdom. Instead of living foolishly, we are to seek out God's will and put it into practice. The next kind of contrast involves drunkenness versus sobriety. We are to live under the influence of the Holy Spirit, not the influence of alcohol. When we are under the influence of the Spirit, we do things like forgive, serve, go the extra mile, or treat others with humility, gentleness, and forbearance. Letting the Spirit exercise control will bring glory to God as His Spirit leads and empowers us each day, making us more like Christ. Christians under the influence of the Spirit will have joyful hearts, thankful spirits, and submissive dispositions through reverence for Christ.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What are some ways we can imitate God?**
- **What are some of the worldly attitudes and actions we should put aside as followers of Christ?**
- What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
- Why do you think Paul contrasted being filled with the Spirit and being drunk?
- Why is it vital that believers submit daily to the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways can you more fully imitate God and walk under the influence of the Spirit this week?

Everyday Extras

God has given us rules and the Holy Spirit to help us **walk in love** and live in a different way from the world around us. Talk with your child about players on a football team. What are some ways that you can tell they are on the team? They might have on a jersey or a helmet. They might be on their way to football practice, lifting weights, or talking to the football coach. Remind your child that the people around her should know she is a Christian by the way she looks and acts.

Have your child touch an old sponge and describe how it feels. Gradually pour water onto the sponge, testing its texture every few seconds. As you pour, talk about the way we are changed when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and do what pleases God. In the same way the sponge becomes soft and useful, our lives will be more useful when we follow God. Keep pouring water to show the way the Holy Spirit overflows when our lives are saturated with Him. Stretch the experiment further by putting another old sponge alongside of the saturated one. What happens with the overflow? Others will see the results when we are full of the Spirit!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child began learning about the spiritual armor God gives us to help us fight against the Devil and his tricks. The *belt of truth* helps us not only remember to tell the truth, but also the truth we know about God. The *helmet of salvation* protects our minds and keeps us strong in our battle against Satan. **God Gives Me Protection** but I must remember to put it on.

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Date | **August 21, 2022** Family Theme | **Faith and Family**
Study Text | **Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4**

Objective: Family members understand God's biblical guidelines for marriage and family life and put these guidelines into action as they apply.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome around AD 61 or 62. In this section of the letter, Paul gave God's guidelines for marriage and family life.

Bible Basics: Review Psalm 119:105 and Ephesians 1:3 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Ephesians 5:21 – 6:4

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about the roles and responsibilities God has given to parents and children in their families.



Key Truth: Husbands and Wives Are to Imitate Christ's Loving Relationship With His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33)

God gave us a beautiful word picture to help us understand our roles in marriage when He called the church His bride. Marriage is to reflect the relationship that should exist between Christ and His church. Husbands and wives are to submit to one another. It is both partners humbling themselves and offering themselves to the other. Wives in particular are instructed to voluntarily place themselves under the loving leadership of their husband, just as the church submits to Christ's leadership. They are to respect their husbands. This is easier for wives to do when husbands follow God's instruction to love their wives like Christ loved the church. Husbands are to give themselves up for the best interests of their wives. We do not live for ourselves within a marriage. We put our spouse's interests above our own.



Key Truth: Children Are to Honor and Obey Their Parents (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Paul instructed children to obey their parents *in the Lord*. When children obey their parents, it brings glory to God because it is a picture of our relationship with God. Obeying parents is the right thing to do and also teaches children to submit to the instructions God has given us — including things we do not want to do. Parents and grandparents should model obedience to God and do their best to teach their children to obey through training and discipline. Children should go beyond obedience to honor their parents. This Scripture provides a life principle. Things go better when children listen to and honor their parents. Honoring parents is something adult children can do as well.



Key Truth: Parents Are to Raise Their Children to Love and Follow the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)

Fathers are singled out in this passage, but we know that the primary responsibility of all parents, step-parents, and grandparents is to train their children in the instruction of the Lord. Parents should lovingly train and discipline their children, and not discourage or exasperate them with unreasonable rules, demands, and inconsistencies. Parents leading and instructing their children has always been God's plan. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says parents are to teach their children diligently by impressing God's commands on them as they are going about their daily lives. Parenting is more than just providing food, shelter, clothing, and education for your kids. Scripture tells us to also nurture our children in the Word of God.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- How is family life to reflect Christ's relationship with His church?
- How can a good marriage point people to Christ?
- What does it mean for children to obey and honor their parents?
- Why is it better for children when they obey and honor their parents?
- What are some ways that parents can bring children up to know and follow the Lord?
- What kinds of things exasperate and stir up anger in children?
- In what way could you better obey God's instruction for you in this Scripture?
- **Why should you honor, respect, and obey your parents?**
- **How can you show honor and respect to your parents through your words, attitudes, and actions?**

Everyday Extras

To remind your children about the instructions in Ephesians 6:1–2, put a hula hoop on the ground or form a circle with a jump rope. Fill a squirt bottle with water and tell your child that he or she is safe only when inside the circle. If he steps outside the circle, you will spray him with the water. After some fun with the game, suggest that you might put something harmful and dangerous in the spray bottle. Your child would be sure to stay in the circle! In the same way, when we obey our parents, we stay in the circle of safety and the promise of God's blessings. When we disobey, we step outside the circle and are in danger. Remind your child that obeying God brings blessings. Obeying our parents is one way we can obey God. But honoring our parents' instructions comes with added blessings and protection.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child continued learning about the armor of God that we have been given to help us fight against the devil. The *breastplate of righteousness* protects our hearts and helps us make good choices. The shoes of the gospel of peace remind us to go where God wants us to go and always be ready to tell others about Him. I am glad **God Gives Me Protection.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **August 28, 2022** Family Theme | **The Whole Armor of God**
Study Text | **Ephesians 6:10-20**

Objective: Family members stand firm against Satan's attacks, depending on the power and armor of God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome around AD 61 or 62. In this section of the letter, Paul taught the Ephesians how to stand strong against Satan's attacks.

Bible Basics: Memorize Ephesians 6:10-11 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Ephesians 6:10-20

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we are involved in a spiritual warfare and how we can stand against Satan's attacks by putting on the truth of God's Word, righteousness, the firm foundation of the gospel, faith, salvation, the Bible, and prayer.



Key Truth: God Has Provided His Power and Spiritual Armor to Help Us Stand Against Satan's Attacks (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Paul urged the Ephesian believers to be strong in the Lord and His power. They were to stand against the forces of evil by putting on God's armor. We need this spiritual armor because of the spiritual nature of the war in which we are engaged. The phrase *whole armor* referred to the soldier's equipment both offensive and defensive. It was his battle kit. Our battle kit for spiritual warfare is truth, righteousness, the firm foundation of the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Bible, all of which Paul represented with pieces of a Roman soldier's armor. Our battle is against spiritual deception and oppression. Only spiritual weapons and armor will do for such a fight. Depending on our own strength is a recipe for failure and defeat. Believers can put on God's armor each day in order to stand firm and do His will.



Key Truth: Prayer Is a Powerful Weapon for the Follower of Christ (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Effective prayer is powered by the Spirit of God. Paul elsewhere wrote of how the Spirit helps "translate" our prayers when we do not know how to express what comes from the depths of our souls (Romans 8:26-27). What Paul said in Ephesians 6:18 seems to indicate he had in mind a recurring spirit of prayer, mindful of the Spirit, in all of life. We are to be ready to pray at *all* times on *all* occasions for *all* believers with *all* kinds of prayer. Even the apostle Paul needed the believers' prayers to be able to do what God called him to do. Believers must keep praying. God may answer a prayer nearly immediately, and that is always encouraging. Yet, we may find ourselves praying for someone (or a problem) for years with no apparent result. Does the situation matter to God? Does it matter to us? Then we need to keep praying about it (See also Luke 18:1-8).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What is meant by spiritual warfare?
- **What kinds of spiritual attacks do we face as followers of Christ?**
- **According to Paul, what spiritual attributes make up the armor of God?**
- How does each of these attributes help us stand firm in our faith against the spiritual attacks of the Devil?
- **What role does prayer play in our daily spiritual warfare?**
- What are some things we are to pray for?
- What can you do this week to more completely put on the whole armor of God?

Everyday Extras

We are prepared for battle against the Devil when we wear the whole armor of God. Have your child pretend to put on each piece of equipment as you read the list from Ephesians 6:10–20. Put two oranges in a bowl of water. Both will float. Tell your child they are “standing fast” because they are wearing their armor. Begin to peel one of the oranges. “He took off his belt of truth,” you can say, and continue removing a section of the peel as you list each piece of equipment from the chapter. When you put that orange back in the water, it will sink — it will not “stand.” Your child can have spiritual victory when he or she is wearing the whole armor of God.

Cut a shield out of a piece of poster board or cardboard, with a loop in the back for a handle. Have your child decorate it as he or she would like to. Then use the shield as protection in a Nerf attack (or ball up socks). Talk together about the way our faith protects us from Satan’s attacks.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned to carry the shield of faith which protects us from having wrong thoughts or believing the Devil’s lies. We are also given the sword of the Spirit, the Bible, to help us know the right way to live. Finally, we must also talk to God through prayer. This helps us and makes us stronger. **God Gives Me Protection** when I wear His armor.