

# **STUDY OF THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS**

Adult/ Youth  
Teacher's Manual

God's People (NT)  
Fourth Quarter

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Writers:

Joeram Edianon

Edilyn Jao

James Tabangcura

Rey Galeos

Quincy Ann Sorianosos

Irish Mae Talagtag

Joel Viray

Feriejane Cano

Cherry Ann Ansang

Chastitle Jurilla

Merycame Talik

Henry Bernabe

Karl Vincent Sampani

Darwin Umali

Eleazar Padungao

Bryan Nadong

Sunday School Supervisor: Rubilyn Salaysay

Assistant Sunday School Supervisor: Rubie Mae Limama

Sunday School Training Director: Ms. Clara Ugal

## Lesson I

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### Thankful of the Spiritual Blessings

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**Aim:** That my learners will thank God for His spiritual blessings.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 1:1-14

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God.”

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson.
3. Memorize Ephesians 2:8
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Unscramble the letters.
  - For Substance: BUZZ GROUP.  
Write the questions on Manila paper and provide space for their answers.
  - For Significance: Prepare chalk and board or pentel pen and coupon band for the scholars’ answers.
  - For Performance: Write the song in Manila paper or Cartolina.

#### CLASS SESSION

##### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “Magpasalamat”
- Prayer:

Activity: This will be done by at least two groups. **Unscramble the letters:**

- |                   |                  |                |               |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. toniecle       | - election       | 6. ssveigorfne | - forgiveness |
| 2. denseprantitio | - predestination | 7. ecnatirehni | - inheritance |
| 3. aptinoda       | - adoption       | 8. yhlo tsprii | - Holy Spirit |
| 4. egcar          | - grace          | 9. sidmwo      | - wisdom      |
| 5. remptideno     | - redemption     |                |               |

Say: The group which can answer first will receive a reward.

Appreciate the scholars’ participation.

Ask: What do you think is the connection of this activity to our lesson this morning... Pause for a while then proceed to T.S.

**Transition Sentence:** This morning, let’s begin to study the book of Ephesians and let’s learn how to be thankful of God’s grace.

Say: Our topic this morning is “**Be thankful of God’s Grace**”.

Say: Kindly open your Bibles to Ephesians 1:1-14. We will read the passage responsively. The first to read will be the ladies and the men will follow.

## **SUBSTANCE**

### **Method: BUZZ GROUP**

#### **GROUP I - Background of the book of Ephesians**

1. Who wrote Ephesians? To whom was it written? What date was it written? Answer: Paul was the author of the book of Ephesians; he wrote it to the Church at Ephesus, and all believers everywhere; and he wrote it about A.D. 60, from Rome, during his imprisonment there.

2. What do you think is the purpose of the book of Ephesians?

Answer: The purpose of the book of Ephesians is to strengthen the believers in their Christian faith by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ.

3. What do you think was the setting/situation of the epistle?

Answer: The letter was not written to confront any heresy or problem in the churches. It was sent with Tychicus to strengthen and encourage the churches in the area. Paul had spent over three years with the Ephesian church. As a result, he was very close to them. Paul met with the elders of the Ephesian church at Miletus (Acts 20:17-38) – a meeting that was filled with great sadness because he was leaving them for what he thought would be the least time. Because there were no specific references to people or problems in the Ephesian church, Paul may have intended this to be a circular letter to be read to all the churches in the area and even to our generation today.

#### **GROUP II - Salutation**

1. Who were the original recipients of the epistle? How do you understand the term? Verse 1

Answer: Saints in Ephesus. In Greek (*hagiois*), ‘saints’ are holy ones, people set apart by God for His use. They live in Ephesus, the capitol of the Roman province of Asia, where Paul had ministered for three years during his third missionary journey.

2. In your own understanding, why did Paul mention first the word ‘grace’ in verse 2? Why not peace and grace, instead grace and peace?

Answer: We know that **grace** (Greek – *charis*) expresses God’s unmerited favor and divine enablement in which every believer has a portion of it. Peace (Hebrew – *shalom*) is our condition resulting from God’s grace to us. We have peace with God and we can experience the peace of God, the fullness of His blessing, because of His grace.

#### **GROUP III – Spiritual Blessings**

1. Starting verse 3-14, Paul had enumerated the spiritual blessings that God has planned for believers. What are these spiritual blessings? What do they mean?

**a. Election - v.4** > the time of our **individual election** was before God created the world. The purpose for which God chose us was two-fold. First, it was that we should be **holy** (which means different and set apart to God). The second was that we should be **blameless** (which means without blemish). Election refers to people. Salvation comes to the elect when they trust in Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 2:13).

**b. Predestination – v.5** > Predestination is the basis for election. Predestination looks more at the “what” than at the “who” of election. Predestination refers to purposes. God predetermined the final destiny of the elect – He would adopt us as His full-pledged sons (Romans 8:15, 23).

**c. Adoption – v. 5** > It is the act of God by which He gives His ‘born ones’ an adult standing in the family so that they may immediately claim our inheritance and enjoy spiritual wealth.

**d. Grace – v. 6, 8** > It is God’s free and undeserved favor that He has shown toward humankind. It was freely bestowed or given in the sense that the elect need do nothing to merit it.

**e. Redemption and forgiveness– v. 7** >It means release from slavery. It involves buying back and setting free by paying a ransom price. Jesus Christ and His blood are the perfect Sacrifice He gave to redeem us from sin.

**f. Wisdom – v. 8** > It is the highest and noblest, and ‘insight and understanding’ is the means by which we perceive it. The wisdom and insights is God’s, not ours.

**g. The Seal of the Holy Spirit – v. 13** > When a person believed, God sealed him/her in Christ. It indicates **security** (Matt. 27:66; Eph. 4:30), **authentication and approval** (John 6:27), **genuineness** (John 3:33), and **ownership** (2 Corinthians 1:22; Rev. 7:2; 9:4). God seals the believer by giving her or him the indwelling Holy Spirit who keeps the Christian in Christ. The Lord Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would permanently indwell believers (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5).

**h. Inheritance – v. 14** >the content of the inheritance here is life in heaven with God.

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Ask: In your own idea, what did God give these Spiritual blessings to everyone?

*Accept answers.....(because of His grace...)*

Ask: Upon realizing the Spiritual blessings that God has given to us, what visible expression shall we do? *Accept Answers...*

(Answer: **We should be thankful of God’s Grace.**)

Ask: So, what is the truth you’ve learned from our discussion?

**General Truth:** Giving thanks to God should be the natural response of a person who had experienced His grace.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming**

Ask: What are the reasons that will cause us to thank God?

P.A. blessings like provision of needs, good health, wisdom, accomplishments, the life we have, God’s love, God’s grace, etc.

Ask: In contrast, why is it that many Christians today are ungrateful to God?

P.A. because of pride, self-centeredness, maybe because they didn’t understand and experience the real grace of God, etc.

Ask: Consequently, what do you think would happen to Christians who forgot to thank God?

*Accept answers...*

P.A. they experience failure in life, they are easily discouraged, immature, etc.

Ask: How about you (brethren in the Lord, Pastors and Pastoras), every time you receive blessings, successes, accomplishments, to whom you give the credit? Is it to God or yourself?  
*Allow the some of the scholars to share their experience...*

### **PERFORMANCE**

> Make a brief challenge: Christians, brothers and sisters in the Lord, let's always thank God because of His grace. We cannot reach this far, we cannot be sustained without His grace, we are not supposed to be here and continue our studies if God's grace is not in us. Everything we have comes from Him, especially our life and salvation.

>Activity: Sing the hymn "Amazing Grace" prayerfully.

>Instruct the scholars to find a place alone inside the room and meditate. Encourage them to recall their past experiences and think of how God had saved them. After a few minutes, they will offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God.

Sing again "Amazing Grace"

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Let us always be thankful to God in every blessing we have received and will be receiving.

Offering:

## Lesson 2

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### Keep Knowing God...

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**Aim:** That my learners will grow spiritually by knowing God personally and intimately.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 1:17 “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

#### In Advance

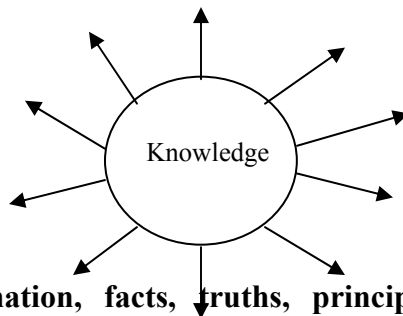
1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize Ephesians 1:17
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Word Association
  - For Substance: COUPLE BUZZER
  - For Significance: Prepare chalk and board or pentel pen and coupon band for the scholars’ answers.
  - For Performance: Finish the sentence.

#### CLASS SESSION

##### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “Open the eyes of my heart Lord”
- Prayer:

Method: Word Association. How do you understand the word “**Knowledge**”?



- ❖ **Synonyms:** information, facts, truths, principles, ideas, clear awareness, explicit information, etc.
- ❖ Read the answers of the scholars and appreciate their participation.

**Transition sentence:** Today, let’s discover how you and I would grow spiritually and become matured in God as demonstrated in the book of Ephesians.

Say: Our topic this morning is “**Keep Knowing God...**”

Say: Kindly open your Bibles to Ephesians 1:15-23. *Read the passage together loudly.*

##### SUBSTANCE

### **Method: COUPLE BUZZER**

Say: Last Sunday we learned the spiritual blessings that were given by God to the Ephesian believers and to everyone including us as well. By the way, what are those blessings?

Say: We will continue to study about Ephesians. But before that I would like you to have a partner coz our method is couple buzzer. Those who have no partner, just join with other groups.

*(Distribute the questions...)*

Say: The Ephesian believers were able to receive the spiritual blessings which you have mentioned a while ago. However, receiving those spiritual blessings is not enough for the believers to grow in their relationship with God. That's why Paul continued to pray for them. But along with his prayer he gave thanks to God because of the believers' lives. And that's how to begin with our study this morning.

### **I – Commendation 1:1-15**

1. Why did Paul give thanks to God? verses 15-16?

Answer: Paul gave thanks to God because he heard that the Ephesian believers were growing in **faith** in Christ Jesus, their vertical relationship, and their **love** for all the saints (believers), their horizontal relationship. This means that a proper relationship with God should lead to a proper relationship with other Christians.

### **II – The request for wisdom and revelation 1:16-18a**

2. In verse 17a, what did Paul pray for the Ephesian believers?

Answer: Paul prayed that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father may give them the (1) spirit of wisdom, and (2) revelation.

3. Why does spirit of wisdom and revelation are so important? Verse 17b.

Answer: The spirit of wisdom and revelation are so important to the believers so that they may know Christ better.

**Teacher's further explanation:** Yes, it is true that the believers really need them in order to know Christ better. But what do you mean with the word 'spirit' in verse 17a? Is it pertaining to the Holy Spirit? (Pause... and wait for their answer... then give your answer)... The term 'spirit' doesn't refer to the Holy Spirit rather it refers to the attitudes of believers. But these attitudes become ours through the ministry of the Holy Spirit to us. However **wisdom** enables one to perceive reality accurately. Then, revelation is God revealing Himself to us through His Divine Word.

4. In verse 18a, what is the other important request of Paul in his prayer to God?

Answer: Paul also prayed that the eyes of their heart may be enlightened.

Say: in the Bible the 'heart' is the center of one's personality. So our hearts should be set first know or to be enlightened.

### **III – The reason for wisdom and revelation**

*(Note: The teacher should give these answers if however the students cannot give clear explanations...)*

5. What facts should every believer know in verse 18b?

Answer:

(1) The past call of salvation that produced hope.

The first fact pertains to the **past**. A believer's **hope** has its source in the past when he was called to salvation. Hope in the Scripture is the absolute/complete assurance of a believer's victory in God. Every Christian should appreciate his or her sure hope for the future that rests on his/her calling to salvation in the past.

(2) The future inheritance that God has in His saints.

The second fact refers to the **future** – *the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints*. At the time of the resurrection of believers God would inherit (take over) whom He has purchased at a great price according to the riches of His grace. Paul wrote that the Christians' inheritance is their final redemption from the presence of sin. This means that this inheritance is valuable because believers are people for whom God paid dearly with the blood of his own Son.

(3) The present power of God that is available to believers.

The third fact that every believer should know pertains to the **present** time - *His incomparably great power for us who believe*. The word 'power' means a spiritually dynamic and living force. This power of God is directed towards believers. It is further describe as 'working,' 'strength,' and 'might' – which means being energetic and able to overcome resistance against earthly powers.

6. In connection with the third fact, how did God manifested His power in Christ? verses 20-22

Answer: (1) The first manifestation of God's power was exerted **in Christ's resurrection and ascension** when God raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms. This power is the same power available to us in the present.

(2) The second manifestation of God's power in Christ is seen in **His placing all things under Christ's feet**. We know that Adam lost his lordship over Creation when he sinned, but Jesus gained lordship by His obedience. His lordship over creation will be fully realized in the future.

(3) The third manifestation of God's power in Christ is **His appointment of Christ as Head over the church**. Though the final manifestation of Christ's headship over all creation will be in the future, He is now Head over the fellowship of believers. He is also called the church "head" in Ephesians 4:15.

7. How do you describe the CHURCH in verse 23? In what sense 'the church is the fullness of Him (Christ)' as Paul said it in verse 23?

Answer: Church here is described as the **BODY of Christ**....and the church is the fullness of Him (Christ) in the sense that Christ fills the church with gifts and blessings. The church should be the full expression of Christ who Himself fills everything.

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Ask: Going back to the passage that we have studied, what was the purpose of Paul's prayer for the Ephesian believers?

Answer: *Paul prayed for knowledge, which means to personally and intimately know Christ in their lives, to become closer friends with Him.*

Ask: What evidences can you see in a person who genuinely knows God?

Answer: maturity, joy, energetic, he/she has intimacy with God, spiritually growing, etc.

Ask: Out of our discussion, what lesson have you learned?

*Accept answers...*

**General Truth:** Spiritual growth and maturity are evident to a person who knows God personally and intimately.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 1:17 “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming**

Ask: What are common reasons why some of the Christians are not growing spiritually? (*Allow the scholars write their ideas on the board...then read later...*)

Answer: they don't read the Bible, they don't spend time with God alone, lack of prayers or not praying, because of media, laziness, self-confidence, believe sa sarili, immature, others are busy with other things like gossiping, daydreaming, busy with sweethearts, busy texting, and so on..., etc.

Ask: In our churches, are these attitudes visible which make other Christians not growing? (*Allow some scholars to share... maybe their experiences or maybe from a life of someone...*)

Ask: Are these attitudes also visible among us?

(*Give time for sharing...*)

Ask: How about you this time? Among the attitudes listed above or on the board, which of them hinder or hinders you from growing spiritually?

(*Give time for the scholars to identify the hindrances and if there is still enough time let them share briefly.*)

Ask: Brethren in the Lord are you longing for deeper intimacy with God? Are you longing to grow and become matured spiritually? *Pause...*

Ask: What is/are the best way/ways to have that longing?

*Let them give the answer...*

**PERFORMANCE**

- Make a brief challenge: The challenge is, let us not stop learning and knowing God. We have our Bibles with us, let's read, study, meditate it and ask God to allow us experience Him in real life. Let's not be contented what we are and where we are now, let's ask God to help us grow spiritually through His Word.
- Activity: **Finish the sentence.**

**Jesus,  
I want to know more about  
You 'coz I want you to see me  
growing in my relationship with You.  
Please help me to become**

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Individual prayer...

Say: May the greatest desire in our lives is to know God deeper, to love Him and to serve Him...

Song: "The Greatest thing in all my life is knowing, loving, serving you..."

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: May we always long to know God more so that we will become spiritually growing and matured.

Offering:

## Lesson 3

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### Saved? Then... prove it!

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**Aim:** That my learners will exercise his/her salvation through good works.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 2:1-10

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

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize Ephesians 2:10
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Life Testimony
  - For Substance: GROUP WORK – CHARTING by Gender
    - Prepare the chart on the Manila paper and provide space for their answers. Use pentel pen
  - For Significance: Prepare chalk and board or pentel pen and coupon band for the scholars’ answers.
  - For Performance: Prepare the activity.

#### CLASS SESSION

##### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “any song about salvation...”
- Prayer:

##### Activity: **Life Testimony**

Say: This morning I would like you to think and recall the time how God had saved you. Then share how significant salvation is in your life and because of that salvation what had happened to you next... **Is there anybody who would like to share?**

(Reminder: Just allow 2-3 students to share **briefly**).

Say: Thank you... Indeed, there are many ways of receiving salvation. But whatever way it is, remember salvation is the great and wonderful plan of God for you and me.

**Transition sentence:** Today, we will be learning how to demonstrate salvation through good works as revealed in the book of Ephesians.

Say: Our topic this morning is “**Saved? Then... prove it!**”

Say: Kindly open your Bibles to Ephesians 2:1-10. May I request \_\_\_\_\_ to read the passage audibly and the rest will just follow. *(Be sure all of the rest are following silently).*

**SUBSTANCE**

**Method: Charting by gender**

Scripture	Who are these people described by Paul?	How do they live?	What are the outcomes that these people receive?
<b>Ephesians 2:1-3</b>	Unregenerate, unbelievers, unsaved people...	a. they follow the ways of this world (v.2). b. they follow the ruler of the kingdom of the air, that is Satan (v.2). c. the spirit of Satan is now at work in those who are disobedient (v.2). d. they gratify the cravings of their sinful nature (v.3). e. they follow the desires and the thoughts of the flesh (v.3).	a. they receive <b>God's wrath</b> (v.3a). b. they are separated from God.
<b>2:4-10</b>	Regenerate, believers, saved people...	a. they are dead in transgressions (v.5a). c. they are saved by grace (v.5b). d. they are God's workmanship, doing good works (v.10).	a. they receive <b>God's love</b> and this love has done three things: (1) made us alive (v.5a); (2) raised us up with Christ (v.6a); (3) seated up with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus (v.6a).

**Teacher's further explanation: (Note: Master this portion and understand. Don't read...don't forget to mention the verse of each important phrases and words and let the scholar really look at them in their Bibles for follow up.)**

In verses 1-3, Paul was describing a person who once an unbeliever or unregenerate as **dead, separated from God, and unable to have fellowship with Him**. This death is **spiritual**, not physical, for unsaved people are very much alive physically. Death signifies the absence of communication with the living. One who is dead spiritually has no communication with God. The phrase, "**in your transgressions and sins**" shows the sphere of the death, suggesting that sin

has killed people and they remain in that spiritually dead state. **Transgressions and sins are acts of missing the mark**; and these two describe deliberate offenses against God.

What do these phrases mean?

a. a. they follow **the ways of this world** (v.2). This means that unbelievers follow the lifestyles of other unbelievers; they experience the world's peer pressure.

b. they follow the **ruler of the kingdom of the air, that is Satan** (v.2). Satan is also called the evil one (1 John 5:19); and the god of this Age (2 Cor. 4:4). This means that the whole world is under the control of Satan. But in the middle of the Tribulation he will be cast down to the earth, no longer to rule the world or have access to God's presence (Rev. 12:9). The unsaved are now in the authority of this "ruler" and follow in the opposition to God.

c. **the spirit of Satan is now at work in those who are disobedient** (v.2). This means that Satan personally works in sons of disobedience. The "spirit" refers to the impersonal force or atmosphere which is controlled and directed by Satan. This "spirit is presently at work in unbelievers.

d. they **gratify the cravings of their sinful nature and follow the desires and the thoughts of the flesh** (v.3). "Sinful nature" translates "the flesh" which is unregenerated nature. "Thoughts" suggest that even unbelievers' reasoning processes are perverted. Such false reasoning directs their wills and acts.

Like the rest, we were by nature the objects of God's wrath. Unbelievers have a close relationship, not with God, but with His wrath! Disobedience and unbelief lead to the wrath of God (John 3:36; Romans 1:18-2:29). These three verses present a hopeless picture of an unregenerate person who deserved nothing but God's wrath.

The wrath of God is not the entire story. Verses 4-10 talk about God's grace which causes everyone to experience no longer His wrath, but His love.

In verse 4 you can read the conjunction '**but**' and what does it mean? The conjunction "**but**" introduces God's actions toward sinners. You also notice the word **God** which follow immediately "but". This gives us the understanding about God's emphatic love. "**But God**" is described as **He is rich in mercy**. In the Septuagint "mercy" (*eleos*) translates the Hebrew *hesed* ("loyal love"). In the New Testament *eleos* means "undeserved kindness" toward sinners. Thus God, who is rich in exhibiting this undeserved kindness, acts on behalf of sinners **because of His great love for us**. *Agape* (*agape*) comes from the verb *agapao* which means "to seek the highest good for the one loved." Since sinners are spiritually dead they have nothing to commend or boast with to God.

And this **love** has done three things:

1) **believers have been made alive in Christ** (v.5a) – The only way a spiritually dead person can communicate with God is to be made alive, and that must be done by the One who is Himself alive. He is the living God, who gives life to the dead (Romans 4:17). This act of God in

making the unregenerate alive is an act of grace: **it is by grace you have been saved.** Because believers have been made alive spiritually in Christ they have been and are saved.

(2) **believers have been raised up with Christ** (v.6a) – This speaks of their being positionally resurrected. Just as Christ was resurrected, His state was new, powerful and unique. So too Christians, in whom Christ dwells, have a new, powerful and unique life and position. This new life, power and position demand that believers have a new set of values. Paul reminds us to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things (Col. 3:1-2).

(3) **believers have seated up with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus** (v.6a) – Believers are positioned spiritually in heaven where Christ is. They are no longer merely earthly citizens, but their citizenship is in heaven. Christ is the exalted Son of God, and we the believers are the exalted sons and daughters of God. These actions of God toward unbelievers are similar to what He did for Christ: He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at the right hand in the heavenly realms.

Besides, Christ died physically and unbelievers were dead spiritually. However, His death physically made us alive spiritually. What a POWER! Listen to this, this divine power that raised Jesus from the dead and can make an unbeliever have life, be raised, and exalted with Christ is the same power that presently operated in believers.

And the appropriate expression of God's love to those who are spiritually dead is to give them life – and this is the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness. This refers to **salvation**. In verse 5, **it is by grace you have been saved through faith...** It is to be understood that the means of this salvation is **faith in Jesus Christ**. This salvation does not have its source in man, but its source is God's grace, for "it is the gift of God." The basis is grace and the means is faith. Therefore since no person can bring salvation to himself by his own efforts, **no one can boast**. Their boasting can only be in the Lord (1 Cor 1:31).

So what is the reason that salvation is not from man? *Pause...* In verse 10, it is said that it is because we are **God's workmanship**. And the purpose of this masterpiece is to **do good works**. God's workmanship is not achieved by good works, but is to result in good works

In conclusion, 2:1-10 demonstrates that though people were spiritually dead and deserving only God's wrath, in His marvelous ways, He provided salvation through faith. Believers are God's workmanship in whom and through whom He performs good works. This does not mean doing a work for God but it is God's performing His work in and through believers.

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Ask: What comes first, good works or salvation/faith?

*Accept answers...*

Ask: Again in verse 10, what is the reason why salvation is not from man?

Answer: Because we are created not by man but we are created by God. We are His workmanship, His masterpiece, His work of art.

Ask: What is the purpose of God's creating mankind after he receives salvation?

Answer: To do **good works** as a result of the salvation he received through faith in Jesus Christ.

Ask: So, out of our discussion what principle have you learned?

**General Truth:** *As God's workmanship, we are ought to exercise salvation through good works to complete His plan on earth.*

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

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

Method: **Brainstorming**

*(Note: you write their answers on the board...)*

Ask: What are good works that Christians ought to do?

*P.A. to be obedient, to give and help the church grow, to give the poor and needy, to be humble, to submissive, to respect his/her with fellowmen and fellow believers, to be faithful to God, to be joyful in spite and despite of...etc.*

Say: On the other hand, what are bad works that hinder Christians from doing good?

*P.A. sin, lying, pride, cheating, gossiping, stealing, etc.*

Ask: How do you consider a person who is still doing these bad works? Is he worthy to be called a Christian? *(Pause... and allow your scholars to answer...)*

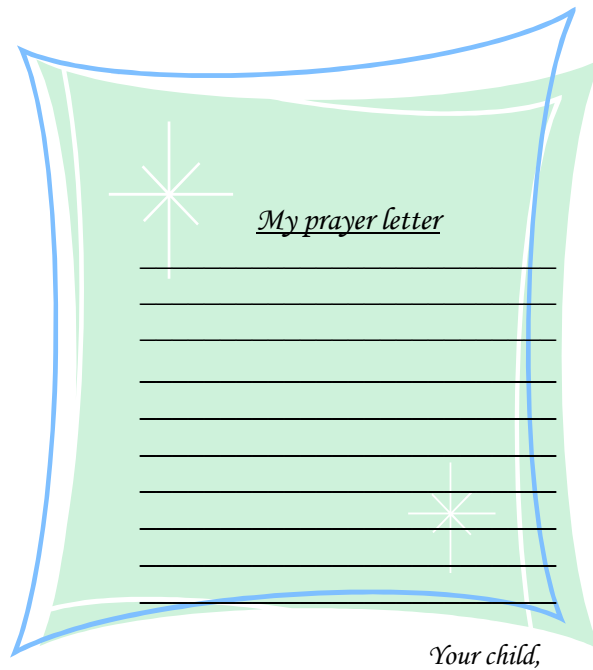
Ask: As a student, among the lists above what three things that struggle you most? If you rank them, what comes first, next and the third?

Ask: Are you willing to sacrifice and leave those things *(those they have listed or chosen as hindrances)* and follow what God is telling you to do?

## **PERFORMANCE**

>Say: this time I would like you to look at yourself and evaluate. Are you really the masterpiece of God who does right in His sight? If you are still possessing attitudes and doings that are not appropriate in His will, could you settle that before the Lord and ask Him to forgive you and empower you to be a workmanship that He expects to be? *Pause for a while...*

>Through this piece of paper, you can talk to God and surrender those bad things that still exist in your life. Allow Him to help you leave them behind and focus on the good things that you want to possess or develop.



(Note: The teacher may do a brief challenge before each of them will pray.)

Silent Prayer:

Closing Song: "You search me"

Offering/Assignment:

**GOD BLESS...master the lesson. Study well with and for Him.**↑

### **Lesson 4**

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### **Division is Over!**

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**Aim:** That my learners will value the blood of Christ as a mark of unity.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 2:13 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."

#### **In Advance**

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize Ephesians 2:13
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Group Game
  - For Substance: GROUP DISCUSSION. Write the questions in Manila paper and give time for each group to answer. Then call them for reporting.
  - For Significance: Prepare chalk and board or pentel pen and coupon band for the scholars' answers.
  - For Performance: Silent prayer.

## CLASS SESSION

### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: "Oh, how good it is"
- Prayer:

**Group Game:** Group the scholars into two groups. Give each group the broken heart-shaped cartolina or colored paper then the group will form them into heart. Be sure that you have cut the pieces the same shape for each group and make it something difficult. The group which can form it first will be the winner and deserves a reward.

Ask: What values do we get out from our activity?

>**Affirm and appreciate their participation.**

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let's discover how significant the blood of Jesus Christ is in the unity of believers.

Say: Our topic this morning is "**Division is over!**"

Say: Kindly open your Bibles to Ephesians 2:11-22. *Responsive reading – the teacher and the scholars.*

### SUBSTANCE

**Method: GROUP DISCUSSION**

Say: Last week we learned that we are saved by faith and if we are genuinely saved, our faith will produce good works. Take note that our previous 3 lessons had talked about individual calling in Christ. But for another successive three lessons starting today, we will discuss on the corporate calling as one in Christ. So let us continue with our studies.

\*\*\* New spiritual life does not just mean that we have experienced regeneration individually. In addition, God brings every Christian into union with every other Christian. In Christ we have oneness with other believers as well as oneness with God. So let's begin what is this corporate union in Christ.

#### **GROUP I – The condition of the Gentile believers before**

1. How did Paul call the Ephesian believers before? verse 11

Answer: They were Gentiles by birth.

2. Who were the Gentiles according to the Jews? verse 11

Answer: According to the Jews, Gentiles are "physically uncircumcised" and this situation had really affected their spiritual being.

3. Recalling the past, what were the privileges that the Gentile believers had failed to enjoy? verse 12

Answer: Paul listed five privileges that the Gentile believers did not enjoy that Jewish enjoyed before the Cross: (a) **Gentile believers were separate from Christ not only personally but**

**corporately** – They had no corporate hope centered in the Messiah as the Jews did; (b) **God excluded them as a people from citizenship in Israel** – Individual Gentiles could become members of the nation of Israel, but as a whole the Gentiles had no part in what God planned to do in and through Israel. The Gentiles were aliens from Israel; (c) **they were foreigners to the covenants of the promise** – they had no direct part in the promises of God to Israel. They were deprived of direct participation in God’s covenants and thus had no hope of future glory and blessing as Israel did; (d) **the Gentiles were without hope** – Unlike Israel they had expectation of a personal Messiah-Deliverer and the Messianic Age; (e) **they were without God in the world** – The Gentiles were in a desperate situation. They had no meaning, hope, purpose or direction in life.

4. In what way the barrier between Gentiles and Jews had been removed? Verse 13

Answer: ‘**But now in Christ Jesus**’ marks the contrast both temporally (*body*) and positionally (*spirit*). The Gentiles who once were far away from both God and the Jews have been brought near through the **blood of Christ**. They have come near to God and to the Jews by means of Christ’s sacrificial death. Sin separates people from God and **only Christ’s atonement can remove that sin barrier**.

#### **GROUP II – The solution of the enmity**

5. What was the result of Christ’s atonement for sin? Verse 14

Answer: There was **peace** – *peace between Gentile and Jewish believers, and peace between God and the people who believe in Him*. **Jesus Christ Himself is a peace between Jewish and Gentile believers**, having made the two groups one and having destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of **hostility (enmity/bad feeling)**.

6. In verse 15, what was really the reason of Christ’s death? What does it mean by the word “abolished”?

Answer: The word ‘abolished’ (in Greek *kataresas*) means “rendered inoperative.” This could mean to abolish in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. The Mosaic Law ceased to be God’s standard for regulating the life of His people. The Mosaic Law had been the cause of the enmity between Jews and Gentiles. The Law itself was the barrier. **However, God ended the Mosaic Law as His rule of life for the Jews through Christ’s death**. Christ destroyed the barrier (hostility) by making the Law inoperative through His death.

7. What do you think are the two purposes of Christ in ending the hostility?

Verses 15b-6

Answer: (a) The first purpose was to **create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace**. “New man” is also called “**the church – the body of Christ**.” In the church, Gentiles do not become Jews, nor do Jews become Gentiles. Instead believing Jews and Gentiles become Christians, a whole new single entity or body.

(b) Christ’s second purpose in destroying the enmity was to **reconcile both Jewish and Gentile believers to Himself in ...one body**. This reconciliation was accomplished through the **cross** by which Christ killed (put to death) the enmity between people and God. His death had put to death the Jewish-Gentile **hostility**. In verse 14, the reconciliation is between Jewish and Gentile believers, and in verse 16, the reconciliation is between people and God.

8. Aside from Jesus Christ Himself is the PEACE, what was His other purpose of coming on earth? Verse 17

Answer: Not only is Christ our ‘peace’ but He also **preached peace**. Certainly it was not Jesus Himself who preached peace but this refers to the preaching of peace by the apostles rather than

Christ Himself because Christ preached entirely to Jews (**teacher, this reference is for you to help you more understand what the passage means, not to puzzle the scholars** - Matt. 10:5-6; 15:24-27). Also the peace that was preached was on the basis of Christ's death rather than during His life on earth.

9. For whom this peace is supplied? What do you think was the result of this message of peace? verse 17

Answer: a) Peace is supplied both to **those who were far away** (*Gentiles*) and **those who were near** (*Jews*). b) This message of peace results to both Jewish and Gentile believers have **access to God the Father by one Spirit**. Likewise, believers have access to God the Father through the Holy Spirit because of Christ's death on the Cross (*Trinity*).

10. What are four ways that Paul had emphasized that the two (Jew and Gentile) have been united? Verses 14-18

Answers: a) the two are made one – verse 14

b) one new man is created out of the two – verse 15b

c) in this one body, both are reconciled – verse 16

d) both have access by one Spirit – verse 17

### **GROUP III – The present condition of the Gentile and Jewish believers**

11. What is now the condition between Jewish and Gentile believers? Verse 19

Answer: The two became fellow citizens in the church, God's new household. They become a part of the company of the redeemed of all ages beginning with Adam.

12. Who are "God's household? How was/is it built? Verses 19b-20a

Answer: God's household is the Gentile and Jewish believers, presently we, the Christians. This household is **'built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.'** **\*According to some commentaries, this could mean that the foundation was built by them, that the foundation came from them, that they own a foundation or they are the foundation. This makes the best sense that the apostles and prophets were gifted men given to the church as its "foundation." These men constituted the church since it was through them that God revealed and establish the church.**

13. How important is the **cornerstone** in the formation of the building or church (the believers) verse 20

Answer: According to Paul, cornerstone was the crucial part of the foundation of a building. It is the stone with which the builder squared up every other stone including the other foundation stones. In the East it was considered to be even more important than the foundation. **\*\*\*So, what does it mean? ...\*Christ Himself is the cornerstone** that is He is part of the foundation. The church's foundation – that is the apostles and prophets needed to be correctly aligned with Christ. All other believers are built on that foundation.

14. What does verse 21 mean, especially the word **"rises"**? verse 21

Answer: This imply that the church is a living and growing organism (*person, being*), as new believers are included in this temple's superstructure. Both Jewish and Gentile believers are being **"joined together"** into this one organism called **"a holy temple."**

15. In verse 22, what is this temple for? What is its goal and function?

Answer: The goal of this temple is to **become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit**. **\*\*\*In the Old Testament God's glory was in the temple, which represented His presence with the people. In this Age God in His new temple which is constructed not from inanimate materials but of living believers. The Holy Spirit indwells each individual believer who is thus the temple**

(John 14:17; Romans 5:5...). \*\*\***But take note, the temple in Ephesians 2:21-22 refers to the Holy Spirit's corporate dwelling composed of all Jewish and Gentile believers.** He revealed that all Christians are part of one great temple, the church universal. The Holy Spirit indwells the church universal.

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Say and ask: So, what is now the position or condition of the Gentiles? Are they still the enemy of the Jews?... What do you think? ...Who broke the barrier between the Gentiles and Jews?... Who abolished the division between people and God? ...

Ask: Who are the Gentiles?

Answer: We are the Gentiles before we are saved. But now we are the children of God, having equal privileges with other believers because we are one body in Christ.

Ask: What truth have you learned from our discussion?

**General Truth:** *“Unity is evident to those who truly understand the value of Christ’s death.”*

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 2:13 “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”*

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming**

Ask: In general, what are the barriers that can divide us from our countrymen or from other Christians?

*(Allow the scholars write their ideas on the board...then read later...)*

P.A: age, appearance, intelligence, political persuasion, economic status, race, theological perspective, etc.

Ask: In our community and churches, are these barriers visible in the life of believers? Let them give examples...

*(Allow 1 scholar to share... maybe his/her experiences or maybe from the life of someone...)*

Ask: In our family, are there walls between you and your parents and siblings? Why does it happen?

Ask: How about you? Are these barriers *(those which are listed on the board)* also visible in your life today? *(Allow 1 or 2 scholars share honestly)*...

Ask: Have you felt separate, excluded and hopeless? Have you experienced being discriminated maybe because of your appearance, economic status, race, theological perspective or intelligence? *Pause...be silent then ask...* What have you felt being treated like that?

Ask: Will you desire to be the initiator of unity instead of division? Will you commit to the Lord to be the temple who initiates unity and who loves people no matter who they are?

## **PERFORMANCE**

Say: Let us continue to search ourselves and our hearts...(if possible memorize, then speak with soft voice prayerfully...)

- Brethren God wants us to think of what Christ has done on the Cross. His blood shed on the Cross is enough to challenge us to treat our fellow believers equally. Let's stop discriminating others. Christ's death is enough to love those who are unlovable and unfortunate, to forgive those who hurt us, and to serve those who need us. We are one in the Lord.... No rich, no poor, no intelligent, no dull, we are equal in His. Therefore we have nothing to brag about, we have nothing to be proud of except the Lord Jesus Christ who gave freely His life for us. This is the time to recall what Christ has done in your life... it is the time to thank Him for His love towards us. It is also the time to look at your relationship towards your classmates, friends and loved ones...
- Ask: Are you in conflict with someone? Is your family disunited? Is your home church in conflict? I challenge you to pray for yourself and for others who are struggling with broken relationships...
- Say: Let's come to God in prayer...

Song: "We are one in the Lord"

Closing Prayer: Assignment: May we always become an agent of peace and unity here in school, in our family, church, community and country.

Offering:

**MAY GOD BLESS TEACHERS... DO EXTRA MILES FOR GOD'S GLORY!**

## Lesson 5

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### SALVATION FOR ALL

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**Aim:** That my learners will trust God's grace and power for the salvation of all.

**Scripture text:** Ephesians 3:1-13

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 3:7* "I became a servant of this Gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power."

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize Ephesians 3:7
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Recall a Name
  - For Substance: COUPLE BUZZER. Write the questions in Manila paper and give time for each group to answer. Then call them for reporting.
  - For Significance: Prepare chalk and board or pentel pen and coupon band for the scholars' answers.
  - For Performance: Silent prayer.

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: "Oh, how good it is"
- Prayer:

#### Activity: Recall a Name.

If you will be given a time to recall a name of a person, whose name would you choose and why?

>Affirm and appreciate their participation.

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let's learn that God's grace and power will make us endure pains for other's salvation.

Topic: "**Salvation for all**"

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-13 (*Reading of the passage will depend upon the teacher*)

#### SUBSTANCE

**Method:** COUPLE BUZZER and LECTURE

Say: Last year we discussed that the division between Gentiles and Jews is over. Because of Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, all of us have an access to the Father. So let us continue in our studies in chapter. Verse 1 starts with a prayer to the Gentiles but Paul did not continue his prayer instead he explained the subject of the mystery of Christ. He explained this mystery and his responsibility to dispense or give out the said mystery he had experienced.

## Questions:

1. In verse 1,

- a. To whom the preaching was addressed? Answer: To the Gentiles at Ephesus
- b. How did Paul identified himself? Answer: Though Paul was physically imprisoned under Nero, the Roman Emperor, yet he identified himself as a prisoner of Christ.
- c. Why was he imprisoned? Answer: He was imprisoned not for a crime, but because of his service for Christ; and his faithfulness to obey Christ in spite of opposition.

2. What does verse 2 mean, especially the phrase “**the administration of God’s grace that was given to me, for you**”? (cf. **Colossians 1:25**).

Answer: The phrase carries two meanings: first it refers to **God’s plan of salvation** as experienced by Paul and other believers; secondly, it refers to **Paul’s assignment or activity** to carry out or administer that plan. This means that Paul was given a significant responsibility, a special stewardship, trust or commitment in the execution of this plan which is to preach the Good News to the Gentiles. (*According to Brian Wintle in his commentary about Ephesians*).

3. In verse 3, what do you mean by the word “**mystery**”?

Answer: Mystery is a truth known only by divine revelation. Here the word “mystery” has the special meaning of the private, wise plan of God, which in Ephesians relates primarily to the unification of believing Jews and Gentiles in the new body, the church. Some authors say that this **revelation** does not refer to a specific visionary or revelatory experience, but to the revelation by the Spirit through unexpected and unpredictable way. In the past, this mystery had been kept, but now it has been made known to those God’s holy apostles and prophets (verse 5), to those who proclaim the Gospel that through them it might be fulfilled.

4. What are the content of this mystery? verse 6

Answer: The content of this mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are **(a) heirs together with the Israel; (b) members together of one body and; (3) sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus**. The first element of the mystery is that Gentiles and Jews can look forward to that inheritance in Christ, Secondly, that Gentile and Jewish Christians are both members of one body and thirdly, that the Gentile Christians share along with Jewish Christians *the promise* in Christ Jesus.

5. What commissioned Paul as a servant of the Gospel? verse 7

Answer: He was commissioned first of all **(a) by the gift of God’s grace**. That God touched Saul of Tarsus, the ferocious (brutal) persecutor of the church, and then changed him and commissioned him to be His servant, are clear evidence of God’s grace. **(b) through the working of His power**. God’s transformation of this persecutor of the church into the apostle to the Gentiles was a demonstration of God’s power. In other words, God’s grace not only brings forgiveness and new life, but the strength to enable the Christian to fulfill whatever his calling involves. Paul received the power appropriate to the ministry to which he was appointed.

6. What do you mean when Paul said, “*Although I am less than the least of all God’s people*”? *Accept answers... (Teacher, be sure you have also your own correct answer)*

P.A. This means that without God's help, Paul would never be able to do God's work. Yet God chose him to share the Gospel to the Gentiles and gave him the power to do it.

7. After Paul's experience of God's grace, what are the next expected tasks he must do? verse 8b - 9

Answer: **First, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ (v.8).** The riches here suggest that it is the grace of God, and what do you think these riches include? (*Give time for your scholars to answer*)... \*\*\* These riches include the 'resurrection from the death of sin, victorious enthronement with Christ in the heavenlies, reconciliation with God, incorporation with Jewish believers in his new society, and the end of hostility and the beginning of peace, access to the Father through Christ and by the Spirit, membership of His Kingdom and household, being an integral part of His dwelling place among men, and all this only a foretaste of yet more riches to come, namely the riches of the glory of the inheritance which God will give to all His people on the last day... **Secondly, to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God (v.9).**

8. a. Who are included in God's saving intention? verse 10

Answer: The **rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...** \*\*\*But what do you mean by 'rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms?... *They would mean either angels who are witnesses to these events or hostile forces opposed to God (cf. 2:2, 6:12).*

b. To whom this task is given? verse 8

Answer: to the CHURCH, this means you and me as believers in Christ. The CHURCH is to make known to them the manifold wisdom of God. The CHURCH is intended to be a model of redeemed humanity.

Paul fulfilled his commission of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles, so through this proclamation of the Gospel men and women came into a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. In this way the previously hidden mystery was being implemented in a wonderful manner.

Say: Verse 11 assures us that believing Christians have become a part of God's eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus, and in verse 12, ...

9. What is the other assurance that Paul has given to the Gentile believers? verse 12 Answer: The assurance is that, as believers we have our access with **freedom and confidence**. Why? Precisely because the God into whose presence we have access is the eternal, sovereign God. Take note that our right personal communion with God matters most.

10. What comfort did Paul give to his Gentile readers? verse 13

***Let your scholars give their answers...***

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Say: If Paul had not preached the Gospel, he would not be in jail – but what would happen to the Ephesians? They would not have heard the Good News and been converted either. Just as a mother endures the pain of childbirth in order to bring new life into the world, Paul endured the pain of persecution in order to bring new believers to Christ. Obeying Christ is never easy. He calls us to take up our cross and follow Him.

Ask: What made Paul endure sufferings for Gospel's sake?

**P.A. because of God's grace and power...**

Ask: What truth have you learned from our discussion?

**General Truth: "God's grace and power will enable us to endure pain so that the message of salvation can reach the entire world."**

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 3:7* "I became a servant of this Gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of His power."

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming (Write answers on the board)**

Ask: Why is it hard for Christians to share the Gospel?

P.A. because they are not yet saved and empowered, they don't want to suffer, to be persecuted nor to be despised, because they feel shamed, because of self-centeredness, etc.

Ask: What caused some Christians unwilling to suffer for other's salvation?

P.A. personal problems, pride, busyness, etc.

Ask: Have you seen some of our spiritual leaders who are unwilling to take pain in the ministry? What might be their reasons?

**(Give time for sharing)...**

Ask: How about you? What hinders you to extend help to others – your family, classmates, friends, and co-Christians, unbelievers?...

**(Give time for sharing)...**

Ask: Will you give yourself to the Lord and trust Him to help you endure pains and sufferings for other's salvation?

## **PERFORMANCE**

Say: We should feel honored that others have suffered and sacrificed for us so that we might reap the benefit. But sometimes we are afraid to suffer too for other's benefit.

- Silent Prayer: Take time to pray and thank God for the people who suffered and sacrificed for your life and salvation. Pray also that you God will use you to share the gospel to those who are still living in sin. Ask God to empower you and have that desire for the lost souls... *Prayer...*

Song: "Saved to Serve"

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Let's take every opportunity to share the Gospel even if it's hard.

Offering:

## Lesson 6

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### STRENGTHENED LOVE

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**Aim:** That my learners will demonstrate the appropriated God's love to others.

**Scripture text:** Ephesians 3:14-21

**Memory Verse:** *1 John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us."*

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize 1 John 4:19
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance:
  - For Substance: **OPEN DISCUSSION.** Write the questions in Manila paper, coupon band or cartolina clearly. Encourage everyone to participate in the discussion.
  - For Significance: Write their answers on the board.
  - For Performance: Prepare and give each a copy of the poem.

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: "Oh, I love you with the love of the Lord"
- Prayer

**Activity:** Divide them into groups. Give an ACRONYM of the word LOVE.

L  
O  
V  
E

*Note: If possible, give candies or anything to everyone.*

Say: In connection to our activity, what do you think this love refers to? And why do we love?

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let's learn how to appropriate the love of Christ in us to other people as one in Him.

Topic: "**Strengthened Love**"

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21 (*Reading of the passage will depend upon the teacher*)

#### SUBSTANCE

**Method:** OPEN DISCUSSION/LECTURE

(The teacher posts the questions on the board, write them clearly.)

Say: This is certainly one of the most powerful prayers in the Bible. Last Sunday we learned that in verse 1 of chapter three, Paul supposedly began his message with a prayer, but he did not

continue it instead he talked about the mystery in Christ. (*See to it that you and your scholars are holding Bibles*). So in verse 14, the words *For this reason* indicate that Paul is resuming his prayer. This is the second prayer of Paul to the Ephesian believers, because the first one is found in Ephesians 1:15-23 which was discussed during our second lesson in the book of Ephesians.

There are several interesting comparisons that can be made between Paul's first prayer, in Ephesians 1:15-23, and his second prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21. The first prayer was for **revelation**; the second prayer was for **realization**. The first was for **spiritual comprehension of the riches of His grace**; the second was for **spiritual appropriation of these riches**. In the first prayer Paul was concerned that believers **might understand what they had**; in the second, that believers **might be what God desires**.

Ask: What is the normal posture when we pray? Answer: commonly we stand and sit down...

1. But in verse 14, how did Paul pray? What does it signify?

Answer: Paul prayed by kneeling; it implies that kneeling has particular significance. Kneeling is often the gesture of suppliants begging for a favor from a powerful or important person. In these settings, kneeling expresses deep emotions. It reflects an attitude of submission to God. Praying on one's knees signifies fervent praying.

2. What does the phrase "before the Father", mean in verse 14?

Answer: "**Before**" suggests intimate face-to-face contact with the heavenly Father. Literally, a father is the head of a typical family. But God is not only the Father of the family in which Gentile and Jewish believers are one, but He is the prototype Father. When we say prototype, He is the **example**, the **model**. He is the ultimate Father over every other family that has a father. The reason every human family exists as a family with a father because of God's relationships as a Father.

3. a. In this prayer, Paul requested for one thing and what was it? verse 16

Answer: Paul requested that God would **strengthen his readers in the inner man** Some commentaries say that inner man refers to the spirit and soul, others refer it to the heart, however it would best refer to the entire being or personality, not just our muscles but our entire person. He asked that God would provide this power **according to His vast resources** (unsearchable riches or glorious riches)

b. How does this power come to the believers? verse 16

Answer: This power comes to the believers or to us **through the indwelling Holy Spirit** who strengthens our inner man or our innermost being.

4. Why should a believer be indwelt by the Holy Spirit? verse 17?

Answer: So that **Christ may dwell in his/her hearts** through **faith**. "**Dwell**" refers not only to the beginning of Christ's indwelling at the moment of salvation. Instead it denotes the **desire** that Christ may be completely "**at home**" in the whole personality of the believer. He or she is to let Christ become the dominating factor in his/her **attitudes, conduct and activities**. **This indwelling comes through faith** and this **faith results trust and obedience**. And as the believer keeps trusting and obeying, Jesus Christ can continue to occupy this place in his or her life. Therefore, the **inner being** must be renewed everyday with the power through the Holy Spirit

and this is called the **infilling of the Holy Spirit**. A believer needs to ask the infilling of the Holy Spirit continually.

**Indwelling of the Holy Spirit happens at the moment of salvation.  
Infilling of the Holy Spirit is a continuous process. We need to ask it everyday to make us function effectively and to enjoy intimate fellowship with the Lord.**

5. Therefore, if Christ has dwelt in our hearts, what would be its effect? verse 18

Answer: **The believers may grasp (*understand or comprehend*) Christ's love** because God has **rooted the Christian as a plant and grounded him or her as a building** in love. What does it mean? It means that the believers may comprehend that God's love is **broad or wide enough** to embrace both Jews and Gentiles in the church. They can appreciate that it is **long enough** to stretch from eternity to eternity. They can see that it is **high enough** to raise both Jews and Gentiles into the heavenly places. They can understand that it is **deep enough** to rescue both kinds of people from sin's degradation and from Satan's grip.

**Note: Wide refers to the extent of Christ's love; long (length) refers to the duration of His love; high (height) refers to the position to which the believer is raised in the heavenly places and deep (depth) refers to the condescension of God's love.**

6. Is it enough to comprehend or grasp Christ's love?... What shall we do in order to appropriate the love of Christ in our lives? verse 19

Answer: No, because we must know Christ's love **experientially** that supersedes or surpasses all knowledge. It is because the more a Christian knows about Christ; the more amazed he is at Christ's love for him. Besides, if Christ's love has really rooted and grounded in our lives, then it will produce love for others. This means that Jesus Christ's lordship over life produces love... Then, by experiencing the love of Christ, we might be **filled to the measure of all the fullness of God**. It may indicate not so much His gifts and blessing in full measure, but rather **being filled with GOD Himself**. 'Being filled to all the fullness of God **means to have God's character reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Spirit**. This fullness of the Godhead is only in **Christ**, and **only through Him is a believer made complete**. Though in Christ this divine fullness is ideally a believer's already, Paul prayed that it might be experientially realized in each one. Note also that if we are filled with GOD Himself, everything will be available, we will be complete, and we lack nothing.

**Positionally, the Jewish and Gentile believers** are one in Christ; **experientially** they are to love each other as one in Him.

7. How did Paul end his prayer? What does this doxology mean to us? verses 20-21?

Answer: Paul ended his prayer with a doxology. It is not a general doxology, but is intended to be the concluding part to end Part One of Ephesians (PART ONE is the chapters 1 to 3)...Paul praised God who is able to do far more than one could ask or imagine, according to the standard of His power that is at work within us. No human or angel would ever think that Jews and Gentiles could function together in one body. But with God's power of love in each believer's life, Paul was confident that Jewish and Gentile believers can function and love one another. Though it is not naturally possible, God is able to accomplish it. Paul therefore ascribed to God **glory** to be manifested **in the church**, where the miracle of love will occur, **and in Christ Jesus**,

who made the union of Jewish and Gentile believers possible. **Praise to God for this accomplishment is to continue throughout eternity.**

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Ask: Who can give a summary of our lesson this morning?

Summary: Paul prayed that God would strengthen the believers both Jewish and Gentiles in their inner being. This would only be made possible through the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling in us. If we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, Christ will be at home in our whole personality through faith and this would make us understand Christ's love because His love has been rooted and grounded in our lives. Then we are not only to understand His love but experience it and this experience will cause us to love others too as one in Christ. As we experience the love of Christ, we will be filled with God's fullness. We can experience God's riches which include everything!

Ask: So, out of our discussion, what truth have you learned?

**General Truth: *To love each other is the proof of a genuine experience of Christ's love.***

**Memory Verse: *I John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us."***

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming (Write answers on the board)**

☉ How can we show that we have appropriated God's love in us to others?

P.A. by loving others too through giving, helping the poor and needy, by building each other up or edifying each other, bringing back to Christ the apostates, encouragement, prayer, etc.

☉ But what do you think are reasons why it's hard for Christians to love each other?

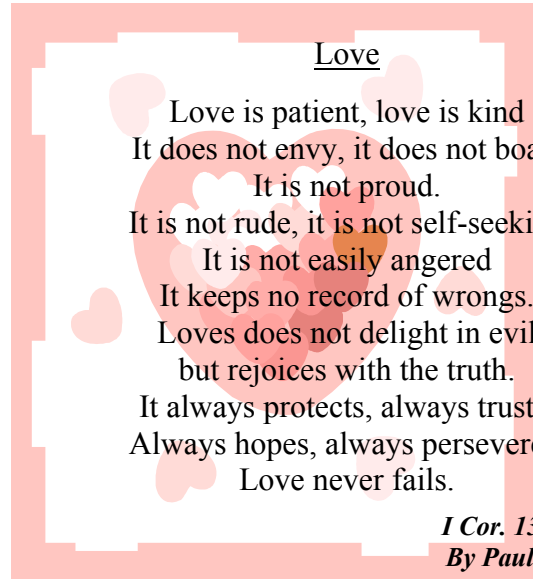
P.A. discrimination because of profession, tribe, economic status, theological reasons ..., different personalities, pride, jealousy, hatred, personal problems, they failed to acknowledge that Christ love them so much, Christ's love has not rooted in their lives that's why they can't extend it to their fellow believers, etc.

☉ Are these scenarios happening in our churches?...

☉ How about you? Are there times you feel it's hard to love your friends, classmates, neighbors, and fellowmen?...Or what is the measure of your love towards other people? Is it unconditional just like the way Jesus loves you? Or is it conditional?

## **PERFORMANCE**

Say: I would like you to read the poem given to you about LOVE. While reading this, think of what Christ has done in your life, and think of what really love is. There are many people around you who deserve your love, think of those unlovable, those people who need to be forgiven...Let's desire that Christ's love would be strengthened in our lives more and more...



**Individual Prayer.... While the scholars are praying, the teacher can read the poem slowly...**

Say: This unconditional love was given first by our Savior Jesus Christ, and there's no reason to keep it, instead let us love one another and allow others to experience and feel the love of Christ rooted in our hearts...(Encourage the scholars to look for the person they wanted to be thanked for or the person they wanted to reconcile with...)

Song: "Power of your Love"

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Let's always remember that loving others is the outward expression of Christ's love in us.

Offering:

## Lesson 7

---

### LIVING IN UNITY

---

**Aim:** That my learners will use their God given gifts to keep the unity in the church.

**Scripture text:** Ephesians 4:1-16

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 4:3* “**Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**”

#### In Advance

1. Pray for **yourself**, the **lesson** and the **scholars**.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize Ephesians 4:3
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Prepare 2 stones, colored paper, scissor, glue, scotch tape
  - For Substance: **OPEN DISCUSSION**. Write the questions in Manila paper, coupon band or cartolina clearly. Encourage everyone to participate in the discussion.
  - For Significance: Write their answers on the board.
  - For Performance: Prepare the chart, post again the human structure and do the activity.

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “Oh, how good it is!”
- Prayer

**Activity:** Art Making

Instruction: Divide your scholars into two. Give each group a stone and let them make it into something or they are going to beauty it. The group which has done good will be rewarded.

>Appreciate their effort and participation

Ask: What happen to the stone? became new, looks good, beautiful, etc.  
What is your part in the beautification of the stone? ...  
How did you make it to become beautiful or good looking? by unity, etc.  
What is this stone like? church

**Transition sentence:** Today, we will discover and use the gift given by God to us to preserve the unity in the church.

Topic: “**Living in Unity**”

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16 (*Reading of the passage will depend upon the teacher*)

#### SUBSTANCE

**Method:** OPEN DISCUSSION

(NOTE: Encourage your scholars to participate in the discussion and have each one a Bible at hand.)

Say: We knew in our previous lessons that Paul was “a prisoner of the Lord” while writing this epistle. We were also through discussing Ephesians chapter 1-3 which talk about doctrinal teachings on the role of the church. So beginning verse 1 of chapter 4, Paul exhorted his readers or the Ephesian believers about the practical applications on how the church members should live in order to bring the unity God wants. **(Read verse 1)**. The adverb “then” is synonymous with the word “therefore”. Here Paul was trying to review that positionally the Jewish and Gentile believers are called to be one in Christ; **therefore**, as one in Him Paul exhorted them to what? **to live a life worthy of the calling they have received**. “**Calling**” here refers to God’s calling to live in unity as Jews and Gentiles in the church.

### **I - THE BASIS OF UNITY (4:1-6)**

1. In verse 2, what are the three attitudes that foster or promote unity in the church? What does each attitude mean? **verse 2**

Answer: (a) Humbleness/Humility – opposite of pride, it promotes unity.

(b) Gentleness – having one’s emotion under control, one who is controlled by God is angry at the right time.

(c) Patience – the spirit which gives never gives up for it endures to the end even in times of adversity.

2. In verse 3, how can believers preserve unity among themselves? What does it mean? **Answer:** Paul exhorted the believers to “**make every effort**” which means that they have the responsibility to keep or guard each other through the “bond of peace.” Believers are encouraged to lovingly accept each other even when they have differences.

3. Why those who belong to Christ should be eager to preserve their unity? verses 4-6

Answer: It is because of the following reasons:

a. There is **one body** –refers to the universal church or all believers. Christians are all members of the same body.

b. **One Spirit** – refers to the Holy Spirit indwells the body of Christ.

c. **One hope** – refers to the hope of sharing Christ’s glory at the end of age.

d. **One Lord** - refers to Christ, the Head of the church.

e. **One faith** – refers to personal commitment to Christ and recognition that He is the Son of God and Savior of humankind.

f. **One baptism** - refers to water baptism or the believer’s identification with Christ in His death and resurrection.

g. **One Father** – refers to God the Father and His relationship to all believers.

Say: Notice that Paul has been considering the church as a totality or whole. However in verse 7, Paul focuses on the individual (“**each of us**”). Therefore within the body of Christ each member enjoys a share of God’s grace.

### **II. GIFTS GIVEN FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH (4:7-12)**

4. What do you mean with the “grace” apportioned to each one by Christ in verse 7?

Answer: This grace is understood as gifts provided for and distributed by Christ to each believer to preserve the unity of the church.

5. How are you going to connect verses 8-10 with the grace-gift mentioned in verse 7? (cf. Psalm 68:18) *Accept Answers...*

\*\*\*In verse 8, Paul here was just summarizing the essence of the psalm. It is all about Jesus Christ who has descended to the earth yet He is also the very one who ascended to heaven to fill the whole universe by giving gifts to those who are identified with Him.

6. a. **How** do you call a person given with gifts and **who** are they in the church?

b. **What** are the five kinds of gifted people? **Why** are these gifts given?  
verses 11-12

Answer: a. The **How?** He or she is called a gifted person and he himself is a gift to the church.

b. They are the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers...and the very purpose of these gifts is **to prepare God's people for works of service.**

Say: So what does it mean? (don't give the answer immediately) This means that those gifted people are to equip the members of the church through the Word of God so that those who are already equipped could minister to others too.

**Note:** Spiritual leaders are not to do all the work for the people, but they are called **trainers or facilitators** to train people to do the work themselves so that the body of Christ may be built up. The spiritual gifts are for the body, the church, and are not to be exercised individualistically.

7. Why equipping people are necessary in the church? verse 13

Answer: to reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and to be **mature**, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ; in other word to become **CHRISTLIKE.**

8. In contrast to maturity or Christlikeness, how are immature believers compared to? verse 14.  
*Answer: They are like infants...they are unstable spiritually.*

9. What is now the picture of the church where unity exists? verses 15-16

Ask: It is like a **physical body (show them the body you've drawn)**. Jesus Christ is the Head where the body (the believers) derives its whole capacity for growth and activity. Then each member is joined and held together by every supporting ligament according to the gift given to each one, grows and builds itself up in **LOVE** as each part (each believer) does its (her/his) work.

**Note: Just post the body because identifying each part is not necessary to avoid problem.**  
=====

Ask: What do you think would happen to a body if every part will function?

Ask: And what would happen to a body if one part of it will not function?

Ask: So, out of our discussion, what truth have you learned?

**General Truth: Unity is kept if all members of the church functions according to their gift.**

**Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."**

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

☹ What are reasons why Christians today are sometimes disunited?

P.A. wrong concept on spiritual gifts and its operation, insecurities of the members who thought they have no gifts, etc...*NOTE: think for more...*

- ☉ How about in our local churches, is there unity among believers? Why?
- ☉ In our family, are there times of division? Why? *Allow sharing of observation...*
- ☉ What do you think are ways to preserve unity in our churches or in our own local church? *Accept answers...*
- ☉ How about you? In what way you can contribute unity in your own church? In your family?
- ☉ Have you ever desire to become a unifier in any groups especially in your church?

## PERFORMANCE

Say: This time let's have an activity in order for us to identify what gift we can contribute to the church or to the body of Christ.

**Instruction:** In this chart, you give the function of each gift. (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12 ff...)

(Note: In advance, distribute to the class the function(s) of each gift and let them identify the gift which best suit to the function at hand. Check their answers. )

GIFT	PASSAGE	FUNCTION
Apostle	Mt. 10:5-7; Mk 3:14	To establish the church & the original message of the gospel
Prophet	1 Cor. 12:10	Concern with spiritual life & purity of the church
Evangelist	Acts 8:5-8	To proclaim the gospel to the unsaved
Pastor (Elder or Overseer)	1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:12-16	To oversee the church and care for its spiritual needs
Teacher	Acts 15:35; Titus 2:1-3	To clarify & explain God's Word in order to build up the church
Deacon	Acts 6: 3-5; Romans 16:1-2	To render practical assistance to members of the church
Helper	Acts 20:35; Acts 16:14-15	Gifted for a variety of helpful deeds
Administrator	Acts 14:22; 1 Peter 5:1-2	To guide & oversee the various activities of the church
Giver	Acts 4:36-37; 2 Cor. 8:1-5	To give freely of their resources to the needs of God's people
Comforter	2 Cor. 1:4; Hebrews 10:34	To give comfort by acts of mercy to people in distress

Say: Take note, don't limit your mind with the gifts listed here because there are many other gifts that maybe it's already in us or maybe it is still to be discovered.

**Then post again the body that you have drawn, write above it “THE CHURCH IS A BODY”. Then give them the questions written in a piece of paper. Encourage them to answer honestly. Note that Jesus Christ alone is the Head...**

1. What part of the body would I most like to be?

\_\_\_\_\_  
What spiritual gifts (see Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12 for typical gifts) seem most closely associated with the part I selected?

2. What kind of ministry in our church where I can best fit?

**Note: Instruct your scholars to find a mate and share their answers, then they will pray for each other...**

Commitment Prayer....

Song: “We are one in the Lord”

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Let’s always use the gift given to us for the edification of the body of Christ.

Offering:

## Lesson 8

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### LIVING IN HOLINESS

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**Aim:** That my learners will choose to live holy as followers of Christ.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 4:17-32

**Memory Verse:** *1 Peter 1:15-16* “**But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’**”

#### **In Advance:**

1. Pray for **yourself**, the **lesson** and the **scholars**.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize 1 Peter 1:15-16
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Paint me a picture
  - For Substance: **OPEN DISCUSSION**. Write the questions in Manila paper, coupon band or cartolina clearly. Encourage everyone to participate in the discussion.
  - For Significance: Write their answers on the board.
  - For Performance: Prepare a candle.

Vocabulary words:

1. futility means pointlessness or refers to the pointless action that has no use, purpose of effect, lack of worthy purpose.
2. lust means desire, hunger for, envy, covetousness, greediness

*Make a research for the other unfamiliar words*

### CLASS SESSION

#### **ENTRANCE**

- Greetings:
- Song: “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”
- Prayer

**Activity:** PAINT ME A PICTURE. Divide your scholars into two groups and instruct them to paint a picture about holiness.

>Appreciate their effort and participation.

Ask: What did you observe from the presentation of the first group and the second group? Is it easy to be holy?

**Transition sentence:** This morning, we are going to learn that as followers of Christ, we ought to live a holy life as instructed by Paul in the book of Ephesians.

Topic: “**Living in Holiness**”

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17-32 (*Reading of the passage will depend upon the teacher*)

#### **SUBSTANCE**

**Method:** OPEN DISCUSSION

(NOTE: Encourage your scholars to participate in the discussion and have each one a Bible at hand.)

### I - THE NATURE & PRACTICE OF THE UNHOLY MAN (OLD SELF)

1. Who were the Gentiles before conversion? verses 17-18a

*Answer: They were futile in their thinking. It refers to the natural tendency of human beings to think their way away from God. That's why they failed to attain the true purpose of the mind which is to receive God's revelation. Since their minds could not receive God's revelation, their understanding was darkened and separated from the life of God.*

2. What are the two reasons of their separation and alienation from God? verse 18b-19a (cf. Gal 5:19) *Answer: It's because of their ignorance and hardening of their hearts. Take note that when our minds are futile and ignorant about the truth, our heart is well affective. Because the unsaved Gentiles had hardened their hearts, that's why they lost their sensitivity and became insensitive to God and His ways.*

3. Because of their lack of sensitivity, how did the unsaved Gentiles live out?

verse 19 *Answer: They gave themselves to sensuality which means a life without concern for personal standards or social sanctions. Their purpose was to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. They indulge in self-gratification without regard for others.*

### II – THE POSITION & PRACTICE OF A HOLY MAN (NEW SELF)

4. In contrast to unsaved Gentiles, who are the true Gentile believers? verses 20-21, see again verses 17-18 for contrast (cf. Gal. 5:22-23)

*Answer: True Gentile believers live according to what they learned from Christ. Meaning, their minds are no longer darkened; their lives are no longer alienated from God; their hearts are no longer hardened and impure.*

5. What are the two important teachings of Paul for a holy living? verses 22-24

*Answer: First is to **put off the old self** which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; and secondly to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

6. In the chart, identify the practices that should be put off and should be put on in one's life in order for him/her to have holy living.

Verses	PUT OFF	PUT ON	REASON
25	Falsehood: stop deceiving	Speak truthfully	We are all members of one body.
26-27	Anger: Avoid sinning when angry and to deal with sin quickly if it does accompany anger.	Righteous anger: don't let the sun go down while you are still angry	It is important to deal with anger appropriately because if we do not do so Satan will have an opportunity to lead us into further sin.
28	Stealing: Refrain from stealing but to work.	Work: do something useful with your own hands	So we will have something to share with the needy.
29-30	Unwholesome talk/words Speak good things as well do good things.	Words for the purpose of edification	To help in building each other up, above all reason is not to grieve the Holy

			Spirit of God.
31-32	Six negative attitudes or vices: bitterness, rage (wrath), anger, brawling (clamor), slander and malice: Get rid from all of these vices.	3 virtues: be kind, compassionate, and forgiving	God has forgiven us freely in Christ Jesus.

Ask: Why is it necessary to put off things or practices that hinder holiness? Or why do we need to be holy?

**General Truth:** *As followers of Christ, living in holiness is a requirement..*

**Memory Verse:** *1 Peter 1:15-16 "But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"*

### SIGNIFICANCE:

- ☉ What are holy and unholy practices?

HOLY PRACTICES

UNHOLY PRACTICES

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☉ Are these unholy practices still apparent in the life of Christians? Why?
- ☉ How about the Bible school students, are these unholy practices exist?
- ☉ In your personal life, how do you assess your practices in life? If 100% is the perfect score for holy living, how are you going to rate yourself? Why?
- ☉ How many people (both believers and non-believers) have been blessed because of the way you conduct yourself? Or how many people have been stumbled because of you? Try to reflect on it and ask, "Am I holy or not?"
- ☉ Will you commit to the Lord that starting today you will strive to live a holy life by putting off those things that need to be put off, and putting on those things which are pleasing in the sight of the Lord?

### PERFORMANCE

Say: Distribute the paper. Encourage your scholars to do it seriously. After writing, let them burn the THINGS TO PUT OFF signifying to deny their old self and put on the new self in Christ Jesus.



Challenge...

Commitment Prayer....

Song: "Refiner's Fire"

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Remember that living a holy life is what God wants to see in us, so let's always put on those things which are holy.

Offering:

## Lesson 9

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### LIVING IN LOVE

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**Aim:** That my learners will imitate God by loving others sacrificially.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 5:1-6

**Memory Verse:** *1 John 3:16* “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.”

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize 1 John 3:16
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance:
  - For Substance: **OPEN DISCUSSION.** In advance, give the questions to scholars and instruct them to post on the board one at a time
  - For Significance: Checklist.
  - For Performance: Heart-shaped letter

Vocabulary word:

Obscenity – indecent expression, shameless talk and conduct

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “I’m free, I’m free”
- Prayer

Activity: (Ask the scholars for their own experiences or heard-of-stories of exceptional love done by others towards others SACRIFICIALLY.)

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let’s learn how you and I could imitate our God by loving others sacrificially.

Topic: “**Living in Love**”

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-6 (*Reading of the passage will depend upon the teacher*)

#### SUBSTANCE

**Method:** OPEN DISCUSSION/LECTURE

#### I. THE BASIS OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

1. Why should we imitate God? verse 1

Answer: We should imitate God because we are His dearly loved children.

2. As His dearly loved children, how should we imitate Him (God)? verse 2a

Answer: As God's dearly loved children, we should imitate Him by walking in love.

3. In what reason why should we walk in love? verse 2b

Answer: We should walk in love because in the first place Christ loved us.

4. What kind of love did Christ show to us? Verse 2c

Answer: The kind of love that Christ had shown to us is a self-sacrificing or sacrificial love by giving up Himself for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God, the Father.

## II. THE OPPOSITE OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

5. So that we can walk in love effectively, what are the evil practices that we need to abstain? verses 3-4 (Note: let the scholars give examples for each practices)...

Answer: We need to abstain from evil practices like sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking.

Note: A greedy person is an idolater in the sense that greed, like idols, puts things before God. (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

6. Why should we abstain from these vices or bad practices? verses 3b, 5b

Answer: We need to abstain from these vices or practices because:

- a) these are improper for God's holy people to practice such, and
- b) those who practice them are not a part of God's Kingdom

7. Instead of living in this evil practices, what is that attitude that is helpful in exercising love within the body of Christ? verse 4b.

Answer: It is **THANKSGIVING**. Thanksgiving is the act of appreciating others and it is very helpful.

Note: Paul was not saying that humor itself is sin, but that it is wrong when it is used to destroy or tear down others.

8. What does verse 6 mean? (Read the verse for emphasis)

P.A. Christians should not be deceived into thinking that this warning is merely empty words, for the disobedient or the unregenerate are the objects of God's wrath (cf. Colossians 3:5-6). God's view of sin should be taken seriously. Believers should be imitators of God, not evildoers.

Ask: How do we know that love is sacrificial?

Ask: So, out of our discussion, what truth have you learned? (*This question is optional*)

**General Truth:** *Christians imitate God by loving others sacrificially, even to the point of death if necessary.*

**Memory Verse:** *I John 3:16 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."*

## SIGNIFICANCE:

Method: **Checklist. Answer the checklist honestly.**

	<b>Always</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Never</b>
I share my food to the hungry though nothing has left for the next meal.			
I give my tithe and offering though I have no allowance for the following week.			
If I hurt someone, I look for a way to say 'sorry'			
I wake up early in the morning to read the Bible and pray.			
I give much time to think about God rather than my boyfriend or girlfriend or someone else.			
I give up my personal ambitions and interests for God's sake and others too, though it is hurting.			
When I need something, I choose to pray rather than to steal.			
I can easily forgive though it's hard.			
When someone does wrong, I laugh and insult him/her			
It's hard for me to appreciate others' good work.			
I am willing to lay down my life for other's sake.			
I love without complains.			
When I help, I always expect for a return.			
When I'm hurt, I want to payback/retaliate.			
When someone makes quarrel with me, I choose to swallow my pride.			

- ☉ In your own opinion, why is it hard to love sacrificially?
- ☉ Are you willing to give up those practices and attitudes that hinder you in loving others sacrificially?
- ☉ Will you promise to God to imitate His way of loving us even though it takes pain?

## **PERFORMANCE**

- Instruct your scholars to find a partner and tell them to share answers with the question, **“Based on the checklist, what are the first three things that you feel so hard to do?”**
- **Prayer by partner...**

Distribute the Heart-shaped letter and say ‘As one body in Christ, why not give or send a sorry letter or a thank you letter.

February 10, 2008

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I want to say \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: Remember this; God's wants to see His dearly loved children to imitate Him. He wants us to love sacrificially just like the way He loves us.

Song: "Eventhough"

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Tell the scholars to give the letter card to anybody in the room or they may give that after the service.

Offering:

## Lesson 10

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### LIVING IN LIGHT

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**Aim:** That my learners will live as children of Light by lighting up other lives who commit evil deeds.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 5:7-14

**Memory Verse:** *Matthew 5:16* “In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven..”

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize *Matthew 5:16*
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: lighted candle
  - For Substance: **OPEN DISCUSSION.** In advance, give the questions to scholars and instruct them to post on the board one at a time
  - For Significance: Brainstorming
  - For Performance: Lighting up the candle

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “Walking in the light of God”
- Prayer

Ask: What is this? What is the purpose of this lighted candle? What will happen to its surrounding if I will hide this candle below the table?

Ask: Why do we need light?

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let’s learn how to live as children of Light by lighting up other Christians who commit evil deeds.

Topic: “**Living in Light**”

Scripture: Ephesians 5:7-14 (*Reading of the passage will depend upon the teacher*)

#### SUBSTANCE

**Method:** OPEN DISCUSSION/LECTURE

#### I. COMMAND TO THE BELIEVERS: LIVE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

1. What was Paul’s command to the Ephesian believers/Christians? Verse 7

Answer: The command was “do not be partners with them. The phrase “with them” refers to those who are object of God’s wrath (disobedient)

2. What do you think is the reason why Christians should not become partners of those who are object of God's wrath? verse 7-8a

Answer: The reason why Christians should not become partners of those who are object of God's wrath is, because Christians are no longer part of the darkness in which they used to live, but are **light in the world**.

3. Why do Christians need to walk or live as children of light? verse 8b; cf. John 8:12a

Answer: Christians need to walk or live as children of light because our Lord Jesus Christ is the LIGHT, and because our Lord Jesus is the Light, Christians too are lights.

4. What are the fruit of the light visible in Christian's life? verse 9

Answer: The fruit of the light visible in Christian's life are goodness, righteousness and truth? (Note: the teacher can give an example using an object lesson - guava having seeds inside. The seeds are the fruit (goodness, righteousness and truth).

5. What happens if Christians will keep living in light? verse 10

Answer: If Christians will keep living in light, the result is he can please God. But pleasing God is not a sudden event. Christians need to continually try to discover or find out what the will of God is so we can do it and please Him.

## II. IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT

6. In verse 11, what is the function of light? What does it mean to the real Christian life? (cf. Matthew 5:14-16)

Answer: The function of light is not to get involved or share with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather to expose them. This means that Christians should not participate with the evil deeds done by among other Christians in the church, instead they must function as light by living in goodness, righteousness and truth.

7. As members of the body of Christ, how are we going to expose the evil deeds done by other Christians in the church?

Answer: Accept answers...

8. Why do we need to expose the deeds done by other Christians in the church? verse 12

Answer: It is because the things done in secret are too shameful even to talk about.

9. In relation to the function of light, what happens to the evil deeds, and the believer who commits the deeds, after they were exposed to light? verse 13

Answer: The evil deeds will become visible, that will cause the believer who commits the deeds realized, and will come to God for cleansing and forgiveness, and he will also realize that those evil deeds are harmful or detrimental not only to himself but to other believers in the church.

10. Because it is the light that makes **everything** visible, what does verse 14 say? (cf. Isaiah 60:1)

Answer: A believer who has committed 'deeds of darkness' is to wake up and rise from the dead since he has involved with the evil doers.

=====

Ask: As believers, what is the clear command to us this morning? Why?

Ask: What shall we do in order for the church to shine in the community?

Ask: So out of our discussion, what truth have you learned? (*This question is optional*)

**General Truth:** *Only a life exposed in the LIGHT can expose other lives of any works that are unfruitful.*

**Memory Verse:** *Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven.."*

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming (Write their answers on the board)**

- ☉ What are ways to lighten up others' lives?
  
- ☉ Why is it hard for Christians to rebuke or reprimand other believers in the church who committed evil deeds?
  
- ☉ How about you? If you are going to rank, what are the first three reasons why it's hard for you to rebuke or reprimand someone who committed sin? (Give them a piece of paper. Allow sharing to happen here. You can call someone to share his struggles).
  
- ☉ Will you commit yourself to God as an instrument to help others see their misbehavior, bad conduct and sinful ways?

## **PERFORMANCE**

- Give each one a candle and form a circle. In the center is the big candle shining.
- Say: Before we became Christians, we are living in darkness. But when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are no longer living in the dark; instead we are exposed in the light and become lights. However, there are times that we stumble and fall (remove the light in the candle). What shall we do? Let's come back to God for cleansing. But, how about if other members of the church have done evil deeds? (You can mention at least 3-4 persons in the circle whose lights are dead). What shall you do?
- **Challenge:** God knows your heart this time. He knows whether you are shining or your light is dying. Why not come to Him and ask Him to enlighten you back. And maybe there are people around you whose light is dying...be there to lighten up their candles.

Song: "Carry your candle"

Closing Prayer:

Assignment: Continue to live as children of light in all ways. Be an instrument to help others see their shortcomings and repent from their sins.

Offering:

## Lesson 11

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### LIVING IN WISDOM

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**Aim:** That my learners will choose wisdom by living a Spirit-filled life daily.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 5:15-21

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 5:15-16* “Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize *Ephesians 5:15-16*
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Word Guessing
  - For Substance: **COUPLE BUZZER.** Give the questions to the scholars and instruct them to post on the board one at a time.
  - For Significance: Brainstorming
  - For Performance: Charting

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “Listen to advice and accept instruction”
- Prayer

Activity: Word Guessing:

Write the words in a strip of cartolina or coupon band. Divide the class into two groups and they will guess the scrambled words and the group that garners with high score will be rewarded.

1. DWOIMS - WISDOM
2. YSDA – DAYS
3. LVIE LLAREFCUY – LIVE CAREFULLY
4. ILSHOOF – FOOLISH
5. EB ELDILF – BE FILLED
6. TYUTNIORPOP – OPPORTUNITY
7. MYNSH – HYMNS
8. LIVE – EVIL
9. TEG KNDUR – GET DRUNK
10. SIUWNE – UNWISE

Ask: What did you used in guessing the words? Thinking, wisdom

Ask: Why do we need wisdom?

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let's learn how to live wisely in the midst of the evil world as taught in the book of Ephesians.

Topic: **“Living in Wisdom”**

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21 (*Silent reading for 3 minutes*)

## **SUBSTANCE**

### **Method: Couple Buzzer**

Say: For a fifth time Paul used the word “walk” translated “live” in the NIV. Here Paul instructed believers to be wise in their walk or conduct by being filled by the Holy Spirit. In other words, in order for Christians to walk or live as children of light, therefore we need to live in wisdom or we need to live carefully and wisely.

1. In verse 15, what was Paul's admonition (advice) to the Ephesian believers? Answer: Paul told the Ephesian believers to be very careful how to live not as unwise but as wise.

2. How should the believers live carefully and wisely? Verse 16a

Answer: The believers should live carefully and wisely by making the most of every opportunity or it could be said like this: by making the right use of every opportunity.

3. What does it mean when we say, ‘by making the most of every opportunity’?

Accept answers...

4. What is the reason why Christians are told to walk or live carefully and wisely? Verse 16b

Answer: The reason for this careful or wise walk is because the days are evil.

5. Can we say that our days are evil? Why? How can we know that our days are evil?

Accept answers...

Say: Many are walking in sin, and since the time is short believers must make full use of their time to help turn them from darkness to light. This necessitates wise conduct.

6. In verse 17, how do you understand the word ‘wisdom’? Where does it come from? (cf. James 1:5)

Answer: Wisdom is not foolish, but it understands what the will of the Lord is and obeys His will. In other words, wisdom comes from God and we need to ask it from Him.

7. In verse 18, what is the Lord's will, mentioned in negative and positive way?

Answer: **Negative:** Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery (*sin, wickedness, corruption, etc*). **Positive:** be filled with the Spirit.

Say: This means that a person who walks in wisdom is the one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit.

8. What are the four visible results of a Spirit-filled life? Verses 19-20

Answer:

a. The communication with one another with psalms and spiritual songs - verse 19a

b. The communication with the Lord by singing and making melody or music in the heart – verse 19b

c. Thanking God the Father continually for all things – verse 20

d. Submission to one another by willingly serving others out of reverence for Christ.

Say: The last result will be elaborated next Sunday.

=====

Ask: What truth have you learned from our discussion?

**General Truth:** *A man of wisdom is one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit and chooses to do what pleases God.*

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 5:15-16 "Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."*

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming (Write their answers on the board)**

☉ What are wise and unwise conducts? Let the scholars write on the board...

**WISE CONDUCT**

**UNWISE CONDUCT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☉ What are the reasons why there are times that Christians live unwisely?

☉ Are there unwise Christians in our churches today? Why?

☉ How about you, are there times in your life wherein you have acted unwisely? How? *Allow sharing of experiences...*

☉ Have you desired to live or walk in wisdom? If yes, will you allow the Holy Spirit to take control in your life today and in the coming days?

**PERFORMANCE**

☉ Charting. Identify existing behaviors, attitudes or actions in your life that are considered wise and unwise.

WISE CONDUCT	UNWISE CONDUCT

- Find a partner and share your struggles in life especially in overcoming unwise conduct or behavior.
- Say: If you lack wisdom, remember what James has said in chapter 1 verse 5 "if any one of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God..." God wants us to live wisely because the days are evil. All we need to do is to allow the Holy Spirit to take full control in our lives so that in every opportunity, we can do what is right and pleasing to God.
- After the sharing, pray for each other.
- Song: "Fill Me Now" hymn number 369 – all stanza
- Closing Prayer:

- Assignment: Be wise by living according to the will of God.
- Offering:

## Lesson 11

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### LIVING IN WISDOM

---

**Aim:** That my learners will live wisely through a Spirit-controlled life daily.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 5:15-21

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 5:15-16* “Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize *Ephesians 5:15-16*
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: lighted candle
  - For Substance: **OPEN DISCUSSION.** In advance, give the questions to scholars and instruct them to post on the board one at a time
  - For Significance: Brainstorming
  - For Performance: Lighting up the candle

#### Background:

For a fifth time Paul used the word “walk” translated “live” in the NIV. Here Paul instructed believers to be wise in their walk or conduct by being filled by the Holy Spirit.

In order for Christians to walk or live as children of light, therefore we need to live in wisdom or we need to live carefully and wisely.

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: “Listen to advice and accept instruction”
- Prayer

Activity: Word Guessing:

Write the words in a strip of cartolina or coupon band. Divide the class into two groups and they will guess the scrambled words and the group that garners with high score will be rewarded.

1. DWOIMS - WISDOM
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7. MYNSH - HYMNS
8. LIVE - EVIL
9. TEG KNDUR - GET DRUNK
10. SIUWNE - UNWISE

Ask: What did you use in guessing the words? Thinking, wisdom  
Ask: Why do we need wisdom?

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let's learn how to live wisely in the midst of the evil world as taught in the book of Ephesians.

Topic: **“Living in Wisdom”**

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21 (*Silent reading for 3 minutes*)

## **SUBSTANCE**

### **Method: Couple Buzzer**

1. In verse 15, what was Paul's admonition (advice) to the Ephesian believers? Answer: Paul told the Ephesian believers to be very careful how to live not as unwise but as wise.

2. How should the believers live carefully and wisely? Verse 16a

Answer: The believers should live carefully and wisely by making the most of every opportunity or it could be said like this: by making the right use of every opportunity.

3. What does it mean when we say, 'by making the most of every opportunity'?

Accept answers...

4. What is the reason why Christians are told to walk or live carefully and wisely? Verse 16b

Answer: The reason for this careful or wise walk is because the days are evil.

5. Can we say that our days are evil? Why? How can we know that our days are evil?

Accept answers...

Say: Many are walking in sin, and since the time is short believers must make full use of their time to help turn them from darkness to light. This necessitates wise conduct.

6. In verse 17, how do you understand the word 'wisdom'? Where does it come from? (cf. James 1:5)

Answer: Wisdom is not foolishness, but it understands what the will of the Lord is and obeys His will.

7. In verse 18, what is the Lord's will, mentioned in negative and positive way?

Answer: **Negative:** Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery (*sin, wickedness, corruption, etc*). **Positive:** be filled with the Spirit.

Say: This means that a person who walks in wisdom is the one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit.

8. What are the four visible results of a Spirit-filled life? Verses 19-20

Answer:

a. The communication with one another with psalms and spiritual songs - verse 19a

b. The communication with the Lord by singing and making melody or music in the heart – verse 19b

c. Thanking God the Father continually for all things – verse 20

d. Submission to one another by willingly serving others out of reverence for Christ.

Say: The last result will be elaborated next Sunday.

=====

Ask: What truth have you learned from our discussion?

**General Truth:** *A man of wisdom is one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit and chooses to do what pleases God.*

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 5:15-16 “Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming (Write their answers on the board)**

- ☉ What are the reasons why Christians sometimes failed to live wisely?
- ☉ Are these reasons visible in our churches?
  
- ☉ How about you, are there times in your life wherein you have acted unwisely? How? *Allow sharing of experiences...*
  
- ☉ Have you desired to live or walk in wisdom? If yes, will you allow the Holy Spirit to take control in your life today and in the coming days?

### **PERFORMANCE**

- ☉ Charting. Identify existing behaviors, attitudes or actions in your life that are considered unwise, then make some resolutions in order to refrain from doing so.

UNWISE CONDUCT	RESOLUTION

- Find a partner and share your struggles in life especially in overcoming unwise conduct or behavior.
- Say: If you lack wisdom, remember what James has said in chapter 1 verse 5 “if any one of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God...” God wants us to live wisely because the days are evil. We need the Holy Spirit to take full control in our lives so that in every opportunity, we can do what is right and pleasing to God.
- After the sharing, pray for each other.
- Song: “Fill Me Now” hymn number 369 – all stanza
- Closing Prayer:
- Assignment: Be wise by living according to the will of God.
- Offering:

## Lesson 12

### LIVING IN MUTUAL SUBMISSION

**Aim:** That my learners will demonstrate mutual submission to one another regardless of status in life.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 5:22-6:9

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 5:21* "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize *Ephesians 5:21*
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Draw a picture
  - For Substance: Charting/Group Work
  - For Significance: Brainstorming
  - For Performance: A Vow of Submission

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: "Jesus is in me & I love you Jesus and (the name of the partner)"
- Prayer

**Individual activity:** Give them a clean paper and instruct them to draw a picture about their understanding of the word SUBMISSION. Then ask two to three volunteers to explain their work.

Ask: According to your work or drawn picture, how do you understand the word submission? Accept answers... Appreciate their work and participation.

**To submit is to obey, love, respect, honor, value, and treat one another justly and fairly...**

**Transition sentence:** This morning, let's learn how you and I could demonstrate mutual submission to one another regardless of status in life.

Topic: "Living in Mutual Submission"

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-6:9 (*Reading by group. first group-5:22-33; second group-6:1-4; third group-6:5-9*)

#### SUBSTANCE

**Method: Charting (Group Work)**

Say: Last Sunday we learned that one of the visible results of a Spirit-controlled believer is submission. Let's try to examine what this submission means to us.

Scripture	Relationship	Command	Reason	Promise
5: 22-33 (cf. 1 Peter 3:1-7)	a. Wives	-Submit to your husbands in everything as to the Lord.	The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.	(Own idea)

	b. husbands	-Love your wives as your own bodies	Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her...	
6:1-4	a. children  b. Fathers or parents	1. Obey your parents which means to do as one is told.  2. Honor your father and mother which means to respect and love.  -Do not exasperate or provoke your children -Instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.	-This is right  -this is the first commandment with a promise	-It may go well with you -They enjoy a prosperous and long life on earth
6:5-9	a. Slaves  b. Masters	-Obey your earthly masters with: 1. respect 2. fear 3. sincerity of heart 4. service as rendered 5. consistency 6. inner motivation 7. wholehearted service  -Treat your slaves in the same way -do not threaten them -treat them justly and fairly or no favoritism	The Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does whether he is slave or free.  Because both of them (master and slaves) were servants with a MASTER (Jesus Christ) who shows no partiality regardless of one's rank.	(Own idea)

Ask:

1. How did Paul compare the husband-wife relationship with the church? What does it mean to submit (wife's role) and love (husband's role)?

Answer: The husband-wife relationship is compared to a church whose head is Jesus Christ. The church is to submit to Jesus Christ so as the wife is to submit to her husband as the head of the wife or family. However, the husband is to love his wife just as Jesus Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.

2. How important it is for the children to obey and honor their parents?

3. In what way the children are provoked by their parents?

4. How shall servants serve their master?

5. To whom Christians are likened or compared to?

\*\*\*Christians are likened or compared to servants of Jesus Christ who are expected to serve Him wholeheartedly, sincerely, and unconditionally.

6. How shall superiors treat their subordinates? Treat their slaves or servants fairly.

=====

Ask: Why do we need to demonstrate mutual submission with other believers? With non-believers?

**General Truth:** *Demonstrating mutual submission preserves order and harmony within the body of Christ as well as with other people, regardless of status in life.*

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 5:21 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Method: **Brainstorming (Write their answers on the board or let the scholars write their ideas on the board)**

- ☉ In our country, can you say that mutual submission among Filipinos has been practiced? Why?
- ☉ In our churches, is there mutual submission among believers? Why?
- ☉ In our family, do we demonstrate love and respect to our parents and siblings? *Encourage some scholars to share their experience...*
- ☉ How about you? Are there times that you feel hard to submit to your parents, authorities, or co-students? Why? *Allow the scholars to share...*
- ☉ As children of God, are you willing to submit to His will and surrender everything to Him including the hidden agenda in your life? Are you willing to honor, love and respect others regardless of their status in life?

### **PERFORMANCE**

- Read from the heart the "A Vow of Submission".

#### A Vow of Submission

As a servant of God, I promise to yield myself to His will and plan in my life;  
I will obey and respect my parents as required by God with a promise of long life on earth;  
I will love and honor my (future) husband/wife;  
I will respect and treat others fairly regardless of their status in life;  
I will serve earthly masters as to serve my heavenly Master Jesus Christ.

Today, I resubmit my life to Him and promise to set an example of love and respect to anybody else.

- Song: "I surrender All"

- Closing Prayer:
- Assignment: Remember that our submission with other believers Be wise by living according to the will of God.
- Offering:

## Lesson 13

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### STAND UP AND FIGHT!

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**Aim:** That my learners will put on the full armor of God to stand against the devil's schemes.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 6:10-20; 21-24

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 6:11* "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

#### In Advance

1. Pray for yourself, the lesson and the scholars.
2. Study the Scripture text and its background and internalize the lesson
3. Memorize *Ephesians 6:11*
4. Prepare:
  - For Entrance: Matching Type
  - For Substance: Buzz Group
  - For Significance: Brainstorming
  - For Performance: Pledge of Loyalty

### CLASS SESSION

#### ENTRANCE

- Greetings:
- Song: "Martsa, martsa gagmay nga sundalo (dagku)"
- Prayer

#### Method: Matching Type

Match column A with column B. Write the answer on the space provided for.

<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>
___ 1. Good News	c. Helmet
___ 2. Righteousness	o. Sword
___ 3. Word of God	y. Breastplate
___ 4. Salvation	r. Knee-cap
___ 5. Truth	v. Shield
___ 6. Faith	t. Shoes
___ 7. Prayer	i. Belt

Note: Arrange the letters to form a word out from your answers. The first individual who can arrange it will be rewarded.

Answer: 1. t 2. y 3. o 4. c 5. I 6. v 7. r **(victory)**

Ask: What have you observed in our activity?

**Transition sentence:** Today, let's learn that every believer can stand against the devil's schemes by putting on the full armor of God as demonstrated in the last chapter of the Book of Ephesians.

Topic: “Stand Up and Fight!”

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20, 21-24 (*Reading will depend upon the teacher*)

## SUBSTANCE

### Method: Buzz Group

Say: In our previous lessons we studied that as God’s children we should know how to walk with Him daily. So in the last section of our lesson today, Paul used the final signal “finally” which means that this section discusses a believer’s use of God’s resources to help him stand against evil powers.

### GROUP I - PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD

1. How did Paul begin his teaching regarding the spiritual warfare? Verse 10

Answer: Paul began his teaching by using a tough command to all believers to be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. This means that believers can be strengthened not only by the person of the Lord, Jesus Christ but also by His resources.

2. Why do we need the armor of God? verses 11, 12

Answer: So that we can take stand against the devil’s scheme. For our struggle is not.... *Please continue the statement and make a brief explanation.*

3. When can a believer become strong in the Lord? Verses 11, 13

Answer: When he puts on the whole armor of God.

Note: It is God’s armor, not ours. We are to “put on”, meaning it is a finished product. We need not make. We just put on. It must be the whole armor. Every part should be worn, not just some parts.

### GROUP II - THE ARMOR DESCRIBED

4. What are the parts of the armor of God and their significance? (Let’s start from head to foot)

a. **verse 17 – helmet of salvation**. Satan wants to make us doubt God, Jesus, and our salvation. The helmet protects our minds from doubting God’s saving work for us.

b. **verse 14b – breastplate of righteousness**. Satan often attacks our hearts – the seat of our emotions, self-worth, and trust. God’s righteousness is the breastplate that protects our hearts and ensures his support. He supports us because He loves us and sent His Son to die for us.

c. **verse 16 – shield of faith**. What we see are Satan’s attacks in the form of insults, setbacks, and temptations. But the shield of faith protects us from Satan’s flaming arrows. With God’s perspective, we can see beyond our circumstances and know that ultimate victory is ours.

d. **verse 17 - sword of the Spirit**. The sword is the only weapon of offense in this list of armor. There are times when we need to take the offensive against Satan. When we are tempted, we need to trust in the truth of God’s Word.

e. **verse 14 – belt of truth**. Satan fights with lies, and sometimes his lies sound like TRUTH; but only believers have God’s truth (the Word of God) which can defeat Satan’s lies.

f. **verse 18 - knee-cap of prayers**. Satan attacks Christians by making them lazy especially in praying. Paul said, ‘pray on all occasions.’ One way is to make quick, brief prayers your habitual response to every situation you meet throughout the day. Another way is to order your life around God’s desires and teachings so that your very life becomes a prayer. You can make

prayer your life and your life a prayer while living in a world that needs God's powerful influence. 'Praying for all the saints' means praying for all believers in Christ, so pray for the Christians you know and for the church around the world.

g. **verse 15 – shoes** (readiness to spread the Good News). Satan wants us to think that telling others the Good News is a worthless and hopeless task – the size of the task is too big and the negative responses are too much to handle. But the footgear or shoes God gives us is the motivation to continue to proclaim the true peace that is available in God – the news everyone needs to hear.

Note: There are seven parts. It is a perfect number. When you miss one or two parts, you are making yourself a victim of the devil's attack.

### **GROUP III - RESULTS EXPECTED**

5. What are the results when we put on the whole armor of God?

- a. verse 11 – you can stand against the devil's schemes
- b. verse 13 – you may be able to stand your ground
- c. verse 16 – you can extinguish or quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one

Note: There are parts that are for defensive and for offensive. In fighting, we should know our enemy, use the proper equipment and face the enemy squarely. Remember, there is no armor at your back. Therefore no turning back, no retreat but always advance.

### **GROUP IV - FINAL GREETINGS**

6. Generally, how did Paul begin and end up his letter to the Ephesian believers? Verses 21-24  
Answer: Paul began his letter with the words "grace" and "peace" (1:2), and he concluded it with the same words asking or invoking God's blessings on those who have entered into the transforming truths of this short epistle. The peace to which Paul referred is available to all who will enter into the victories, and grace is always available to those who claim it. May those of us who know Christ, return regularly to the Book of Ephesians to be reminded of our position in Him and then may we live accordingly to live a life abundantly.

Ask: What truth have you learned from our discussion?

**General Truth:** *The battle we are facing is not merely a game; therefore we should put on the full armor of God.*

**Memory Verse:** *Ephesians 6:11 "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

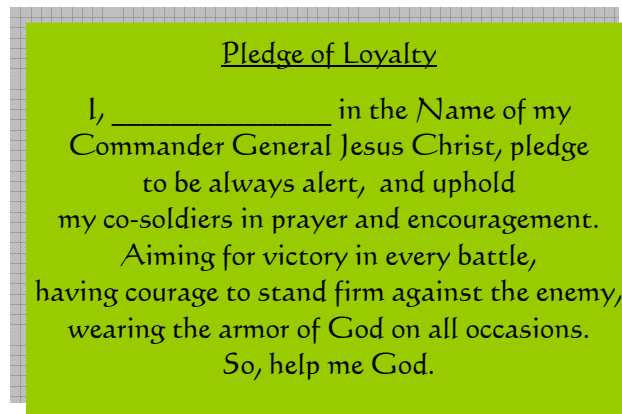
Method: **Brainstorming (Write their answers on the board or let the scholars write their ideas on the board)**

☉ What are some reasons why Christians are having struggles against the enemy?

- ☉ In our churches, why is it that members are having conflicts sometimes lead to splitting of church?
- ☉ How about you? Are you wearing the appropriate armor of God in your daily walk with Him? Why?
- ☉ Out of the seven armor of God, which of them need to be enhanced or developed in order for you to win in any spiritual battle?

## PERFORMANCE

- ☉ Give you scholars a copy of the pledge.



- Song: “Onward Christian Soldiers” (All stanzas)
- Closing Prayer:
- Assignment: As we end this school year, may we always wear the full armor of God on all occasions to stand against the devil’s schemes.
- Offering:

## ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

### I

Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war  
With the Cross of Jesus going on before  
Christ the royal Master, leads against the foe  
Forward into battle, See His banners go.

Chorus:

Onward, Christian soldiers marching as to war  
With the Cross of Jesus going on before.

### II

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God  
Brothers we are treading where the saints have trod

We are not divided all one body we  
One in hope and doctrine one in charity. (Chorus)

### **III**

Crowns and thrones may perish Kingdoms rise and wane  
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain  
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail  
We have Christ's own promise and that cannot fail. (Chorus)

### **IV**

Onward then ye people join our happy throng  
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song  
Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King  
This through countless ages men and angels sing. (Chorus)