



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for May 3, 2009
Released on April 29, 2009

"God's New Family"

Lesson Text: Ephesians 1:3-14

Background Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

Memory Verse: "[God chose] us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself" (Ephesians 1:5).

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children to be aware of special things God has done for those who are in His family.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** God loves and wants people even though they have sinned.
- 2.** God made a way (the cross) to bring people into His family.
- 3.** God makes certain special things to be true for everyone who comes into His family.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For *Beginning the Lesson*, you will need a Bible.

For *Telling the Lesson*, find flannelgraph figures or pictures of Adam and Eve and a cross. Prepare signs that say "God's family," "In Christ," "No blame," and "God's child." Have your Bible handy.

For *Helping to Remember*, you will need one "thank you" greeting card as an example. Provide for each student half a sheet of construction paper, crayons, and other items to decorate their card.

For *Lesson Activity*, you will need a copy of the word search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 60

Place: from Rome

After a gospel service, a Communist party member once approached the speaker with a question: "And what do I *get* if I believe in Jesus?" You can imagine the speaker's joy at being able to tell the person.

The first lesson of our final unit will introduce the children to certain blessings they have or would receive by believing in Jesus.

In Ephesians 1, the Apostle Paul teaches profound truths concerning what God planned from eternity for those who would simply believe what He said about His Son. The Apostle Paul teaches that God has given us far more than we deserve simply because we have trusted in Jesus.

God puts us into a relationship with Jesus and calls it being "in Christ." He gives us the Holy Spirit as His seal. He writes, as it were, His name on each one, thus identifying each as a blameless member of His family. Truths such as these call for saying 'thank you' to the Lord.

This week's lesson focuses on the family relationship with God the Father that comes for those who believe in Christ. The way of new life that God provides establishes a spiritual family. It brings together people of all languages and cultures throughout the world. The family of God is a blessed, diverse group of people who have been joined together by their common faith in Jesus Christ.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

"So what did you learn in Sunday school today?" Nicky's mother always asked that.

"We learned different ways God says the people in His family are special," Nicky said. "Miss Jonson told us three ways. She said there are more, though."

Nicky's mother wanted to know how God's people are special, and Nicky told her. (Open your Bible.) Would *you* like to know how the people in God's family are special?

TELLING THE LESSON:

This lesson really starts back when God made the first people (Show *Adam and Eve*). It was not long before Adam and Eve spoiled things by choosing to do what they wanted instead of obeying God.

The Lord knew that now all the people born into the world would grow up to be just like Adam and Eve - wanting to please themselves instead of Him. That is just what happened. That is the sad part.

The good part is that God still loves the people He has made, even though all of us have done wrong. He very much wants people to be in His family, but God knew there was only one way for that to happen. That way is Jesus.

The Bible says Jesus took our sins on Himself when He died on the cross. (Show *cross*.) You see, people's wrong doing - our wrong doing - has been punished already. It happened when Jesus died. When people believe that, God puts them into His wonderful family. Believing in Jesus is the only way to get there.

Now some very good and special things are true for anyone who is in God's family (Show "God's family"). Sometimes being in God's family is called being in Christ (Show "In Christ"). If you are one of God's children, He planned long ago that you would be in Him. That is a very good place to be, because it means you are connected to Jesus in a special way.

Another special thing about being in God's family is that you are blameless. "Blameless" means no blame. (Show "No blame.") Sometimes we get blamed for things we did not do. Other times, though, we are blamed for things we really did do. We know we really do not please the Lord all the time, but if you are in God's family, He promises never to blame you for not doing what is right. You see, Jesus was blamed instead of you. Instead of blaming you, God has made you His very own child (Show "God's child"). You belong to Him. Giving you the Holy Spirit is God's way of saying, "This boy or girl, man or woman, is Mine."

Yes, the people in God's family are special. (Point to each set of words as you mention it.) They are in Christ, they are not blamed for any of the wrong things they have done, and God says they are His very own children. And never forget that the men and women and boys and girls in God's family get those special things just because of Jesus. (Hold out your Bible.) The Bible says people are going to say good things about God because He has done those special things for the people in His family. Shall we say thank you?

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

God loved us so much that He chose to adopt us into His family. There are many blessings that come with being a part of the family of God. Children tend to do things the way their parents do. It is no different with God's children. They do things like their Father, such as be kind, merciful, and wise. Try your best to be like Him.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Show the thank you greeting card. Suggest making a "thank you" card for God. Allow the students to decorate and display their cards.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

**"[God chose] us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself"
(Ephesians 1:5)**

Long ago God planned to do something good for us. Jesus would come and die in our place so that God could make us His own children. That would be His way of putting people into His family.

Our new life as believers in Christ puts us into a family relationship with God the Father. This is made possible through Christ's death on the cross. God adopts us into His own spiritual family the moment that we receive Christ as our Saviour. We become His children.

CONCLUSION:

This week's lesson reminds us that we have certain special things (spiritual blessings) because we are children of God. God had His eyes on us even before we were born. He loved us, He chose us, and He made a plan to make us part of His own family. How wonderful to realize that God thought of us long before we ever thought of Him! He loved us so much that He chose to adopt us into His family, and this He has done for His own glory!

PRAYER:

Father God, we know that You love us. Thank You for making a way and bringing us into Your family. Help us to be like You so that others may know that we belong to You, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "New Life in Jesus" and will stress that God has given us new life through faith in Jesus. Study Ephesians 2:1-10.

Lesson Summarized By:

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

LESSON ACTIVITY

"God's New Family" (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Find each of the following words.

BLESSINGS

HEAVEN

CHILDREN

FAMILY

EARTH

GOSPEL

CHOSEN

GLORY

ADOPTION

BLAMELESS

FATHER

JESUS CHRIST

EPHESIANS

HOLY SPIRIT

BELIEVERS

GRACE

N C H I L D R E N S E P H E I L L E M S T C A
T C E O B L A H I T O P F E H F S P C H I A I
L S S Y R O L G U H T A H E L G R A C E R U T
Y O R P T E B L E A T S G E E F F D T I I A S
R S C G S H L E S H N Y R L S A M S S E P G S
S E A Y S G E A E I T E E H M I I E H Y S S M
C B E S E L S R E R F L S I D R A G S E Y A R
I E E C L I S I P D T L L O H A N N M H L R C
E E R D E J I S P H S Y N C H O V A S S O Y I
S H C H M O N H T R A E S I I C I I S E H S H
S B I S A L G A C E C U L T R S G O S P E L H
A A O E L B S P A E S S P A H E A V E N V L C
I E L B B P A S N E R O J E O R E E O J B I I
A R H L A T E G J A D E S R E A S S E E E E Y
F E I C E E E D S A H S R E V E I L E B I T S
G G E S A C J O M I F B L L T N A C N E E S L

Solution to Lesson Activity

"God's New Family" Ephesians 1:3-14

C H I L D R E N E T
P F I
Y R O L G A H G R A C E R
B T E F T I
S L H N S A S P
S E E E M I I S
E S R S I R A Y
L S L O H N N L
E I Y C H O S O
M N H T R A E S I C H
A G U T G O S P E L
L S S P H E A V E N
B E O
J D
A S R E V E I L E B