



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for May 10, 2009
Released on May 7, 2009

"New Life in Jesus"

Lesson Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Background Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Verse: "By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)

Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
- 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
- 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that salvation is an undeserved gift from God, received by faith, and not something that can be earned by good behavior.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. We all lack the ability to live without God.
2. Everlasting life is God's gift, not something we get as a reward for being good.
3. God's only requirement of us is that we believe in the Saviour He has sent (Jesus).

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, you need a Bible.

For Telling the Lesson, make three flash cards, using different colors, with the following words: "life," "grace," and "gift." Bring a picture of a cross. Take a small package wrapped as a gift. Keep your Bible handy.

For Helping to Remember, provide for each child a sheet of white construction paper and crayons.

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

God is willing to give us what we most need, eternal life, as a gift. That is the mind-boggling truth students are to carry away with them this week. Ephesians 2:1-10 emphasizes both the need for eternal life and its availability for free.

No gift is ever paid for by the one who receives it; it is paid for by the giver. Elvina M. Hall, the writer of "Jesus Paid It All" had it right. We need salvation. Jesus paid for it. It is ours for the taking. It is free.

This lesson will help your students understand that the everlasting life everyone needs is available as a gift but never as a reward.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Who wants to tell us what a gift is? How many of you have ever received a gift? How much did you pay for it? Nothing? You must have paid for it somehow. Maybe somebody said, "If you do this extra nice thing for me, I will give you this present." No? Not that, either? What *did* you do to get the gift? You took it! And if you were polite, you said thank you!

You may not know it, but God has a present He wants to give us. People keep trying to pay Him for it, but it is a gift! You will be hearing about that gift today. (Open your Bible.)

TELLING THE LESSON:

Last Sunday we heard how God's people are special in different ways. One way we did not talk about is that they have a new kind of life. (Show "life.")

The Bible even says here that before people are in God's family they are really dead. (Point to Ephesians 2.) We know that our *bodies* are not dead. We walk. We talk. We play. We work. We certainly have the life we need for living in this world.

There is another kind of life, however, the eternal kind. That is the kind that is with God in heaven. And the Bible says that unless people are in God's family, they do not have eternal life.

Why not? Because sin has spoiled the way to heaven. Every one of us has done things that do not please God, even if most of the time we try to be good. That is called sinning, and sin has put us all in trouble. The Bible calls this trouble being dead in our sins. That means not one of us is ready to live in God's beautiful home the way we are. Without Christ, we just do not have the kind of life we need to live there. (Point to "life.")

I am glad that God knew what to do. And because He loves us so much, what He did was very kind. Jesus said He would come to die for our sins. Then God could forgive our wrongs and give us the kind of life we need. (Point to "life.")

You see, life in heaven is a present. It is something we do not deserve. You know what "deserve" means. When you study hard and get all your spelling words right, you *deserve* a good grade on your paper. It is a reward for studying.

Life in heaven is not a reward. We do not have to earn it. We cannot do any good thing to get it. It is a gift from God that Jesus paid for with His own life. (Show cross.) God gives it to us when we believe what He says about Jesus.

What a kind thing for God to do! The Bible says that kindness is grace. (Show "grace.") Grace means you get something good when you do not deserve to get anything good.

If we did anything to get eternal life, we could brag and boast, "Look at me! I was so good that God gave me eternal life." Being good is better than being bad, but doing good things is not what gets us eternal life. God says life in heaven is a present, not a reward. (Show "gift.") And the way to get any gift is just to take it and say thank you. (Hold up gift box.) We take God's gift by believing Jesus died for us and rose again.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

After we have received God's gift of life, He does want us to do what He calls good works. That means trying to please Jesus every day.

Encourage the class to understand that when we accept Christ as Saviour, God changes the course of our lives. Jesus has already paid the price for our salvation. Receiving new life in Christ costs us nothing but our faith in what Jesus has already done for us.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Show the class how to evenly fold their papers in half. On the front they should draw a large cross with green grass and print the word "LIFE" at the base. On the inside have them print "It is the gift of God" and decorate the page.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8)

This verse is talking about how God saves people from being punished for their sins. "By grace" means we have not done anything to deserve being saved.

We cannot ever be good enough. Instead, God kindly saves us as a present when we believe what He says about His Son. Believing is what having faith in Jesus means.

CONCLUSION:

We were once lost in sin – doing things that did not please God. But God sent Jesus to die on the cross and to save us by His grace. Now we are members of the new family that God has established in Christ.

God has given us new life through faith in Jesus. This new life is God's gift to us and is not something that we can earn as a reward. He saved us by His grace to do good works that will bring glory to His name!

PRAYER:

Father God, thank You for the new life that You have given us in Christ. We praise You for Your grace and the gift of eternal life. Help us to share the good news of Your grace, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is **"Serving Together for Jesus."** The body of Christ may be made of believers from different groups of people, but we all serve the Lord together. Study Ephesians 3:1-13.

Have a blessed Mother's Day!

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:

“New Life in Jesus” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Find the following keywords from the lesson:

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|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| JESUS | KINDNESS | SINS | MERCY |
| SALVATION | GIFT | ETERNALLIFE | FAITH |
| LOVE | BOAST | SAVED | GRACE |
| HEAVEN | HEAVEN | NEWLIFE | CHILDREN |

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Solution to Lesson Activity:

"New Life in Jesus"
(Ephesians 2:1-10)

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