



Mustard Seed Children Lesson Summary for May 17, 2009
Released on Wednesday, May 13, 2009

“Serving Together for Jesus”

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Background Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-13

Lesson Text: Ephesians 3:1-13

Memory Verse:

“The Gentiles [are] fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ” (Ephesians 3:6).

Ephesians 3:1-13

- 1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
- 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
- 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words;
- 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ,)
- 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
- 6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.
- 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.
- 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;
- 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:
- 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,
- 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:
- 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.
- 13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that all believers in Jesus are special to God and eligible to receive the good things He has promised those who are Christ's.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1.** God puts the people who belong to Jesus in a special group sometimes called the body of Christ.
- 2.** Gentile as well as Jewish believers are in that group.
- 3.** All in God's special group receive what He has promised believers in Jesus, including forgiveness and everlasting life.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, make a sign that says "NEWS" in red letters. Bring a flannel graph figure or picture of Paul. You will need a Bible. You will also use the "NEWS" sign in Telling the Lesson.

For Telling the Lesson, make these flash cards: "Jews," "Gentiles," and "Us Too." Also, draw a red cross on paper.

For Helping to Remember, provide for each student crayons and half a sheet of yellow construction paper. Make a sample ahead of time to display.

For Lesson Activity, make a copy of the word search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: A.D. 60

Place: from Rome

In Old Testament times it was no secret that the Jews were the people God planned to work through. It was also no secret that He cared for the Gentiles too and that they would someday bow to Him as well. What was a secret was that there would someday be a body of Christ, one organism made up of both Jews and Gentiles. God used Paul to reveal that secret to the church at Ephesus.

We must remember that at this time, Paul was a prisoner in Rome because he preached the gospel of Christ. Paul writes to the church at Ephesus to make plain what was once a mystery. Paul revealed the wonder of God's plan for all people and explained how God had opened the doors of heaven through the cross for Jews and Gentiles alike.

Sunday school teachers and parents alike know that one of the most common childhood expressions is "Me too." This week's lesson is about this expression in the best sense of the words. Both believing Jews and Gentiles, because of where they are (in the body of Christ), are eligible to inherit all God has promised those who are Christ's. Each Gentile believer may say with confidence, "Me too!"

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Did you ever write a letter? Why do people write letters? (Accept answers.) Maybe we just want to say hello or we want people to know we are thinking about them. Sometimes we have a question to ask. In most letters there is some kind of news we want to tell. (Show "NEWS.")

Paul the apostle wrote a letter. (Show Paul.) It was to his church friends in the city of Ephesus. (Show Ephesians in your Bible.) Let us see what he wrote about.

TELLING THE LESSON:

First Paul said hello. He said he knew about them. He knew they were believers in Jesus. And he said God had given him some news to tell them. (Point to "NEWS.")

That news was about something God had planned to do for a long time. He had just not let anybody know. The news was that He was making a new group of special people. (Point to "NEWS.")

Long ago God chose the Jews to be His special people. (Show "Jews.") He wanted His special people to do some special things. When Jesus came, He was born into a Jewish family. Any people who were not Jews were called Gentiles. (Show "Gentiles.") God was kind to Gentiles, but they were not set apart for Him like Jewish people.

When Jesus died, however, He died for everyone. (Show cross.) When He was on the cross, He did not take on Himself just the wrongdoing of Jewish people. He also took the sins of us Gentiles. He died for us too. (Show "Us Too.")

God was already making His new group of special people. The Jewish people who believed the good news about Jesus would be in it. But God had also planned that the

Gentiles who believed the good news that Jesus had died for them would also be in this same new group. And that means us too. (Point to "Us Too.")

Paul said, "That is the news that has been kept secret for such a long time." (Point to "NEWS.")

You see, people who believe in Jesus, whoever they are, Jew or Gentile, are very special to God. They are many people, but they are one group. The Bible sometimes calls them the body of Christ. God had promised a Saviour. (Show cross.) He came for the Jews. He came for the Gentiles. He came for us too. (Point to "Us Too.") God puts us into that special group of people when we believe what He says about Jesus.

Again, what was the news? (Point to "NEWS.") God was going to make a special group of people. Both Jews and Gentiles would be in it. (Point to "Us Too.") Since God puts all believing people in the same special group, all have the same good things, which are forgiveness and eternal life. And if we believe in Jesus, we have that too. (Point to "Us Too.") Paul said that even the angels will see how wise God is to plan this and make it happen.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

As we read about Paul and his writings to different churches, it is evident that Jews and Gentiles worshiped and served together for Jesus. This should be a model for present-day churches. Only in a group where Jesus dwells could diverse people live and serve together as one loving family.

God loved us long before we were born and made plans for our future in Jesus Christ. Always remember that Jesus came for us too. Everlasting life is for us too. Forgiveness for sins is ours too. Being in God's special family is also ours. We should please Jesus today and tell other people the good news!

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

The children will make a sign for display somewhere at home. Show a sample. Let them print "US TOO" in large, well-spaced capitals. They can decorate their signs however they wish.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"The Gentiles [are] fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ" (Ephesians 3:6)

Long ago God chose the Jews to do special things for Him. But that did not mean He did not love any Gentiles, the rest of the people in the world. When Jesus died, it was for the sins of both Jewish people and Gentiles.

Now God takes the Jews who believe in Jesus and the Gentiles who believe in Jesus and puts them together into one new body, or group. "Fellow heirs" means they *both* get all the good things God has promised people who belong to Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

God's plan was once a mystery. What was once not clear to people has now been made clear to those who accept Jesus as Saviour. The gospel message is not just for one group of people. The gospel message is for everyone.

PRAYER:

Father, we praise You for all the good things You have done for us. We thank You that Jesus came for us too. Help us please Jesus and to tell others about Him. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Family Life God's Way" and explains that God's way is for parents to love and respect each other and for children to obey. Study Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4.

Lesson Summarized By:

Renee Little
Jesus Is All Ministries
www.jesuisall.com

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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:

"Serving Together for Jesus"

(Ephesians 3:1-13)

Find the following keywords from the lesson:

FELLOW HEIRS

MYSTERY

SPECIAL

BODY OF CHRIST

TOGETHER

GRACE

BELIEVERS

CHURCH

PROMISE

FAITH

PLAN

SECRET

JEWS

SERVE

FORGIVENESS

GENTILES

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

Solution to Lesson Activity:

"Serving Together for Jesus"

(Ephesians 3:1-13)

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F E L L O W H E I R S I N N E
S A E B
S W E J T L G
F A I T H P
H C R U H C