



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 2, November 2008
Released on Wednesday, October 29, 2008

"Using Your Gifts"

DEVOTIONAL READING: 1 Corinthians 12:4–20. Matthew 28:16-20

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: 1 Corinthians 12:3–21; Ephesians 4:1–16.

MEMORY VERSE: "Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Ephesians 4:7).

LESSON TEXT: Ephesians 4:1–16.

- 1** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
- 2** With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love;
- 3** Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 4** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
- 5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- 6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- 7** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
- 8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
- 9** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
- 10** He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)
- 11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- 12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- 13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
- 14** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- 15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
- 16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON:

Let your identity in Christ affect the way you behave. That was Paul's plea to the Ephesian believers.

He devoted the first half of this letter to listing the blessings God had showered on them simply because they were believers. They were "in Christ," and now he urged them to act like it.

He wrote first of the kind of behavior that is appropriate when Christians deal with one another. Befitting behavior is unspoiled by pride or efforts to advance oneself. There is instead a willingness to serve. Believers should patiently put up with others. They should try hard to not do anything that would cause division in the local body.

Paul moved on to what else God has done. He has supplied each believer with at least one special ability, not for that person's own benefit but to help others. And is that not fitting behavior for a child of God? He has provided gifted leaders. They serve the entire body so that each member may grow and contribute.

Some of our students are already believers, and we pray others will be. It is exciting to think that the Lord already has work planned for each of them. We deal every week with a precious commodity—God's own future servants.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God wants His children to do the good things that go with being a child of God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. The Bible tells us to behave like the children of God that we are.
2. Jesus gives believers both their abilities and people to help them live fittingly.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a chalkboard or a sign reading "proper."

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of Paul and that of a present-day pastor preaching. Make a scroll, using a sheet of paper and two chopsticks. (You will also use this in later lessons.)

For Helping to Remember, each child will need a white paper plate, crayons, and scissors with blunt tip.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Good morning, boys and girls. (Comment on the weather.) But let us suppose the day is snowy. A boy comes out of his house wearing a swimsuit. What would you say to him? (Accept answers.) Why? His clothes do not go with the weather! Some grown-up might say the swimsuit was not *proper* clothing for a snowy day. (Print "proper" on the chalkboard or show sign.) Wearing a swimsuit just did not fit with the way things were. Today the Bible is going to tell us something about what is proper for God's children to be doing every day. (Point to "proper.")

TELLING THE LESSON

The story starts with Jesus' friend Paul. (Show Paul.) He was the man who used to be called Saul. He used to make trouble for Jesus' people too. But when he himself believed in Jesus, Saul changed. Now he wanted to help them. So one day he wrote a long letter to a church in another place. In those days, letters looked like this. (Show scroll.)

First he told them what good things the Lord had done for them. He had let them hear about Jesus so that they could believe in Him and be His people. He forgave their sins. He gave them never-ending life. He had wonderful things planned for them.

"So now," Paul wrote, "since you belong to God, please, please do what is proper." (Point to "proper.") I think you know what he meant. Keep doing the sorts of things that go along with being God's children.

Then, in case they did not know, Paul told them what some of those proper things were. (Point to "proper," and hold up a finger as you mention each item.) Do not be proud of yourself and what you can do. Be patient with others. Do not fuss at another believer in Jesus when he does not do something just the way you would like him to. And stay away from fighting or quarreling.

In a way, he told them, people who believe in Jesus are all like parts of one body. There is one heavenly Father. There is one Lord Jesus. There is one Holy Spirit. And now there is this one big family of people who believe in Jesus. We can keep from spoiling that "oneness" by doing what is proper every day. (Point to "proper.")

Now God has done something that will help us do what is proper. First, Paul wrote, "He has made each one of you able to help other people in some way." Then he said that God has given the whole church leaders who help us all. (Show pastor preaching.) These leaders teach and preach and help in other ways, while we help each other. All that helps us to live proper lives. (Point to "proper.") And that makes all God's people grow to be the kind of people He wants them to be.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Do you belong to Jesus? If you do, do *you* do the kinds of things that go along with being God's very own child? Doing what fits with being a child of God—that is living for Jesus.

Who can remember one thing Paul said is proper for you to do or not do if you belong to Jesus? (Point to "proper," and review Paul's counsel. Close with prayer.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Let the children print "proper" along the inside edge of their paper plates and in the center draw themselves doing something that fits with belonging to Jesus. Last, they may cut scallops around the edge.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Ephesians 4:7).

This verse says Jesus gives each one of God's children a special present. That present is being able to do something especially well for Him and for other people. And He is the one who decides what each gift will be.

Everyone enjoys getting gifts, especially those in the age-group of your class. The word translated "grace" here means "gift." God's gifts are especially wonderful because He is God.

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.

Living for Jesus (Ephesians 4:1-16)

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

BODY
DECEIVE
FAITH
GOD
MEEKNESS
PRISONER
TEACHERS
WORTHY

CHILDREN
DOCTRINE
FATHER
GRACE
ONE
SAINTS
TRUTH

CHRIST
EDIFYING
GIFTS
LOVE
PASTORS
SPIRIT
WALK

22 of 22 words were placed into the puzzle.

Living for Jesus Solution (Ephesians 4:1-16)

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

(Over, Down, Direction)

BODY (10, 2, SW)
CHILDREN (8, 14, NW)
CHRIST (14, 1, S)
DECEIVE (2, 12, E)
DOCTRINE (11, 1, W)
EDIFYING (9, 13, N)
FAITH (9, 10, SE)
FATHER (6, 7, SW)
GIFTS (6, 13, N)
GOD (8, 10, N)
GRACE (10, 14, NE)
LOVE (7, 8, S)
MEEKNESS (15, 6, S)
ONE (5, 14, NW)
PASTORS (7, 7, NE)
PRISONER (7, 6, SE)
SAINTS (14, 15, W)
SPIRIT (1, 1, SE)
TEACHERS (8, 1, SW)
TRUTH (10, 8, E)
WALK (13, 7, W)
WORTHY (14, 7, NW)