

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 49

Ephesians

Objects to have:

Sign for this new Bible book: EPHESIANS
Believe Right

The “mailman”
An object to represent an idol
Chalk and chalkboard
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Show the children the mailman who has in his bag a letter to the people of Ephesus. On the outside write, TO THE EPHESIANS. Tell the children that this is a new letter that Paul wrote, and that it is in the Bible. Review with the children the letters which have been found in the mailbag—letters in the New Testament which are addressed to other people, but which we are to read. Say with the children: Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians and now Ephesians.) Paul wrote all these letters to people who were living in these different places.

Paul had been called Saul. Saul got saved. Sometime after that his name was changed to Paul. Paul wrote the book to the Ephesians. The book of Ephesians is here in the New Testament part of the Bible. (Show the children where it is found.)

Telling the story:

(Put down your Bible and hold up the object which you have brought to represent an idol.) See this? It’s like a little statue. It’s just a make-believe thing. There are people who kneel down before statues, some big statues and some little statues. They pray to these statues. They look to these statues and expect the statues to give them what they need and want. They expect the statues to hear their prayers.

In Ephesus, the city where the Ephesians lived, there was a huge statue. The statue looked like a lady; the statue was named Diana. This statue was in a big building. The people would come to this big building, go inside, and kneel down and pray to this statue named Diana. They would expect this thing, that they called a god, to hear them, and to see them, and to help them.

(Hold up the object which you have.) Can this thing see you? Can it hear you? Can it do anything for you? No, of course not. Neither could Diana, but the Devil had convinced the people in Ephesus that the idol Diana could do something for them. The people in the city who had made the huge statue also made little statues like the big one. These little statues of Diana were put on tables and desks in the homes of the people.

Of course, when the people got these little statues, they paid money for them. The people who sold them then had more money than they had before; they were getting rich. A lot of the statues were made of silver. One man in Ephesus made the silver statues. He was making lots of money. He had a good business. His name was Demetrius. One day Paul traveled to Ephesus. After he had been there for a while, he saw and heard Demetrius.

On some days Paul preached in the synagogue—the Jewish church. On some days Paul also went from house to house, telling people about Jesus. When Paul preached or when he talked to people at their houses, people listened. Many of those people asked Jesus to be their Saviour. After they asked Jesus to be their Saviour, they threw away the statues of Diana, and they did not buy any more of the statues. So, Demetrius did not sell so many statues of Diana because many of the people no longer believed that Diana was a god; they believed in Jesus, that He is the Son of God.

Demetrius was upset! He was angry! Demetrius would not be getting as much money as he had been getting, and it was because people were trusting Jesus as their Saviour. The people had heard Paul's preaching, and they were getting saved! Demetrius was angry with Paul; in fact, he hated Paul. If Paul had not come preaching about Jesus, those people would not have trusted Jesus. If they had not trusted Jesus, they would still be buying statues.

Demetrius went to see Paul. He said, "Paul, get out of Ephesus! Stop teaching the people about Jesus." See, he did not care whether people went to Heaven or not; he cared only about getting money for himself.

Demetrius could see that Paul was not going to leave. Paul wanted to tell more people about Jesus. Paul wanted the people to know the truth and not lies. The big lie was that Diana was a god. The truth is that Jesus is the Son of God and that people need to trust Him as their Saviour.

Demetrius was so mad because Paul would not leave! Demetrius went to the mayor of the city and to the city council. He said, "This man Paul is causing trouble. He is a bad man to have in this city." These were lies about Paul! Demetrius kept on telling the lies; day after day he told everybody, who would listen to him, lies about Paul.

Demetrius caused so much trouble that Paul finally decided he should leave Ephesus. How sad the Ephesian Christian people were. They loved Paul. They loved to hear Paul preach. They needed Paul's preaching. The first time that the Ephesians had heard about Heaven was when Paul had told them. Paul had told them how they could be sure that they were going to Heaven when they died. They loved Paul. They did not want their preacher, Paul, to leave the city of Ephesus, but he had to go.

Paul would not forget the Ephesian Christians. Even though Paul went to another city where he was preaching and telling other people about Jesus, Paul was still thinking about the Ephesian people. He was thinking about how he loved those people. He wanted very much to see some of the men of the church of Ephesus. So, he sent a message to Ephesus, asking that some of the men come to see him.

The men were happy to get the invitation, so some of the men who had become preachers and deacons in the church went to see Paul. When they saw him, that was a happy time! It was a happy time for Paul, and it was a happy time for those Ephesian preachers and deacons.

The Ephesian preachers and deacons and Paul all sat down to talk. Paul asked how things were going in Ephesus. He learned that the Christians were still loving the Lord and wanted to do right. While Paul talked with the men, he decided that he should remind all the Ephesian Christians of some things. He could not go to them and preach to them, so he decided to write a letter to them. Paul asked someone to write down the words that he wanted to put into the letter to the Ephesians.

Paul said to the Ephesians in this letter (pretend to write a letter), "Children, obey your parents," "Love one another," "Remember that if you hurt anyone—if you make fun of any one of the Christians—you have hurt all the Christians." Those were good words for the Ephesians to remember. Those are good words for us to remember, too.

(Draw a large stick figure on the chalkboard. Call the figure "Christian.") Let's let this stick figure remind us of all Christians. Christians are people who have trusted Jesus as their Saviour; Christians belong to God's family. Christians all together are just like one body. The head of that body is Jesus. (Write the name Jesus opposite the head.) Sometimes our bodies get hurt. What happens when we fall down and skin our knees? Tears come, hands slide to the knee and the mouth says, "Ouch." Eyes look at the knee. Your back bends so that the eyes can see the knee, etc. (Dramatize the foregoing so that the children can picture what you are saying. The point, of course, is that when one part of the body is hurt, the entire body suffers or joins in the suffering.)

Every Christian is just like one part of the body. When one of you gets sick or is in trouble or is hurt or is sad, all the rest of us should be sad or feel hurt along with you. If all of us really love each other, we feel sorry for the others and show that love. If all of us really love one another, we will never do anything to hurt one another. I

would never purposely kick my other leg. I would not want to hurt myself. So Paul says in the letter to the Ephesians, “We should never want to hurt other Christians. We should love one another.”

I want to please Jesus. Jesus does not want me ever to make fun of anybody else. He does not want me to hurt anybody else. I am to love my fellow Christians and to do good to them and for them. Also, we are to obey our parents. We are to do right always.

Will you remember these things, too? Jesus wants us all to remember them just as He wanted the Ephesians to remember them.

Now let’s remember some of the names of the books that are in the New Testament. We’ve learned about several books in the New Testament so far. We’re learning a lot about the Bible. (Review the names of the books of the New Testament learned thus far.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Ephesians 6:1, “CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”