



UNIT 9 | SESSION 6

GOD TAKES SIN SERIOUSLY

EPHESIANS 2

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Everyone makes wrong choices.
- Wrong choices separate us from God.
- Jesus came to save sinners.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Paul was a missionary and follower of Jesus. He wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus. Paul wrote that without Jesus, people make wrong choices. They disobey God. The Bible says the punishment for wrong choices is separation from God. People who do not believe in Jesus are separated from God forever. This is very sad news. But God's plan for people is good. Paul shared this good news: "God gave us life with Him through Jesus. He loves us so much!" Paul wrote, "People who believe in Jesus will live with God forever. This is God's gift to us because He loves us so much. There's nothing we can do to earn it."



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Ephesians 2. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“When God’s people needed help, He sent His Son!

When God’s people needed help, He sent His Son!

Jesus came to save our sins and we put our trust in Him.

When God’s people needed help, He sent His Son!”

SAY “ Everyone makes wrong choices. We sin, and our wrong choices separate us from God. Jesus came to save sinners. Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever. ”

2 MAKE LETTER ART

Provide envelopes, paper, stickers, and jumbo crayons. Print Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever on the paper for each baby. Help her decorate the envelope. Place the paper in the envelope. Talk about the Bible story. Give parents the envelopes for babies to send to someone who needs to hear the good news.

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus. He wanted them to know that without Jesus, people make wrong choices. Jesus came to save sinners. Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever! ”

3 ROLL A GLOBE

Sit on the floor with babies on their tummies or propped on horseshoe-shaped pillows. Show babies an inflated globe. Explain that Paul was a missionary. Missionaries are people who obey God and tell others the good news about Jesus. A globe helps us see what the earth looks like. Gently roll the globe to babies.

SAY “ People live all over the earth. Paul wrote that without Jesus, people make wrong choices. Wrong choices separate us from God. Jesus came to save sinners so we can be forgiven! ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Ephesians 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 ROLL TRANSPORTATION TOYS

Place two similar-size books side by side on the floor and cover with a blanket. Invite toddlers to roll cars and trucks across the books. After a few moments, slide the books apart under the blanket. Encourage toddlers to roll the cars across the gap. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God takes sin seriously. Wrong choices separate us from God. Jesus came to save sinners. Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever. ”

3 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase card in a Bible and place it in a colorful gift bag. Invite toddlers to sit in a circle. Help toddlers pass the gift as you play worship songs on an electronic device. When the music stops, guide the toddler holding the bag to open it. Open the Bible and read the key passage phrase. Repeat as time allows.

SAY “ Paul told the church in Ephesus that everyone makes wrong choices. Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus came to save sinners. When we trust in Jesus, God gives life forever! This is God's gift to us because He loves us so much. ”

4 THINK AND CHOOSE

Place two cups facedown on a table. While toddlers are watching, place a table tennis ball or small toy beneath one cup. While keeping the cups on the table, slide and switch the cups. Invite toddlers to take turns pointing to the cup with the surprise. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God made people to be able to think and choose. Everyone makes wrong choices by choosing to disobey God. The good news is that Jesus came to save sinners! ”

5 PLAY OUT A FAMILY

Provide dress-up clothes. Invite toddlers to play out family scenes of obeying and disobeying and of making good and bad choices. Be sensitive to family situations. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ Who in your family makes wrong choices? Did you know everyone makes wrong choices, even the grown-ups who take care of you? Wrong choices separate us from God. God loves us so much; He does not want to be separated from us. Jesus came to save sinners. ”

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EPHESIANS 2

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE A STAINED GLASS HEART

Before the session, cut out large construction paper hearts (1 per toddler). Invite them to tear the hearts into pieces. Use a glue stick to outline a heart on black construction paper (1 per toddler). Then help toddlers glue the heart pieces back together onto their papers to resemble stained glass. When we listen to God, believe in our hearts that He loves us, and obey Him with our lives, we show our love to Him. God loves us so much. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ Paul wrote a letter to the church in Ephesus. He wanted them to know that God takes sin seriously. Everyone makes wrong choices, and our wrong choices separate us from God. God is holy, and He must punish sin. God loves us so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus came to save sinners! Everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever. ”

2 SING ABOUT JESUS' LOVE

Sing “Jesus Loves Me” with toddlers as they move joyfully to the music.

3 SHINE A LIGHT

Write the gospel gems, Christ connection, and a few brief sentences from the Bible story on heart-shaped cutouts. Tape the cutouts to the wall at toddler's height. Dim the lights. Adjust according to the needs in your class, being especially sensitive to those afraid of the dark. Invite toddlers to take turns shining flashlights on the hearts as you read the messages. Ensure toddlers do not shine the flashlights in another toddler's eyes. Briefly retell the Bible story.

SAY “ Paul said that everyone makes wrong choices. God has to punish our wrong choices. Jesus came to save sinners. Jesus took the punishment for sin so we can be with God forever! ”

4 SORT MAIL

Before the session, gather junk mail. Place a red or blue dot sticker on each piece of mail. Help toddlers sort the mail according to the sticker color. You may provide small, plastic bins with a dot sticker to help them sort. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ In Bible times, people did not have computers like we do. To send a message, Paul wrote a letter and someone walked it to the people. In the letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul said that our wrong choices separate us from God. The good news is that everyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.