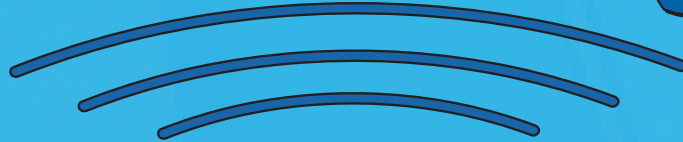


Bible Lessons Handbook



NEW VISION
CHILDREN



Teaching Children

God desires to use you to impact others for eternity, and your Rock the Block will provide plenty of opportunities to do that. So, by all means, prepare yourself personally to be used by God (2 Tim 2:20-21). Walk closely with Him in prayer. Enjoy Him. Read, even memorize His Word. Live mindful of His presence, and let that be evident in the way you live. Confess and genuinely forsake anything in your life you know is not pleasing to God. And, do these things, not only for the ministry period of Rock the Block, but because this is the purpose for which God saved you.

Prepare your lessons well and you and everyone in your hearing will be glad you did. Before even approaching a lesson, ask God to use the truths of the lesson in your own life. Then, carefully read and re-read the lesson's key Bible passage. Then read multiple times. To provide a fuller understanding of the key passage, read the entire context, which may include the chapter or surrounding chapters. Read the entire lesson plan while underlining main truths. Then re-read the lesson plan making notes about how you will present the material. You are free to make the lessons your own. Please don't feel restricted to every word of the Bible lessons.

As you prepare, try to think like a child. Consider how children will hear and visualize the passages and your words. Anticipate their assumptions and questions based on concrete thinking. For instance, if you read Revelation 21:4, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes ...," when a young child hears these words, she pictures these words in her mind and then wonders, "Does that mean every tear wiped away from every eye of every person in heaven? Wow! That's a lot of tissues." Thinking like a child helps us anticipate thoughts like this so that we can help children have a clearer understanding of what we are teaching.

When preparing the Bible lessons, we tried to break down the truth without dumbing it down. To dumb down a truth the teacher removes, or even distorts, so much of the truth's essence that the truth becomes truth-barren or worse, the teaching becomes heresy. However, to break down the truth, the teacher not only keeps the essence of the truth intact but also carefully sheds light on the truth by explaining it in terms familiar to children.

- **Be animated.**
- **Appeal to children's vivid imaginations.**
- **Be sincere.**
- **Be you.**
- **Have fun!**

When reading Scripture, always do so from an open Bible. This helps children see the Words you are reading are not your own, but God's. Occasionally allow the children to read aloud the lesson's Bible passages. This practice helps children see they don't have to be afraid of the Bible or think the Bible is only for adults.

The lessons have been prepared to offer a very low-prep approach requiring few, if any, items or preparation. Throughout the lessons, however, you may notice optional features included enhancing the experience, but these are not essential. Please refer to the Rock the Block Site Host Handbook for additional guidance related to teaching, communicating the Gospel to boys and girls, etc. At any time, if you have a question, please feel free to reach out to the Rock The Block Team. We are committed to helping your team have the most beneficial outreach experience possible.



Lesson 1 Option

Text: Ephesians 2:10

Bottom Line: God created us for a reason.

What You Say:

(Give a brief welcome and introduce yourself.)

Before we begin learning our Bible verse today, I want you to take a minute to look around. As you look around, notice all the things that you see; the plants, animals, clouds, even the people around you. Now I want you to think about this question, where did all these things come from?

There are a few different thoughts about when and where these things were created, but today we are going to look in the Bible and learn the truth about who created us and the world all around us.

Let's open the Bible and read Ephesians 2:10. (Ask the children to repeat "Ephesians chapter 2 verse 10".)

Before I read, I want us to think about what is going on in this true Bible story. A man named Paul (ask the kids, "what was his name?") wrote a letter to some people that lived in a city called Ephesus. Writing letters is how people communicated back then. They didn't have cell phones or computers, so they wrote letters. Paul was teaching the people in Ephesus about how much God loved them.

Let's read Ephesians chapter 2 verse 10 and find out what God has to say to us through Paul.

¹⁰ We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Wow! That is such a great verse for us to learn today. Let's break it up and see what all of those words mean. There are three big things for us to look at:

Let's begin with... "We are God's creation"

Who do you think the "we" is? (Allow time for responses)

It's us! Not just Paul and the people that He was writing to, but you and me too.

Now, what in the world do you think "We are God's creation" means? (Allow time for responses)

This verse reminds us that we are God's creation. The same God that created the heavens and the earth, created you and me. Do you really believe that?

It kind of leads us to ask, why in the world would God want to create us? That is a great question to ask, and the next part of the verse actually answers that.

"He created us to belong to Christ Jesus."

What do you think that means? (Allow time for responses)



God is the creator. He created the heavens and the earth, and all things in them. The same God that created all these things, also created you and me. You were not created by accident. God created you for a reason. He created you to have a personal relationship with Him. To love Him and be loved by Him, to trust Him and allow Him to guide you in everything you do.

God is good, and He is loving. He proved His great love for us by sending His one and only son Jesus down to earth to make a way for us to have a forever relationship with Him. Jesus made a way for us to be back with God, but each one of us must choose in our own heart if we want to put our trust in Jesus and what He did, and if we want to follow Him. That is what this verse is talking about. That we were created to belong to Jesus. Jesus made a way to rescue us, and when we trust in Him as Savior and Lord, we belong to Him.

Now let's look at the last part of our verse, Ephesians 2:10.

“Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.”

What do you think Paul meant when He said, “we were created for good works”? (Allow time for responses)

It is so very important for us to know and understand that when God rescued us from the power and punishment of our sins, it was not because of anything that we have done. (You may have to dig into and explain what sin is and help the kids acknowledge they are sinful.) We are not forgiven of our sins by our good works or the good things that we have done. We cannot be good enough to make our sins go away. It is only by what Jesus did for us. We cannot earn God's love. He gives it to us freely. God sent Jesus because He loves us and wants us to be with Him forever.

God created us for a reason. In this verse the good works that Paul is talking about are the work that God has for us. We were created to do good things for God and for God's kingdom. So that God is glorified. It's not about us, but it's about God. God rescued us for His purpose and when we begin to understand that He made a way for us to be forgiven, then we will begin to realize how much God really loves us. We should live a life that says thank you. We should show God by our words and actions that we are thankful for who He is and what He has done for us. Not to try to make God love us, but because we love Him.

Does anyone have any questions about anything we have just learned from our Bible verse today? (Allow time for responses)

Let's read our Bible verse one more time. 10 We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Our bottom line today is: **God created us for a reason.** (Have children repeat it after you.)

God created you to have a relationship with Him and to do great things for Him. Friends, if you are here today and have never trusted in who Jesus is and what He has done, then I want you to think about our bottom line: **God created us for a reason** and what that means to you. We would love to talk more and answer any questions you may have. Please let one of the adult leaders here today know that you want to know more about Jesus or that you have a question.

If you are here today and know for sure that you have put your trust in Jesus, then I want you to think about our bottom line: **God created us for a reason.** Then ask yourself, are you trusting in God with everything? Is there something in your life you are making more important than God? Are you looking to what the Bible says when you have questions? Are you living in a way that shows that you are thankful for Jesus and what He did? Are you doing the work that God has created you for? These are all great questions to ask ourselves often.

You have done a great job listening and learning today. Let's say our bottom line one more time together, **God created us for a reason.**

Now let's **pray.**

