

LESSON 64

From Death to Life

EPHESIANS 2:1-13



BIBLE TRUTH

SALVATION IS ALL BY GOD'S GRACE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Ephesians 2:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 142, “From Death to Life,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Dead Is Dead

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large rock

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Boasting in Pretzels

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of pretzels

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 64—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Which Church Is the Church?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ photo of the outside of your church building
- ✓ photo of a crowd in your church
- ✓ two envelopes

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Apart from grace, men are dead in their sins—Paul makes it perfectly clear that sinners cannot reach out to God—they are dead (Ephesians 2:1). A dead man cannot help himself; he is powerless. He can't move or do anything about his lifeless condition. Likewise with us in our sin; we cannot save ourselves and we don't want to save ourselves. We drift in our own independent direction, satisfying our sinful cravings and desires (Ephesians 2:2–3). This is true of everyone, Gentiles and Jews alike. As a result, we are by nature objects of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3). Any thought that mankind is intrinsically good is shattered by Paul's words. Apart from God breathing life into us, we are hopelessly dead in sin, mired in rebellion against God.

Salvation is by grace alone—After establishing that mankind is dead in sin, Paul introduces the mercy of God, which can bring the dead back to life. While we were dead in our sins, God made us alive in Christ. This amazing miracle takes place by grace, the free gift of God (Ephesians 2:5). We bring nothing to our salvation; it is all by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8). No one can boast that he or she sought after God (Ephesians 2:9). As Christians, “we are [Christ's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,” which God prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

Those who are saved join the family of God—God makes us alive, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us of our sin, satisfying the wrath of God (Ephesians 2:13). All men, Jews and Gentiles alike, receive the same salvation and are given the Spirit of God and brought into the family of God. Not only are we restored to God, but sharing in the same Spirit of God we are restored to one another (Ephesians 2:14–16). Since all men who are saved receive the Spirit of God (Ephesians 2:18), we are all members of the same family of God (Ephesians 2:19). We call that family the church. Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and all together we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:21). In the Old Testament, God dwelt in a temple made by human hands, where only the high priest had access to the presence of God. Now all Christians, both Jew and Gentile, are filled with the Spirit of God like living stones built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5).

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

This second chapter of Ephesians is full of gospel truth. Paul summarizes the gospel message as follows: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). Paul also refers back to the gospel when he tells us in Ephesians 2:5 that God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Jesus died on the cross for sinners—his enemies.

The work of Christ on the cross to save sinners is the key to Paul's message here in Ephesians 2. We were objects of God's wrath, but Jesus took on himself the wrath of the Father in order that we, who deserved death, might be made alive in Christ! It is the work of Christ that saves us. This removes all boasting. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves perfect. We can only accept the perfect work of Jesus on the cross.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Ephesians 2:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 142, "From Death to Life," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Dead Is Dead

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large rock

Place the rock on a table in the front of the classroom. Then ask the children if they can help you solve a problem. You would like to bring the rock to life so that it can be your friend. Ask

them if anyone knows how to bring a rock to life. Play this out and insist that you can bring a rock to life. Tell them that you read about it in the Bible:

“God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham” (Matthew 3:9).

“And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples.’ He answered, ‘I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out’ ” (Luke 19:39–40).

Explain that if children can come from rocks and stones can cry out, they can be made alive. Then ask the class again how you make a stone come to life. The goal is to have them say, only God can make a stone come to life.

Use this as a transition to talk about how, when we are dead in our sins, only God can bring us back to life. We can’t make ourselves alive; no one but God can bring us back to life, to where we will want to love and worship him.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Boasting in Pretzels

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of pretzels

Recruit a helper to come to class with the bag of pretzels. Have the helper come in and ask the children if they would like pretzel. As he hands them out he should boast about the pretzels. He starts by telling the class they ought to thank him because the pretzels took a long time to make. The first thing that needed to be done was plant the wheat for the flour. Then the grains of wheat needed to be ground into flour. The salt needed to be mined and that is hard work. He should go on bragging and boasting about everything from the baking to the packaging.

Finally, interrupt him and ask him if he planted the wheat, mined the salt, or baked the pretzels, etc. To each of these questions your helper tells you no. Finally ask him if he bought the pretzels. To this he should reply, “No, one of the other teachers gave them to me for the class.”

Correct the teacher for boasting in something he had nothing to do with. All he did was receive the pretzels from another teacher. Tell him that a person can't boast in something he or she didn't do. Then go on to tell the class about the passage and how none of us can boast in our salvation because Jesus did all the work.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 64—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Thinking of the Bible story we read, which man has been made alive in Christ? How can you tell?**
(The man upright is alive in Christ because he appears to be rejoicing.)

- **What do you think the man alive in Christ should do to the man who is dead in his sin?**
(The man alive in Christ should share the good news of the gospel with the man who is dead. Romans 1:16 tells us the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.)

- **If God doesn't help the dead man, can anyone else help him?**
(No, Jesus is the only way to eternal life with the Father in heaven. There is no other way.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Which Church Is the Church?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ photo of the outside of your church building
- ✓ photo of a crowd in your church
- ✓ two envelopes

The object of this exercise is to help the children remember the true church is not a building but the people in the building.

Obtain two photos: one of your church building from the outside and the other of the congregation. Put them into two envelopes.

Pass the photo of the building around first. Have the class look at it but not tell you what they see. When everyone has had a peek, tell them that you are going to go around the room and they are to whisper to you what they saw. Record their answers on a piece of paper. Do the same for the photo of the congregation.

Tell the class that the correct answer for the first photo is “a building.” Tell them that the correct answer for the second photo is “the church.” See if anyone can explain why the answers you gave are correct.

