

Phil Vischer presents...

FAITH  
BLOX

# Session 1

## Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

15  
FUN & EASY  
FAMILY DEVOTIONALS  
BASED ON  
Ephesians

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

## Introduction

1. **Who wrote the book of Ephesians?** (The Apostle Paul.)

2. **Who did he write the book to?** (The followers of Jesus in Ephesus.)

3. **What big question is answered by Ephesians?** (What is God's plan?)

4. **What advice does Paul give in the letter?** (How to live as a part of God's plan.)

5. **How do you feel about being part of God's plan? What do you think that plan might be?**

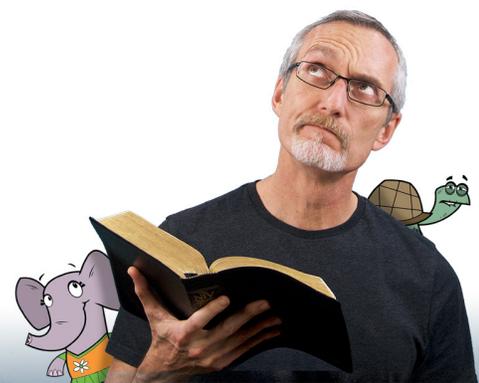
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Say "God has a big plan!" together three times.

**For grade schoolers:** Ask your child if he or she has ever made a big plan. What was the plan? How did it turn out? Discuss with your child whether he or she thinks God will be able to accomplish His plan. Why or why not?

**For you:** Set aside your own plan for the day and be open to what God has planned for you today. What interruptions (your child, a neighbor, a service opportunity) could come up that might be God's plan for your day, rather than interruptions to your own plan?

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## Session 2 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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## Read Again

Ephesians 1:1-11

“And before the world was made, God decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. That was what he wanted and what pleased him.” (Ephesians 1:5, ICB)

1. **What's the amazing gift we've been given, according to Paul?** (“Forever kind of lives” with God as His sons and daughters.)
2. **What's the new big word we learned?** (Reconciliation.)
3. **What does reconciliation mean?** (Turning enemies into friends.)
4. **What was broken when Adam and Eve disobeyed?** (Their relationships with God.)
5. **Does God want our relationships to be broken?** (No, He wants to be friends.)
6. **Have you noticed anything broken about the world? Have you ever had a friend become an enemy?**

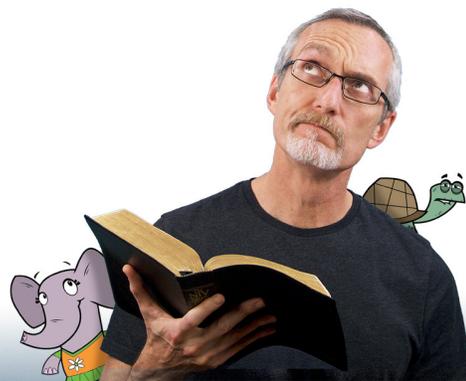
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Build a structure together using blocks or Duplo cubes. Knock it down together, then practice saying, “God puts broken things back together!” as you rebuild it.

**For grade schoolers:** Ask, “How do you think enemies become friends?” Discuss what kinds of things a person can do to turn an enemy into a friend.

**For you:** Is there a broken relationship in your life? Reach out to an estranged friend and take the first step toward reconciliation.

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## Session 3 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 1:12-23

"That Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will get what God promised for his people. This will bring full freedom to the people who belong to God, to bring praise to God's glory."  
(Ephesians 1:14, ICB)

- 1. What were the Apostles chosen to do?** (Show God's power and plan to everyone.)
- 2. If you're "marked by the Holy Spirit," does that mean you got a tattoo?** (No. It means the Spirit of God shows up in your life with power.)
- 3. What is hope?** (When you are wishing for something good in the future.)
- 4. What are the Ephesians supposed to be hoping for?** (God's plan to put things back together.)
- 5. Have you seen God's power show up in your life or in the life of someone around you?**

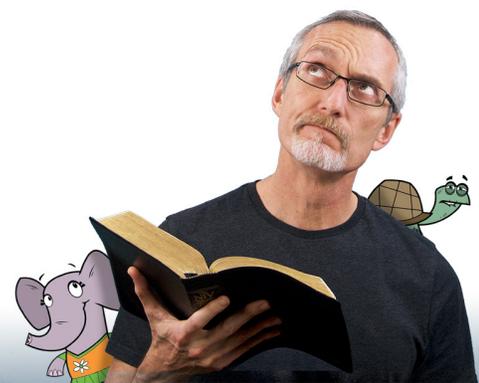
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Practice saying the phrase "God works in power!" while flexing your muscles together.

**For grade schoolers:** Discuss hope together. Ask your child, "What is something you hope for?"

**For you:** Spend time reading Scripture and ask God for a deeper knowledge of Himself.

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## Session 4 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 2:1-11

"We were spiritually dead because of the things we did wrong against God. But God gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace." (Ephesians 2:5, ICB)

1. **How does Paul describe the Ephesians' lives before Jesus?** (Dead because of their sins, living the way the world lives.)
2. **Who is the "Ruler of the Evil Powers?"** (God's enemy—the "Sneaky Snake" from Genesis.)
3. **We can have the "forever kind of life" with God because of...what?** (Grace.)
4. **What is grace?** (Unmerited favor. Being given something good that you have not earned.)
5. **What happens when we forget about God's grace?** (We can think we earned God's blessing and that we're better than other people.)
6. **If you think you're better than someone, does that make it easier to love them? Or harder? Why?**

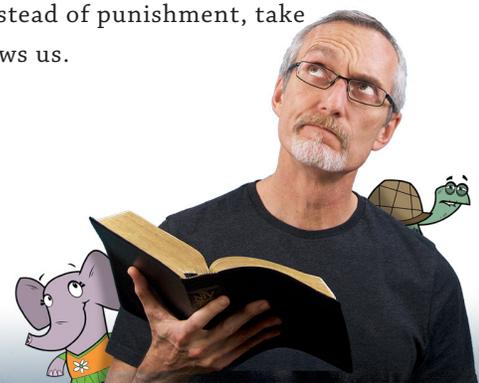
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Do something messy together—finger-paint, play in the dirt, or simply eat dinner! As you clean their hands, face, and clothes, practice saying together, "God's grace cleans us up!"

**For grade schoolers:** Discuss grace with your child, and assist them in giving someone a gift they did not earn. Maybe he or she could give their dessert to a sibling, do the dishes for mom or dad, or purchase a gift for a neighbor.

**For you:** When your child disobeys or deserves punishment, choose to show grace. Instead of punishment, take your child for ice cream and talk about grace toward each other and the grace God shows us.

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## Session 5 Handout

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## Read Again

Ephesians 2:12-22

"Yes, at one time you were far away from God. But now in Christ Jesus you are brought near to God through the blood of Christ's death." (Ephesians 2:13, ICB)

1. **Paul talks about "The Jews." Who were they?** (God's chosen people—the Israelites.)
2. **He also talks about "The Gentiles." Who were they?** (Everyone who wasn't a Jew.)
3. **Jews and Gentiles were enemies. But in Jesus, they were becoming...what?** (Friends. They were being reconciled!)
4. **There was a building in Jerusalem called the Temple. Who lived there?** (God.)
5. **A new Temple is being built not out of bricks, but out of what?** (People! All of Jesus' followers are the new place God lives.)
6. **Is there anyone you think of as an enemy? What would it take to make them a friend?**

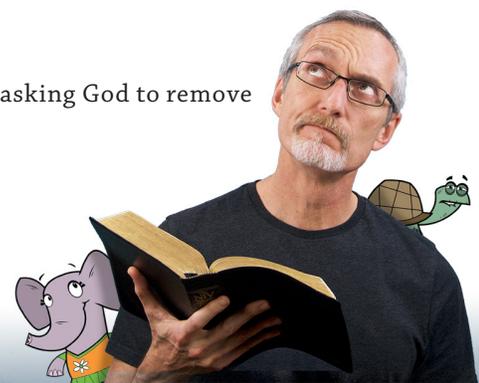
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Play a game with your toddler and hold up a blanket between the two of you so he or she can't see you. When you drop the blanket and see your child's face say, "Jesus knocks down the wall between friends and enemies!" Practice saying it together.

**For grade schoolers:** Discuss the question, "Have you ever felt like you were better than another group of people? Why? How did you treat that other group?" Talk about how God has made enemies friends and how that affects our attitudes and actions toward others.

**For you:** Have you ever felt superior to another group of people? Spend time in prayer, asking God to remove pride and self-righteousness and remind you that He has torn down the dividing wall.

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## Session 6 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 3:1-13

"By God's special gift of grace, I became a servant to tell that Good News. God gave me that grace through his power." (Ephesians 3:7, ICB)

- 1. What is Paul's special job?** (Telling non-Jews the good news about Jesus.)
- 2. What is the "Good News" Paul is telling everyone?** (That through Jesus, anyone can become a child of God.)
- 3. When Paul mentions the "Church," is he talking about a building?** (No, he's talking about all the people who follow Jesus.)
- 4. And what special job does the Church get to do now?** (We get to tell the whole world about God's big plan!)
- 5. We don't just tell people about God's love, we also show them. Can you think of ways to show the world what God's love looks like?**

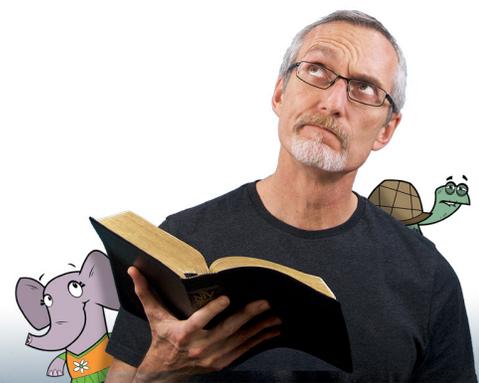
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Hug your toddler and tell them, "You are my child!" Then practice saying together, "We are God's children!"

**For grade schoolers:** Do an art project together. Create a newspaper with the "Good News" as the front-page headline. Discuss how God means for the gospel to spread to the whole world.

**For you:** Who in your life needs to hear the Good News about Jesus? Pray for an opportunity, then share the gospel.

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## Session 7 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 3:14–21

“Christ’s love is greater than any person can ever know. But I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:19, ICB)

1. **Paul is praying for something. What is it?** (That we would all know Christ’s love.)
2. **How do we turn enemies back into friends?** (By showing God’s supernatural love.)
3. **What kind of love? The mushy gushy kind?** (No—the kind that puts others first. That makes other people more important.)
4. **Who is the ultimate example of this kind of love?** (Jesus.)
5. **Do we have enough love in us to love the whole world?** (Nope. But God does. He can help us love more and more.)
6. **Is there anyone in your life you could show this kind of love this week?**

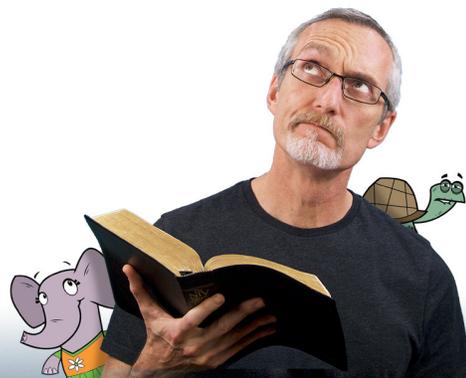
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Hug each other and say, “God’s love is the greatest love,” several times.

**For grade schoolers:** Brainstorm ways to show God’s supernatural love to others this week. That could mean your child forgives someone who has wronged him or her, does something kind, or tells someone about the gospel.

**For you:** How can you love someone in a sacrificial way this week? Reach out to someone in love, even when it is costly.

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## Session 8 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 4:1-3

"You are joined together with peace through the Spirit. Do all you can to continue together in this way. Let peace hold you together." (Ephesians 4:3, ICB)

1. **What is orthodoxy?** (Correct belief.)
2. **What is orthopraxy?** (Correct living.)
3. **How are God's people supposed to live?** (By loving each other.)
4. **What is unity?** (Being joined together as one.)
5. **What do friends need in order to stay friends?** (Peace.)
6. **How does the Holy Spirit give us peace?** (By changing our hearts and teaching us to love like God loves.)
7. **Have you ever lost a friend because of a fight? Because there wasn't any peace?**

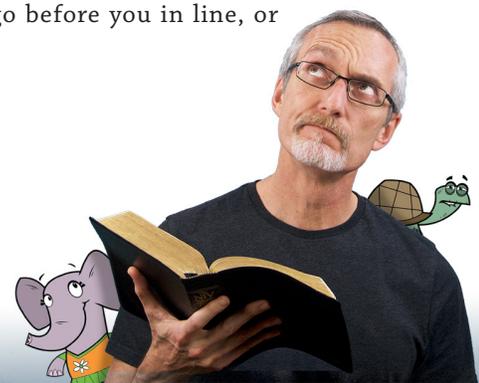
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Give your toddler a chance to gently stroke a baby or a pet. Practice saying, "Be gentle. Don't hurt the baby/pet!" Help them learn what gentleness looks and feels like.

**For grade schoolers:** This week, practice patience together. When there are opportunities to wait, take them. Sit in traffic together without complaining, serve others first, or choose to love when it's easier to be irritable.

**For you:** Give preference to someone else and exercise humility. Allow someone to go before you in line, or make dinner for your family even when they forget to thank you.

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## Session 9 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Ephesians

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 4:4–6

“There is one body and one Spirit. And God called you to have one hope.”  
(Ephesians 4:4, ICB)

- 1. What is unity?** (Different things coming together as one thing.)
- 2. What is the “one body” Paul mentions?** (The body of Christ—the Church!)
- 3. What do we get to do as the Body of Christ?** (Show God's love to the whole world. We're Jesus' hands and feet!)
- 4. Why does Paul talk so much about unity—about being “one?”** (People usually just look out for themselves. Our mission in Jesus is better than any of us! We come together to show God's love!)
- 5. What do you think of the idea of being part of a “Giant Robot” on a mission from God? Does that sound exciting? Scary?**

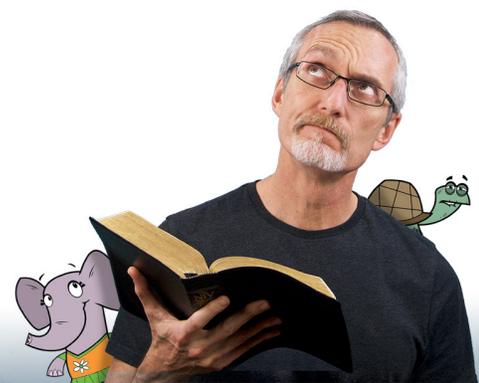
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Practice helping around the house using the phrase “helping hands!” as you work together with your hands.

**For grade schoolers:** Together, brainstorm ways your child can be the “hands and feet” of Christ at school this week.

**For you:** Look for ways to encourage unity in your family this week. Lead the way by working together on a project or initiate a family effort to rally behind one of the children who have a school report or a big game this week.

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## Session 10 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 4:7-16

"The whole body depends on Christ. And all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part of the body does its own work. And this makes the whole body grow and be strong with love." (Ephesians 4:16, ICB)

1. **Why does Jesus give His followers gifts?** (To make the Body of Christ stronger.)
2. **What are the gifts that God gives to His people?** (Talents and abilities.)
3. **What is the work the Body of Christ is doing together?** (Serving Jesus.)
4. **Not all evil looks like monsters...what are some evils in the world today?** (Selfishness, pride, greed.)
5. **How do we get these spiritual gifts?** (We grow them by using them.)
6. **How is walking with Jesus like becoming a Jedi?** (You start as a student and gradually become stronger and stronger.)
7. **What special gifts could you share with the Body of Christ?**

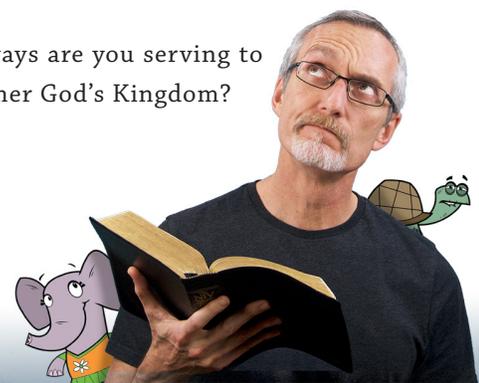
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Wrap or unwrap a present together and talk about the way God gives His children special gifts.

**For grade schoolers:** Talk together about the gifts, talents, and abilities God has given your child. Then discuss a way he or she can share God's love this week through that gift. Maybe your child can write an encouraging card to a friend, bake cookies for a neighbor, or play the piano at a nursing home.

**For you:** Take a moment to reflect on where you fit in the Body of Christ. In what ways are you serving to make the Body stronger? Where could you begin to use your gifts and abilities to further God's Kingdom?

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## Session 11 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Ephesians

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 4:17-24

“But you were taught to be made new in your hearts.” (Ephesians 4:23, ICB)

1. **How do we go from “baby” Christians to “Jedi Master” Christians?** (“Taking off” our old self and “putting on” our new self.)
2. **What does it mean to take off the old self and put on the new?** (Walk away from old habits and build new ones.)
3. **Paul calls us to be holy. What does he mean?** (Set apart for a different kind of life.)
4. **What are some of the “new habits” we should put on?** (Prayer, reading the Bible, using our gifts.)
5. **What could you do to start making some new habits?**

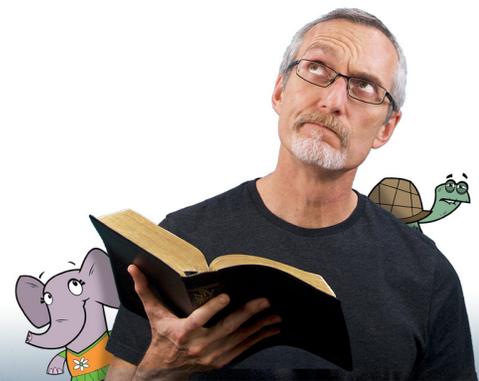
## So What?

**For toddlers:** As you help your child get dressed in the morning, practice saying together, “Take off self, put on Christ.”

**For grade schoolers:** Talk about habits together. Help them make a plan to start the habit of reading the Bible each day. When, where, and what will your child read? Keep track of the number of days they stick with this habit on a special chart.

**For you:** Use an external cue to develop the habit of prayer. Choose something that you do daily to remind you to pray—maybe while you wash dishes, brush your teeth, or drive to work. Each time you do that activity, pray. Begin to reframe this time as an opportunity to commune with God.

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## Session 12

Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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FUN & EASY  
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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

## Read Again

Ephesians 4:25–32

“Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ.”  
(Ephesians 4:32, ICB)

- 1. What does Paul tell us we need to do to have unity?** (We need to be honest with each other.)
- 2. Paul says when you're angry, don't...what?** (Sin.)
- 3. Is it wrong to feel angry?** (No. Anger is a feeling we all feel sometimes. What we do next can be the problem.)
- 4. What kind of words does God want us to use?** (Words that help and don't hurt.)
- 5. Why doesn't God's enemy want us to forgive each other?** (He doesn't want God's plan of reconciliation to work.)
- 6. Have you seen how words can hurt people? Can you think of ways you can use words to help?**

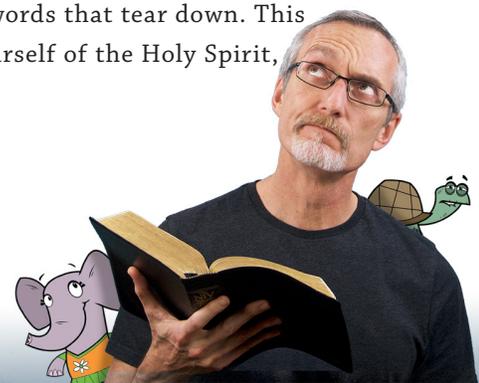
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Practice saying kind words. Encourage your child when he or she says kind things to others. Remind your toddler, “God wants us to use helping words!”

**For grade schoolers:** Brainstorm what helpful words sound like. Challenge your child to speak helpful words to five people this week. This may look like encouragement, blessing, forgiveness, or praise to God.

**For you:** Watch your words this week and choose to speak words of life, rather than words that tear down. This may mean a challenge to not complain, gossip, or use your words to hurt. Remind yourself of the Holy Spirit, who helps and enables you to speak words of life.

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## Session 13 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Ephesians

Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 5:1-21

"In the past you were full of darkness, but now you are full of light in the Lord. So live like children who belong to the light." (Ephesians 5:8, ICB)

1. **What is the ultimate example of a "sweet smelling" sacrifice?** (Jesus dying on the cross for us.)
2. **How does Paul ask us to live because of Jesus' sacrifice?** (We should live a life of love, loving others like Jesus loved us.)
3. **What kind of love are we talking about? The mushy gushy kind?** (Nope. The kind of love that sacrifices for others.)
4. **When Paul talks about "darkness" and "light," what does he mean?** (Darkness is our old way of living, light is our new way of living.)
5. **How do we show the world what is true?** (By doing what is true, not just saying what is true.)
6. **What's easier...saying what is true, or doing what is true? Why?**

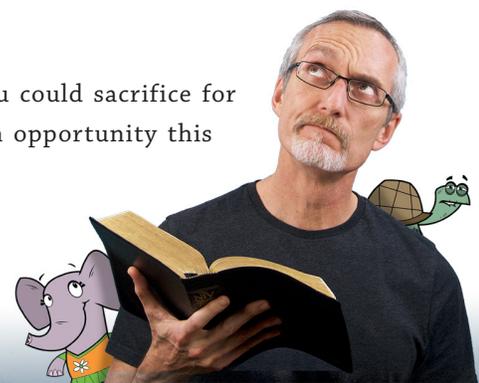
## So What?

**For toddlers:** Play a game together by turning a light on and off. In the dark say, "The world is dark," but when you flip the light on say, "But Jesus gives us light!"

**For grade schoolers:** Take time to sing together! Play hymns around a piano, turn on a playlist of your favorite worship songs in the car, or sing and dance in the living room to worship the Lord. Allow this time to encourage both of your hearts.

**For you:** How is your life a sweet-smelling sacrifice to the Lord? What is a way you could sacrifice for someone else and display the same kind of love Jesus displayed for us? Seek out an opportunity this week.

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## Session 14 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 5:22–33, 6:1

“Children, obey your parents the way the Lord wants. This is the right thing to do.”  
(Ephesians 6:1, ICB)

- 1. What is a household?** (More than just a family—it also included servants and workers.)
- 2. Who had the most power in an ancient household?** (The father.)
- 3. How are men to love their wives?** (Like Jesus loves us—willing to sacrifice for them.)
- 4. What does Paul tell kids they need to do?** (Obey their parents.)
- 5. In a Christian family, why is it extra good to obey your parents?** (Your mom and dad are the #1 way you will learn about Jesus.)
- 6. Would the Bible kind of love—sacrificial love—make a family get along better or worse? Why?**

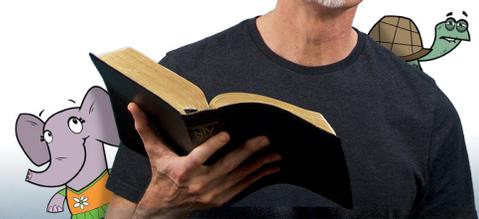
## So What?

**For toddlers:** When your toddler obeys you, encourage them by saying, “We love God when we obey!” Reinforce their obedience with encouragement.

**For grade schoolers:** Talk with your child about what it looks like to honor and obey their parents. Make a goal together for how they are to obey: immediately, completely, and with a cheerful heart. Encourage them when you notice them doing this.

**For you:** Reflect on your relationship with your spouse or employer. If you're a husband, are you showing sacrificial love for your wife? If you are a wife, are you showing respect for your husband? If you are a worker, are you working with excellence, as toward the Lord? Set a goal this week on how you might do this with greater joy.

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## Session 15 Handout

# WHAT is God's Plan?

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Use these questions to talk to your child about the message of Ephesians. Then consider taking the so-what challenge to incorporate this session's message into your own life alongside your child.

### Read Again

Ephesians 6:1-24

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power." (Ephesians 6:10, ICB)

1. **What does a warrior do before they go into battle?** (They "suit up" and put on their armor.)
2. **Paul tells us we need to put on armor. Who are we fighting?** (We are fighting against God's enemy and his lies.)
3. **How many pieces of God's armor can you name?** (Belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit.)
4. **Are you ready to be a part of God's big plan? What could you do to get started?**

## So What?

**For toddlers:** Have fun together by having a pretend sword fight. Put on "armor" before the duel and practice saying together, "God protects us from the enemy!"

**For grade schoolers:** Talk together about the burning arrows of the evil one. What lies does your child hear? Talk about one of those lies, and how he or she can extinguish it with the shield of faith by turning to the truth of God's Word. Pray together that your child will be able to recognize the lie from the "Sneaky Snake" and return to God's truth.

**For you:** What lies from the enemy are you believing? How can you take up your shield of faith this week and extinguish those burning darts? Find Scripture that addresses one of these lies, and memorize its truth as you take up the shield of faith.

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