

Teaching Resource Items
for
Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians:
Living with Faithfulness and Joy

These items are selected from “Teaching Plans” in
Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians—Adult Bible Teaching Guide.
They are provided to make lesson preparation easier and faster for handouts and
similar items. (All “Teaching Plans” do not include items that lend themselves to
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Teaching Resource Items

1. For Lesson One, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 12, Readings.
2. For Lesson One, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 13, Questions for Reflection
3. For Lesson Two, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Steps 1 and 11, Skit
4. Item Four, For Lesson Three, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 1, Questionnaire
5. For Lesson Three, Teaching Plan—Lecture and Questions, Step 1, True or False
6. For Lesson Four, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 2, Readings for Review
7. For Lesson Four, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 7, Worksheet
8. For Lesson Six, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 4, Group Assignments
9. For Lesson Seven, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 1, Thinking About My Family
10. For Lesson Seven, Teaching Plan—Lecture and Questions, Step 2, Family Relationships Listening Guide

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Reader 1: Jeremy had big plans—to finish college, build up a thriving business, give money to good causes, and retire in comfort.

Reader 2: Louisa had big plans—to run for political office in her community, build up a grass roots following, and then run for governor.

Reader 3: What comes to mind when you hear that a person had “big plans”? Have you ever had “big plans”? That’s fine! But compare those “big plans” with these: “Before the foundation of the world,” God had big plans. His most magnificent plan was to redeem us, adopt us, forgive us, and secure us for eternity with him. Yes, God’s plan was lavish, and his blessings are lavish.

**Item One, For Lesson One, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 12,
Readings**

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Questions for Reflection

(1) God is the source of spiritual blessings. Is there a spiritual blessing that you would like to learn more about and experience more fully—such as forgiveness, peace, or hope? Write your response here.

(2) You may or may not have had a good father. However, God is a perfect father who is available to bless you through Christ. Is there anything that keeps you from having a relationship with your perfect heavenly Father? Will you resolve to talk honestly with God about it before this day ends?

(3) Fill in the blank here with your name: God wanted _____ to be his very own possession. He wanted _____ to have hope and an inheritance of his spiritual blessings. Now, spend a few moments thanking God for God's big plans—plans that included you.

**Item Two, For Lesson One, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 13,
Questions for Reflection**

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Moderator: Welcome to today's edition of *Ways to God*. Most people acknowledge a spiritual life, and thus this program is an important one. To begin, I'll ask each panelist to briefly introduce his or her basic response to my question in a sentence or two. Here is the question: How can people have a relationship with God?

Panelist 1: We must listen to our inner voice and follow it. Where Jesus' teachings sound right to us, we should follow them. However, there may be times when another religion's teachings sound right to us. Or we might have simply discovered a truth without its coming from an established religion. We should live out the kind of faith that works for us. The important thing is to have a relationship with God.

Panelist 2: I would disagree because I don't think we should just make up our own religion. Instead, we should study and follow one established religion that seems right to us. One person's way to God might be through Buddhism. Another might find God in the teachings of Mohammed. Another might be right with God through Judaism. And of course, I don't want to leave out Christianity. Although some Christians think their way is the only way, I think many religions can bring us to have a relationship with God.

(Continue when requested)

Moderator: According to the verses we read today, how can people have a relationship with God? (Allow for discussion.)

Moderator: Why are a lot of people still trying to be saved by works? (Allow for discussion.)

Moderator: Several characteristics of God have been stated in these verses. How have you found them to be true in your own life?

**Item Three, For Lesson Two, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities,
Steps 1 and 11, Skit**

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On a scale of 1 (not very important) to 5 (essential), indicate how important the following factors are in accomplishing unity in a group:

- _____ Common language
 - _____ Common goals
 - _____ Having the same plans for accomplishing goals
 - _____ Major beliefs held in common
 - _____ Same ethnicity
 - _____ Same socio-economic group
 - _____ Common interests in music, hobbies, etc.
-

On a scale of 1 (not very important) to 5 (essential), indicate how important the following factors are in accomplishing unity in a group:

- _____ Common language
 - _____ Common goals
 - _____ Having the same plans for accomplishing goals
 - _____ Major beliefs held in common
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 - _____ Common interests in music, hobbies, etc.
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 - _____ Common goals
 - _____ Having the same plans for accomplishing goals
 - _____ Major beliefs held in common
 - _____ Same ethnicity
 - _____ Same socio-economic group
 - _____ Common interests in music, hobbies, etc.
-

**Item Four, For Lesson Three, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 1,
Questionnaire**

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True or False?

- In my community, racial tension is an issue.
 - In my church, there are barriers between men and women.
 - In my family, there is some tension because of past slights and conflicts.
 - In my country, there is division between the rich and the poor.
-

True or False?

- In my community, racial tension is an issue.
 - In my church, there are barriers between men and women.
 - In my family, there is some tension because of past slights and conflicts.
 - In my country, there is division between the rich and the poor.
-

True or False?

- In my community, racial tension is an issue.
 - In my church, there are barriers between men and women.
 - In my family, there is some tension because of past slights and conflicts.
 - In my country, there is division between the rich and the poor.
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**Item Five, For Lesson Three, Teaching Plan—Lecture and Questions, Step 1,
True or False**

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Reader 1: Our study of Ephesians 1 reminded us that God has a lavish plan for redeeming all people and bringing salvation to them.

Reader 2: In Ephesians 2, we were reminded that we were dead in our sins but that God saved us through our faith in Christ.

Reader 3: Also in Ephesians 2, we were reminded that Christ broke down the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles and that Christ wants us to live together in harmony.

Reader 4: “But wait! There’s more!” Far more rewarding than any silly set of kitchen knives or fishing gear offered for \$19.99, there is more, so much more we can experience in the Christian life. Let’s study together how we can take advantage of a “fantastic offer” indeed!

**Item Six, For Lesson Four, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 2,
Readings for Review**

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- (1) The center of my feelings and thoughts, the place where my decisions are made, is called my _____ by Paul. He prayed that this would be strengthened in believers. If you are in the midst of making any decisions right now, do you need to have this strengthened?
- (2) My challenges and problems cannot be met through human power alone. Paul prayed for us to be strengthened through the _____. If you are trying to handle some burden or assignment in your own strength, think about what is being offered here!
- (3) Following Paul’s model, we should pray for _____ to be at home in our hearts. Does he dwell comfortably there, or do you just invite him in every now and then?
- (4) Our Christian faith should be stable. Paul said we could be “_____ and _____ in love.” How stable is your love for God and for others? Is this something for which you should pray?
- (5) Along with other Christians, Paul wanted those for whom he prayed to know the love of Christ. How did he describe it in verses 18-19?
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- What does that mean to you?
- (6) When Paul prayed for the Ephesian Christians to “be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (3:19a), he wanted them to realize their potential, to _____ their gifts. Would you like to ask God to help you know and realize your potential?

Item Seven, For Lesson Four, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 7, Worksheet

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Group 1. Read Ephesians 4:17-19 from two or three translations. On the left side of a poster, list words and phrases that describe the Gentiles or pagans. On the right side, list words and phrases that describe the attitudes and behaviors of twenty-first century “pagans.” Refer to the *Study Guide* as you prepare your report.

Group 2. Read Ephesians 4:17-19. List the following phrases on your poster and discuss the meaning of each, writing an amplified paraphrase of each:

4:17—“futility of their minds” (NRSV)

4:18—“hardening of their hearts” (NRSV)

4:19—“lost all sensitivity” (NIV)

4:19—“sensuality . . . impurity” (NIV)

Select members of your group to report the meaning of each phrase and to give examples of these attitudes or actions in today’s world.

Group 3. Read Ephesians 4:20-24. Discuss the verses with an emphasis on the “old self” and the “new self.” Make two columns, using these same terms as headings. While one member writes, lead the group to name characteristics of the old self and the new self. Select a member to give your report.

**Item Eight, For Lesson Six, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 4,
Group Assignments**

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Thinking About My Family

Instructions: Think about the way or ways your birth family functioned, and then respond to the following.

- (1) Who was the decision-maker? (father, mother, both, other)
- (2) Who was the spiritual leader? (father, mother, both, neither, other)
- (3) Who was the main disciplinarian? (father, mother, both, other)
- (4) Who provided affection and comfort? (father, mother, both, neither, other)
- (5) As you look back, was your family life ordered by reverence for Christ? (yes, somewhat, not really)

***Item Nine, For Lesson Seven, Teaching Plan—Varied Learning Activities, Step 1,
Thinking About My Family***

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Family Relationships Listening Guide

First Century—

Foundation for Relationships, Ephesians 5:21—

Husband/Wife Relationship, Ephesians 5:22-28, 33—

Child/Parent Relationships, Ephesians 6:1-4—

Life Applications—

Family Relationships Listening Guide

First Century—

Foundation for Relationships, Ephesians 5:21—

Husband/Wife Relationship, Ephesians 5:22-28, 33—

Child/Parent Relationships, Ephesians 6:1-4—

Life Applications—

**Item Ten, For Lesson Seven, Teaching Plan—Lecture and Questions, Step 2,
Family Relationships Listening Guide**

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