



TEACHING GUIDE
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
IN BASIC ENGLISH

GALATIANS:
By Grace Through Faith
EPHESIANS:
God's Plan and Our Response

Julia Wrotenbery

BAPTISTWAY

DALLAS, TEXAS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN BASIC ENGLISH TEACHING PROCEDURES

GALATIANS: By Grace Through Faith

EPHESIANS: God's Plan and Our Response

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Teaching Guide

Bible Study in Basic English

GALATIANS: By Grace Through Faith, EPHESIANS: God's Plan and Our Response

By Julia Wrotenbery

How to Make the Best Use of This Teaching Guide

By Bob Coder and Phyllis Merritt

The purpose of this teaching guide is to provide teachers with a plan for teaching a quality Bible lesson while helping participants improve their English language skills. Use of this material is suggested for International Sunday School classes or any Bible study group taught at a basic English level.

The teaching guide begins with listings of the Title, Lesson Focus, Focal Scripture, and Memory Verse, all of which provide the premise for the lesson. Notice the teaching suggestions:

"Connecting with Life," gives suggestions for beginning the class and helping the students gain interest in the study.

"Guide the Study," offers suggestions for understanding the Bible passage.

"Encourage Application," helps students learn how to respond with their lives to this message.

"Additional Teaching Ideas," may be used as substitutes or supplements. Choose from these helps and the Word List to use along with the lesson comments to fit your class members' abilities and needs.

The Bible text printed in the lessons is from the New Life Version of the Bible (NLV), an inexpensive translation (not a paraphrase) which uses only an 850-word vocabulary. The NLV is available from Christian Literature International, P. O. Box 777, Canby, Oregon 97013; e-mail christian@canby.com; telephone (orders only) 1-800-324-9734.

The NLV Bible often uses simplified phrases to express terms generally unfamiliar to anyone not raised in a Christian environment. In the teaching procedures, these terms will usually be expressed using the NLV terminology, sometimes followed by the more common term in parentheses; for example, "proud religious Law-keeper (Pharisee)" or "early preacher (prophet)." The teacher has the option of using the NLV term for new Christians or beginning students.

Prayer should be an integral part of your lesson plan. Use where it best fits into the teaching session.

The writers and editors wish you success and give you prayerful support in your teaching of Bible Study in Basic English.

Bible study in Basic English is published by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and follows the same curriculum plan as the Bible Study for Texas materials. Teachers may wish to purchase Bible Study for Texas lesson comments and teaching guides (\$1.95 each per quarter) as an additional resource. These may be ordered through your church or directly from the Bible Study/Discipleship Division, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 333 North Washington, Dallas, TX 75246-1798, e-mail baptistway@bgct.org; FAX 214-828-5187; or toll free telephone 1-800-355-5285.

These studies in Basic English are now available: (The same lessons are also available in Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Spanish, and Vietnamese)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke | <input type="checkbox"/> God's Message in the Old Testament (survey) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts | <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians, Ephesians |

Coming next will be: "God's Message in the New Testament" (survey).

The internet address to download these lessons: http://www.bgct.org/Sunday_school/bstlqa.htm (Basic English)

Julia Wrotenbery wrote the teaching procedures for this study. She has worked with the ESL program in her church for four years. Prior to that she taught English in high school for 30 years. Degrees include a BA from Baylor, 1952; MRE from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1959; MA from The University of Texas at Austin, 1969.

She and her husband Carl, Dean of Libraries Emeritus, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, live in Fort Worth, TX and are active members of University Baptist Church. Family includes a son, Alan (deceased); a daughter, Martha; a son-in-law, Scott and three grandchildren.

Teaching Guide

Unit 1 TELLING THE WAY OF FAITH

Lesson 1 *NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT*

Lesson Focus

There is only one means of salvation—belief in Jesus Christ.

Focal Text

Galatians 1:6-24

Memory Verse

“May you have loving-favor and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:3

Connect with Life

1. Using a Texas, U.S., or city map show the class different ways of getting to where you want to go. The following is an example using a Texas map. Use 3 colors of high lighters to mark the 3 routes discussed. Display the map as you talk, tracing the routes. In a large class use an overhead projector.

Suppose I'm in Fort Worth. I want to go to San Antonio. What is the best way to get there? I could go all the way on IH 35, but there is very heavy traffic. I could go out U.S. Highway 377, through Benbrook to Granbury, turn south on State Highway 144. Then I could turn southwest on U.S. Highway 67 past Glen Rose. In about 12 miles I could turn south on State Highway 220. This is a pleasant, scenic route without so much traffic. At Hico it would connect with U.S. Highway 281. This highway would take me into San Antonio. A third possibility is a little longer, but it has less traffic, especially truck traffic. I could take Highway 377 and stay on it until I reached Comanche. Then I could turn south on State Highway 16 through Fredricksburg. About 25 miles farther it intersects IH 10 which would take me into San Antonio. This route is scenic and would take me through part of the hill country.

*Most destinations can be arrived at in several ways. **Salvation has only one way. That is what we want to study today.***

Guide the Study

2. Use a New Testament map to show where Galatia is. Point out the cities where churches had probably been established—Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and Antioch of Pisidia. These are likely the ones to whom the letters were written.

3. Ask a student to read aloud Galatians 1:1-5.

Say: *This is the greeting portion of Paul's letter. Instead of signing his name at the end, he puts it at the beginning.* Ask these questions:

What does Paul claim to be? (Missionary sent by Jesus and God)

To whom is the letter sent? (All the churches in the country of Galatia)

What does Paul say that they receive? (loving-favor and peace)

What has Jesus done for us? (He gave Himself to die for our sins.)

Why was it necessary to do it? (To save us from this sinful world because God wanted Him to do so)

Use 3 student volunteers. Assign each of them verses from Acts 9 to read ahead of time and explain.

Student 1, Acts 9:1-9

Student 2, Acts 9:10-19

Student 3, Acts 9:20-31

Call for reports. If no one volunteered, do this yourself.

4. Call on a student to read Galatians 1:6-9. Then ask: *What is surprising to Paul?* (That they are leaving Christ so soon)

Why are they leaving? (They are listening to another kind of good news which is the wrong way.)

Ask a student to read aloud the section in the student study guide entitled “*Don't Turn from the Truth!*”

Ask a student read Galatians 1:10-14. Ask these questions:

Whose favor is Paul trying to get? (God's. Point out that he claims he is owned by Christ. That's why he must please Him.)

Where did Paul get the Good News? (He received it from Christ.)

Before he received the good news, what had he been trying to do? (He had been trying to destroy the Christian church. Point out that Paul was a Jew who was well-trained in the Jewish faith and a devoted follower.)

6. Invite a class member to read verses 15-17. Tell the class this: *Paul felt he was chosen even before birth to preach the Good News. He was to live so that Christ could be seen in him.* Ask these questions:

Why did He select Paul? (Paul was chosen so that he could tell about Jesus to all who were not Jews.)

How did Paul prepare? (He went to Arabia. Other places in the New Testament tell us he was instructed there by God. After 3 years he returned to Damascus.)

7. Select a class member to read Galatians 1:18-24. Ask these questions:

How long did Paul stay in Damascus preaching? (3 years)

At the end of that time, where did he go? (To Jerusalem) *Why?* (To meet Peter)

What other follower has Paul met? (James, the brother of Jesus)

After Jerusalem where did Paul go? (To Syria and Cilicia)

What had the churches in Judea heard about Paul? (That the one who had tried to destroy the church was preaching the Good News)

How did they react? (They gave thanks to God because of Paul once they were reassured about his new relationship with God.)

Encourage Application

8. Ask a student to read to the class the section from the study guide entitled ***"Nothing Else Like It!"***

9. Discuss ***"Things to Think About."***

Additional Teaching Ideas Connect With Life

10. Tell the class:

*The English Victorian novelist Lewis Carroll wrote a book called **Alice in Wonderland**. In it he describes a little girl's fantastic dream world where animals talk and things are not what they seem. Alice asks directions of an unusual cat: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" The cat replies, "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." Then Alice begins to explain: "I don't much care where . . ." The cat interrupts, "Then it doesn't matter which way you go." But Alice continues her explanation, ". . . so long as I get somewhere." "Oh, you're sure to do that," said the cat, "if you only walk long enough."*

Ask:

Do we wish to get somewhere in particular? Then we need to find the right way to get there. If we are concerned with being right with God, there is only one way and we need to find it. There is nothing else like that way.

Encourage Application

11. Discuss the Word List from the study guide. Make sure everyone understands the meanings. Add other words as needed. Suggest that the students begin a Personal Glossary (word list) for Galatians and Ephesians. See Resources.

12. Ask someone to read the memory verse. Suggest students keep a Memory Verse Record for this quarter's lessons. Write the memory verse for this lesson. Practice with a partner to memorize the verse for today.

Repeat it together as a closing prayer for each other

Teaching Guide

Unit 1 TELLING THE WAY OF FAITH Lesson 2 *WALKING THE TALK*

Lesson Focus

God expects His followers to live what they say they believe.

Focal Text

Galatians 2:1-6, 11-21

Memory Verse

“A man is made right with God by putting his trust in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 2:16b

Connect with Life

1. Refer to the “*Good Examples*” in the lesson study guide. (Read or tell it, or ask a student to do so.) Tell about an example you know of where people lived their beliefs. Ask if anyone else would like to share an example. Say: *We’ll be looking at ways to live our beliefs, to “walk the talk.”*

Guide the Study

2. Ask a student to read Galatians 2:1-2. Ask these questions:

How much time passed before Paul returned to Jerusalem? (14 years)

What two men went with him? (Barnabas and Titus. Share information about Barnabas and Titus:

***Barnabas** was a member of the church at Jerusalem. He is called a prophet, teacher, apostle (missionary). He was from Cyprus (not far from Tarsus where Paul grew up). He was one of those in the early church who sold property and gave it to the church. Barnabas accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey and on a trip to Jerusalem to deliver money to help those in need.*

***Titus** was a Greek whom Paul witnessed to. Paul later called him “mine own son after a common faith” in Paul’s letter to him. Titus was the Greek whom those in Jerusalem insisted be made a ritual Jew. Paul was able to prevail with his insistence that a person could be a Christian without being a Jew. Titus traveled with Paul and served in Corinth and in Crete.*

To whom did Paul feel called to witness? (The non-Jews, or Gentiles)

To whom did Paul speak in Jerusalem? (To important church leaders)

Why did Paul need to speak to them? (He wanted to tell them what he was preaching to be sure they were all together in their teaching.)

3. Ask a student to read Galatians 2:3-6. Ask: *What is unusual about Titus in this group?* (He was not a Jew but a Gentile.) Tell the group this:

Some Jews felt that a person must go through the rituals to become a Jew before he could become a Christian. They were troubled because Titus had not been circumcised (part of the Jewish ritual for a man to become a Jew).

What unexpected group came to this meeting? (Some uninvited Jews who “called themselves Christians”)

What did Paul say they wanted? (To chain Gentiles to the Jewish Law)

Why did Paul reject this? (It is Christ who saves, not the Law.)

How does God value the Gentiles in comparison with the Jews? (“God looks on us all as being the same,” verse 6.)

Share this background information:

In verses 7-10, Paul explained that God called Barnabas and him to preach to the Gentiles

even as He called James, Peter, and John to preach to the Jews. The only new instructions they gave Paul was a reminder to remember to help the poor.

4. Ask a student to read Galatians 2:11-13. Say *Paul told Peter that Peter was not acting as he should. What had Peter done? (He ate with the Gentiles until some Jews came from Jerusalem. Then he kept away from the Gentiles. He was afraid of what the Jews would say.) Who else was fooled? (Barnabas)*

Ask a student to read the first 2 paragraphs of ***“Walking the Talk—All the Time,”*** Study Guide.

5. Call on another students to read Galatians 2:14-16. Say:

Notice that Paul said they were not being honest. He spoke to Peter about it. Paul said to Peter: “You lived like a Gentile Christian until the Jews came. Why do you expect the Gentiles to live like Jews?” In verse 16, what did Paul say about obeying the Law? (This did not have the power to make you right with God.)

How is a man made right with God? (Verse 16 says, “A man is made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not by obeying the Law.”)

6. Read to the class verses 17-19. Explain:
The Jews believed those who did not keep all of the Law were sinners. Paul said the Law does not provide salvation. Grace from God does that through our belief in Jesus Christ. There are not two tracks to salvation, one for Jews and one for Gentiles. Christ has wiped out the need for the Law. People who accept Christ live for Him, not for the Law.

7. Have a class member read Galatians 2:20-21. Explain: *When someone becomes a follower of Christ, he dies to his old self as Jesus did on the cross. Now Christ lives in and through that person. By insisting on the keeping of all the Law, we are putting aside the loving-favor of God. Look at the very last sentence of the scripture passage: “If we could be made right with God by keeping the Law, then Christ died for nothing.” Jesus’ death and resurrection has taken the place of the Law as the way of*

reaching God’s favor.

Encourage Application

8. Ask a student to read aloud ***“Walking the Talk—by Faith.”*** Study Guide. Discuss “Things to Think About.” Close with prayer that God would help us “walk the talk,” that is, live daily what we say we believe in our hearts.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

9. Explain to the class what the phrase “walk the talk” means: ***“Walk”*** refers to the way you live your daily life, what your character is and how you show it. ***“Talk”*** refers to what you say to others that you believe. The idea is that they ought to match. We ought not to say that we believe in certain principles if we do not practice those principles. We have other sayings which emphasize the same ideas: *Practice what you preach. Do as I say, not as I do.*

Present the case studies. Discuss who is “walking the talk.”

Mr. A - Attends church regularly. Tithes. Cheats on his income tax.

Miss B - Attends church regularly. Teaches a children’s Sunday School class. Gives a dollar per week to the offering. Spends most of her salary on clothes and cosmetics for herself.

Mrs. C - Is too shy to teach a class or hold an office, but is always ready to help in case of illness, death, or problems.

Mr. D - Is too poor to buy a suit to wear to church, but he gives what he can to the church and mission offerings. Volunteers to do fix-up work at the church and for several widows and shut-ins.

Mrs. E - is always present at church, serves on committees, is known for her sharp tongue, gossip, and criticism of others.

Encourage Application

10. Review the word list. Discuss other words which are not understood. Add the new words to your personal word list, or glossary.

11. Discuss the memory verse. Explain what is meant by “made right with God” and “putting trust” in Jesus Christ. Learn the verse. Add to the Memory Verse Record. Recite it together. Close with prayer that God will help each person to trust God’s grace

Teaching Guide

Unit 1 TELLING THE WAY OF FAITH Lesson 3 *FAITH—THE ONLY WAY*

Lesson Focus

Faith in Jesus Christ, not Law, is what we live by to be right with God.

Focal Text

Galatians 3:1-18

Memory Verse

“The man right with God will live by faith.” Galatians 3:11b

Connect with Life

1. Ask a student to read the story of Han from the study guide. Tell of someone you know who has put his faith and trust in Jesus. Ask for any volunteers who would also tell of someone. Ask: *How did all these people find salvation* (receive the Holy Spirit)? Emphasize that all people are sinners. All of us find salvation (receive the Holy Spirit) through faith in Jesus Christ, not through what we do, no matter how good we try to be.

Guide the Study

2. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:1-5. Ask these questions:
Why did Paul call the Galatians foolish? (They were being led away from faith in Christ.)
What does Paul feel they have made plain to the Galatians? (That Jesus was put on the cross to die)
How did the Galatians receive the Holy Spirit? (By hearing about Christ and believing, not by keeping the Law)
3. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:6-9. Then have someone read the first 2 paragraphs under

“*Abraham’s Faith and God’s Promise*” in the study guide. Tell the class:

The Jews saw Abraham as the beginning of the Jewish people, their “Father.”

In verse 7 what did Paul say about all believers?

(“All men who put their trust in God are the Sons of Abraham.”)

Say: Paul pointed out that the “Holy Writings,” that is the Old Testaments, gave the Good News to Abraham. Ask the class to read Abraham’s words together from verse 8.

What was Paul’s conclusion in verse 9? (Ask the class to read together verse 9.)

4. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:10-14. Then ask someone to read the remaining paragraphs under “*Abraham’s Faith and God’s Promise.*”

Ask the class these questions:

What did Paul quote from Deuteronomy 27:26?

(“Everyone who does not keep on doing all the things written in the Book of the Law will be punished.”)

In verse 11 what does Paul say about the Law?

(“No one is made right with God by doing what the Law says.”) Paul also quoted another Old Testament reference, Habakkuk 2:4.

What does it say? (“The man right with God will live by faith.”) The problem with the Law is found in verse 12: It does not use faith and each person must obey every single part of the Law all the time to be right with God.

How did Christ make us free of the Law? (He bought us with His blood.)

How did Christ accomplish this? (Christ carried our load and took our punishment Himself.) The last verse, verse 14, tells how we who are not Jews can receive good things from God. Let us read this verse together.

5. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:15-18. Say: Verse 15 emphasizes how important a

promise was with its comparison to an agreement between two men—it can not be changed. Ask someone to read the first paragraph under **“The Law and the Promise”** in the study guide. Notice that the promise came 430 years before the Law. In verse 17 we read: “The Law could not put that promise aside.” Re-read verse 18 to the class: *“If it had been possible to be saved from the punishment of sin by obeying the Law, the promise God gave Abraham would be worth nothing. But since it is not possible to be saved by obeying the Law, the promise God gave Abraham is worth everything.”*

Encourage Application

6. Ask a student to read the last paragraph under **“The Law and the Promise.”** Then discuss “Things to Think About.” Close with prayer that we remember these truths:
- (1) God made an unbreakable promise to Abraham that through his line all the world would be blessed.
 - (2) Christ is the fulfillment of that promise.
 - (3) All believers in Christ are children of Abraham and, therefore, children of promise.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

7. Relate this situation to the class:

Tom met a young man in his Sunday School class whom he could not relate to. The young man seemed immature and not quite trustworthy. Later Tom revised his first impression. The young man became his friend and helper. Tom learned that sometimes we jump to conclusions about people and have to change our thinking. Paul was sometimes guilty of this. When Mark did not finish the first missionary journey with him and Barnabas, Paul did not want to give him a second chance. Because of this Paul chose Silas to go with him and Barnabas took Mark. Paul later changed his mind when Mark proved himself to be a dedicated worker. As a result of this disagreement two missionary

teams went out instead of one. If all of us “walk the talk,” then God’s work gets done.

Encourage Application

8. Before concluding with number 6 above, emphasize the Word List. Discuss meanings, pronunciations, and other words as needed. Encourage students to record the words and their meaning on their Word List.

9. In pairs practice saying the memory verse. Ask members to record the verse in their Memory Verse Record. Repeat the verse together.

Close with prayer that God will strengthen us to live by faith.

Teaching Guide

Unit 1 TELLING THE WAY OF FAITH Lesson 4 *AT THE RIGHT TIME*

Lesson Focus

When God thought the time was right, He sent His Son to free us from the Law and make us children of God.

Focal Text

Galatians 3:19-4:11

Memory Verse

“The law was used to lead us to Christ. It was our teacher, and so we are made right with God by putting our trust in Christ.”

Galatians 3:24

Connect with Life

1. Ask the class:

What are some of the laws that we must obey every day? (Traffic laws, property laws, environmental laws, peace laws, family laws, etc.)

Why do we need laws? (Laws are needed because some people will harm the earth or other people if we did not have some way of regulating them.) Imagine what would happen if there were no stop signs, stop lights, speed limits, etc.

Would life be more dangerous? What changes would need to be made to make it safe to live without laws? (People would need to consider the needs of others and be willing to give everyone fair and equal opportunities.) God gave the Law to the Jews because of sin. It deals with spiritual matters of relating to God. It also deals with matters concerning

ourselves and others. Our national, state, and local laws concern our relationships with other people and property. Jewish Law (meaning the first five books of the Old Testament) was given because of sin. It was to show right and wrong until a higher authority in Jesus came.

Guide the Study

2. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:19-20. Now ask someone to read the first two paragraphs under “*The Right Time—for the Law.*”

The Law showed the people how to relate to God and to each other until it was time for Christ to come. People became slaves to the “doing” of the Law without keeping the “spirit of the law.”

3. Have a student read Galatians 3:21-22.

Why was obeying the Law not enough? (Verse 22 says all men are guilty of sin.)

If keeping the Law is not enough, what are people to do? (Place their faith in Christ whose sinless life, death, and resurrection provide the sacrifice needed for forgiveness)

4. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:23-26.

In verse 23 why did Paul say that being under the Law was like being in prison? (The Law was to hold us safe until Christ came.)

What does verse 24 say about the purpose of the Law? (It was to lead us to Christ. It was our teacher.)

What has made us children of God? (Putting our trust in Christ Jesus)

5. Ask a student to read Galatians 3:27-29.

What has the symbol of baptism done for us? (It shows we belong to Christ and have become

like Him.) Verse 28 shows us that God values each of us equally.

What 3 different kinds of people did he compare? (Jew and Greek, slave and free, man and woman)

What is the teaching of verse 29? (If we belong to Christ, we are children of Abraham. We can receive the promise God gave him.)

6. Ask a student to read Galatians 4:1-3. Tell the class that these verses picture the same message in another way. This time the people are compared to the child of a wealthy family. He must be watched over and guided even though all the wealth really belongs to him. He has no power until he grows up. The Law is like those who watched over and cared for the child. Before Christ came, people who followed God had to obey the Law as a child obeyed his teachers.

7. Ask a person to read Galatians 4:4-5.

God chose the time to send Christ. Can you think of any reasons why this was a good time? (Romans held most of the settled world. That meant there was relative peace, law and order, a common language, and few barriers to traveling through the Roman Empire. Thus the news of Jesus' birth could be spread easily.) Christ was born under the Law.

What does verse 5 tell us about what Jesus' purpose was? (He came to buy us with His blood in order to make us free. That made us also children of God.)

8. Ask a student to read Galatians 4:6-7.

Because we are now children of God what has He done for His followers? (He sent His Spirit, the Spirit of the Son, into our hearts. The Spirit within His people calls God "Father.")

9. Ask a student to read Galatians 4:7-11. Notice in verse 7 that Christ's followers are no longer slaves but sons and daughters. Verses 8 and 9 tell us that His sons and daughters are no longer slaves to false gods and idols. They are not to submit to the slavery of the Law. They are free. They are heirs of God.

Encourage Application

10. Now ask a student to read aloud the section in the study guide entitled "*At the Right Time—Children of God.*"

Discuss "*Things to Think About.*" Close with prayer that God will help us to trust Him to free us from the burden of sin and the Law that we might be certain we are His children and heirs with Christ.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

11. Say to the class:

Have you ever thought about how important it is to do things at the right time?

- ♦ *What happens if you put a cake in the oven at the wrong time—before it is pre-heated?*
- ♦ *What happens if you take the cake out too soon?*
- ♦ *What happens if you never get to work on time?*
- ♦ *What happens if you set your alarm clock too late or too early?*
- ♦ *What happens if you don't get to the gate at the airport when it is time for the plane to leave?*

Think of many other examples of how important it is to do things at the right time. Say:

When God thought the time was right He sent His Son to earth.

Encourage Application

12. Examine the Word List. Discuss meanings and pronunciation. Encourage everyone to record these.

13. Examine the memory verse. Practice saying it. Encourage students to commit it to memory and to record it in his or her Memory Verse Record.

Teaching Guide

Unit 2 TELLING THE WAY OF FAITH

Lesson 5 *FREEDOM FROM AND FREEDOM FOR*

Lesson Focus

Jesus died to save us **from** our sin and **for** a Spirit-led life.

Focal Text

Galatians 5:1-6, 13-26

Memory Verse

“Let the Holy Spirit lead you in each step. Then you will not please your sinful old selves.”

Galatians 5:16b

Connect with Life

1. Tell this to the class:

Many programs exist for helping those who are alcoholics or drug addicts. It usually takes some time to rid the body of the harmful accumulations. At the end of that time the body is supposedly cleansed of toxic elements. The patient is free from alcoholism or drug addiction. Now what happens? In many cases the person returns to his addiction and becomes enslaved again. In other cases the person struggles hard to stay away from those things which are harmful to him. He needs encouragement and support from family and friends to succeed. This kind of slavery and freedom is what Paul discusses in Galatians 5. God has saved us from sin. With the help of the Holy Spirit we are saved for good works and service to God.

Guide the Study

2. Ask a student to read Galatians 5:1-6.

When Paul urged the Galatians to stay free, what was he warning against? (Being chained in the Law by going through the rituals to become a Jew.)

Why will becoming a Jew through ritual make Christ of no use? (Those who are under Law must obey every law in the first five books of the Old Testament. It was because this couldn't be done that Christ came and died.)

How will our hope of being made right with God come? (Through the Holy Spirit and by faith.)

What is important for us in verse 6? (Faith working through love.) Ask a student to read the section in the study guide called “Live in the Freedom of Christ.”

3. Have someone read Galatians 5:13-18. Paul saw Christians as having an “old” self and a “new” self. The old self leans toward sin.

How should the new self use its freedom? (By loving and helping others)

In verse 14 what must we do to obey the whole Law? (Love your neighbor as you love yourself.)

Notice that the verse Paul quoted here is from an Old Testament book of Law –Leviticus 19:18.

From the very beginning God meant for us to love others. When we do that we live a different way. We must not hurt others or make life hard for others.

In verse 16 Paul tells us how to do this. What does he say? (“Let the Holy Spirit lead you in each step.

Then you will not please your sinful old selves.”)

Read in unison verse 18: “If you let the Holy Spirit lead you, the Law no longer has power over you.”

4. Summarize verses 19-21:

These are some of the kinds of sins our old self may want to continue committing: “sex sins, sinful desires, wild living, worshiping false gods, witchcraft, hating, fighting, being jealous, being angry, arguing, dividing into little groups and thinking other groups are wrong, false teaching, wanting something someone else has, killing other people, using strong drink, wild parties—and all things like these.” All these are negative acts which the soul freed from sin should not commit.

5. Say: Paul also gave us a list of what our new life should produce. These are called “fruits of the Spirit.”

Ask someone to read Galatians 5:22-26.

List these on the board (or poster). These fruits

include “love, joy, peace, not giving up, being kind, being good, having faith, being gentle, and being the boss over our own desires. These do not oppose the Law.”

Say: They really represent the spirit in which God meant the Law to be interpreted.

According to verse 24, what has happened to “our old sinful selves”? (They are nailed to the cross and our sinful desires are now dead.)

Verses 25 and 26 give us further guidance. Read these together:

“If the Holy Spirit is living in us, let us be led by Him in all things. Let us not become proud in ways in which we should not. We must not make hard feelings among ourselves as Christians or make anyone jealous.”

Ask someone to read “***Freedom to Do Good***” from the study guide.

Encourage Application

6. Using the list of the fruits of the Spirit, ask the class to describe a person who has grown that fruit. *For example, how would a person recognize love in another Christian?*

What demonstrates love? Discuss the others in the same way.

7. Discuss “***Things to Think About***” in light of the preceding descriptions.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

8. Give everyone a pencil and a piece of paper. Working in small groups, students should list as many religion and denomination names as they can think of that you might find in this country. Groups list these on the board or a flip chart. (A large city phone directory of Yellow Pages will be helpful in supplementing this. Or copy a portion of the Yellow Pages which list churches and synagogues and distribute them to each group to help them compile their lists. The lists may include Jewish, Christian, Unitarian, Unity, Spiritualist, Science of Mind, Sufi, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormon, Buddhist, Baha’i, Muslim, and perhaps a number of others. The various denominations in Christian churches include Baptists (a number of different kinds), Methodist, Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ (Christian), Churches of Christ, Adventist, Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Assembly of God, Church of God, Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran, Catholic, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Congregational, Nazarene, Quaker, Mennonite, etc.

Ask the group to discuss why there are so many kinds in this country.

Say: This country supports religious freedom.

Everyone has the right to worship or not as he or she chooses in any way he chooses.) The lesson today discusses freedom and how it should be used.

Guide the Study

9. Overview of the lesson: Ask someone to summarize the section of the study guide “***Keep That Freedom.***”

10. Have a student read Galatians 5:1-6. Ask for several to state what they see as the main truths here. (Christ made us free. The Law will chain us again. Faith in Christ is the only requirement for being made right with God.)

Record these on the flip chart. See if anyone else would like to add to them.

11. Distribute pencils and sheets with this heading: How to Live Free in Christ. Divide the sheet into “Do” and “Don’t Do” columns. Tell the class that the next verses give us some practical advice. Then ask a student to read Galatians 5:13-18 and 26. Have the class work in pairs or in small groups to fill out these lists. After several minutes share ideas.

12. Ask someone to read Galatians 5:22-26. Prepare ahead of time a poster listing Fruits of the Spirit. As you display this ask for examples of what we might do to show each of these fruits. For each one hold up an artificial fruit (apple, pear, banana, grapes, etc.) And ask: If this represents the fruit of _____, how can we show it? Record these on the poster.

Encourage Application

13. Examine and discuss the word list. Check for other unclear words. Add these to your glossary (personal word list).

14. Read together the memory verse, Galatians 5:16. Record it in your Memory Verse Record.

Close with prayer that the Holy Spirit might lead us in all we do.

Teaching Guide

Unit 2 LIVING THE WAY OF FAITH

Lesson 6 *THIS WAY TO A HEALTHY CHURCH*

Lesson Focus

A healthy church is one which reaches out to offer fellowship and to help both its members and others as well as being a center of worship.

Focal Text

Galatians 6:1-14

Memory Verse

“Help each other in troubles and problems. This is the kind of law Christ asks us to obey.”

Galatians 6:2

Connect with Life

1. Say to the class: Suppose you have just moved to town. Since you need to find a church home, you visit several churches. Here is what you find:

Church A - There is an inspiring service with lovely music and a fine sermon. There is a very worshipful atmosphere. No one speaks to you, smiles at you, or even seems to know you are there.

Church B - Someone sees you come in and offers to help you find a Bible study class. He says he'll pick you up after Sunday School so you can sit with him and his family. The service is rather ordinary, but people are very friendly and seem involved in many kinds of church activities which help others.

Which church would most appeal to you? Why?

Guide the Study

2. Ask a member to read Galatians 6:1-5. Pose these questions for the class:

How should Christians react toward a fellow Christian who is obviously sinning? (Paul said we must lead them back to the right way.)

What attitude should we be careful to avoid? (Feeling better than those weaker Christians.)

What is our job as Christians in verse 2? (Help others where and when there is need.)

Most of us know someone who thinks he is more important than he really is. What did Paul say about this one? (The person is fooling himself.) What warning did Paul give about comparisons? (Do not compare yourself to your neighbor. Do your own work as best you can. Then you can feel you have done a good job.)

Ask several members to read the various paragraphs under ***“Healthy Churches Share Burdens”*** in the study guide.

3. Invite a student to read Galatians 6:6. Ask class: *To whom did Paul refer?* (The teacher is one of those called of God to minister to Christians in the church. They may include the pastor, education minister, music minister, secretary. In large churches there are many staff people who work with various groups and programs. The church is to provide for those who serve God in this way.) Ask a student to read the section in the study guide ***“Healthy Churches Take Care of Their Leaders.”***

4. Have a member read Galatians 6:7-10. These words are for all of us in the church whether we are members or paid workers.

What do you think Paul meant when he said, “A man will get back what he plants”? (We are rewarded according to how well we serve.) Verse 8 puts it into other words. It is a matter of serving to please the Holy Spirit or living to please ourselves.

What is our reward if we please the Holy Spirit? (Life that lasts forever) Verse 9 is advice all Christians need at times in our lives—Don’t get tired of doing good. Sometimes following Christ is great labor and pain for us, but we are promised rewards if we do not give up. Verse 10 gives us to groups to

whom we should do good—other Christians and everyone else.

5. Ask someone to read Galatians 6:11-14. Notice that Paul seems to be writing part of the letter himself instead of telling one of his helpers what to write. One idea about writing in big letters is that Paul's eyesight is very poor. Paul has said over and over again that no Gentile has to become a Jew before he or she can follow Christ. But he said it one more time at the end of his letter. The reason some Jews insist on this is pride he said. This would make them feel more important. In verse 14 Paul told us what we should be proud of.

Call on someone to re-read that verse. Now ask someone to read the last portion of the study guide, *"A Healthy Church Does Not Give Up."*

Encourage Application

6. Discuss "Things to Think About."

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

10. Distribute slips of paper and pencils. Ask the class to write on one side WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY CHURCH and on the other side WHAT MAKES AN UNHEALTHY CHURCH. Encourage them to share these in small groups and discuss them. Then ask for reports as you write each new idea on the board or on a flip chart. Say to the class: We are looking today at what Paul said about healthy churches.

Guide the Study

11. Assign one group to explore Galatians 16:1-2 together. Decide how we are to treat fellow Christians in the church. A second group should look at Galatians 6:3-5 to decide how each Christian should live. Pool these ideas for the whole group. Now ask the groups to think of examples of these behaviors which they have observed in churches. Share these with the larger group.

12. Working in small groups, have the class examine Galatians 6:6. They should decide what this verse meant in Paul's time and what it could mean for us today. Then have the groups share their ideas.

Instead, you might ask your pastor to give a 5

minute overview of how his day is spent. Or ask a class member who is a pastor or the wife of a pastor to do this.

Ask someone to read *"Healthy Churches Take Care of Their Leaders."*

14. Request someone to read Galatians 6:7-10. Ask another person to read from the study guide *"A Healthy Church Does Not Give Up."* Either read to the class or print these on a poster or chalkboard:

Mr. and Mrs. E. come to join a new church after a move from another state. They say they have worked for many years with youth in their church, but now they feel they have earned the right to rest. They attend but do nothing else.

Mrs. F. has six children to look after. She has very little education, but a great deal of common sense. If something needs to be done in the church or community, she is the first one to see the need and meet it.

In small groups compare these people with Paul's advice. Think of people you have known who have or have not followed Paul's advice. Discuss these.

15. Ask someone to read Galatians 6:14. Then ask everyone to write a 2 or 3 sentence summary of what Paul has told us about pride. Ask for volunteers to read theirs.

Encourage Application

16. Look back at the flip chart prepared in the introduction to the lesson. Ask the class to make suggestions about how to change what we don't like about our churches.

17. Look at the other list of what we like about our churches. Demonstrate how you might talk to an unchurched person about what your church has to offer or ask for volunteers to do this.

18. Look at the new word - deacons. Talk about their duties. Your church by-laws should have a list of these. Write the new word in your glossary.

9. Examine the memory verse. In pairs work to commit it to memory. Record it in your Memory Verse Record. Recite the verse together. Close with prayer that God would help us to try harder to help others as individual Christians and as church members.

Teaching Guide

Unit 3 GOD'S PLAN AND OUR RESPONSE Lesson 7 *WHAT GOD IS UP TO*

Lesson Focus

God planned from the very beginning for Jesus Christ to die in order to save us through our faith in Him.

Focal Text

Ephesians 1:1-14

Memory Verse

"God . . . planned long ago to send Christ into the world . . . at the right time." Galatians 1:9b 10

Connect with Life

1. Tell the class: In many businesses and even in churches, Monday morning is a time for a staff meeting. Here goals and purposes are explained so that everyone understands what needs to be done. In a sense this is the kind of thing Paul is doing in his letter to the church at Ephesus which he wrote from prison.

Guide the Study

2. Use a map to show where Ephesus is located. Ephesus in Paul's day was one of the largest cities in the Roman Empire with a population of about 250,000. It had a well-protected harbor and was a center of banking, commerce, provincial government, and religion. The Temple of Artemis (or Diana as the Romans called her) was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Pictures of Ephesus might be helpful here. Many biblical atlases will have some of these. Some sources are Holman's Bible Atlas (1998), Holman Bible Handbook (1992), Good News: The New Testament (American Bible Society, 1955).

3. Ask a student to read Ephesians 1:1-2.

To whom is the letter addressed? (Those who belong to Christ in the city of Ephesus and to you who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus)). Most likely this letter was shared by several churches in Asia Minor.

How did Paul identify himself? (As a missionary for Jesus Christ. Most versions of the Bible use the term apostle here.) Notice how similar his prayer for the people is to the one in Galatians. *What did he ask for these people?* (Loving-favor and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.)

Ask several people to read aloud the paragraphs from the study guide entitled "*Paul Writes to the Faithful Followers in Ephesus.*"

4. Invite someone to read Ephesians 1:3-5. Explain to the class that Paul believed God planned ahead of time (before the world was made) to make us "holy and without blame." He meant even then for us to be His children. How was this to be accomplished? (By Jesus Christ)

5. Ask a student to read Ephesians 1:6-8. Paul repeated in this letter what he said many times in his writings:

- (1) God gave His loving-favor (grace) through Jesus His Son.
- (2) Jesus' blood was the price to buy us from slavery to sin.
- (3) Through His blood we have forgiveness.
- (4) God did this willingly because He loved us. Now have someone read the last two paragraphs under "*Blessing to the Chosen People of God*" in the study guide.

6. Ask someone to read Ephesians 1:9-10. Paul said this plan had been a secret from long ago. Now it is revealed through Christ. Read again verse 10. For Paul, the secret was that everyone

can be united in Christ, both Jew and Gentile.

Call for someone to read the second and third paragraphs of ***“God’s Secret Plan Is Now Known.”***

7. Ask someone to read Ephesians 1:11-14. All through these verses Paul has emphasized that we owe God gratitude for this wonderful plan. What a tremendous love was shown that from the beginning of time this plan was ready for us! Paul said this is the Good News. Paul said God marked us at the time we trusted Jesus.

How did He do this? (By giving us the Holy Spirit.) *How long will the Spirit be with us?* (Until we are complete—that is until we are ready to meet God face to face.) Remember that we are “works in progress,” not yet finished.

Encourage Application

8. Discuss ***“Things to Think About.”***

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

10. Tell the group this:

In this country children grow up playing variations of a game called Twenty Questions. The person who is “it” thinks of something in the categories of animal, vegetable, or mineral. The members of the group can ask questions which require a yes or no answer. After twenty questions the group tries to figure out what he or she was thinking of by pooling the information and guessing.

Encourage Application

11. Discuss word in the Word List. Add any others needed. Have students record these in their personal glossaries.
12. Direct attention to the memory verse. Recite it together. Record it in Memory Verse Record.

Close with prayer that we might understand God’s secret plan and share it with the world.

Teaching Guide

Unit 3 GOD'S PLAN AND OUR RESPONSE Lesson 8 *THIS WAY TO A HEALTHY CHURCH*

Lesson Focus

All mankind was dead in sin, but Jesus' death made new life possible for us through our faith in Him.

Focal Text

Ephesians 1:1-16

Memory Verse

"For by His loving-favor you have been saved from the punishment of sin through faith. It is not by anything you have done. It is a gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8

Connect with Life

1. Ask someone to read aloud the introduction to the lesson in the study guide. If you prefer, the teacher can do this.

Guide the Study

2. Request someone to read Ephesians 2:1-3.

Ask these questions:

What was our spiritual condition before we knew Christ? (We were dead because of our sin.)

What did we follow? (The sinful ways of the world)

Whom did we obey? (The leader of the power of darkness, the devil)

What is it about people that so angers God? (People live to please themselves, not God.)

What should be the result of our sin? (People will suffer from the anger of God.) This was the situation which caused God to send His Son to us. *How do we define sin?*

Ask someone to read the second paragraph under "*What the Ephesians Had Been in the Past*" in the study guide.

3. Ask for a reading of Ephesians 2:4-6. Ask these questions:

Why did God not merely let us be punished for our sin? (Verse 4 says it was because He loved us too much.) We were already dead because of our sins, verse 5 tells us.

What has now given us life through His loving-favor, or grace? (What Christ did for us made us alive.)

When are believers given new life? (God gave life to believers when He raised up Christ Jesus from the dead.)

What place is now reserved for us as believers? (A place with Christ in heaven)

Why has God done all this? (To show His loving-favor and His kindness)

4. Suggest that a student read Ephesians 2:7-10.

Paul summarized that we are saved from punishment through faith and because of God's loving favor. It is a gift. Nothing we can do can earn it. Notice verse 9 *What might happen if we could earn it?* (We would become proud of what we had done instead of grateful for God's gift.)

Ask someone to read the second paragraph of "*What the Ephesians Became through the Work of Christ*" in the study guide. Now look at verse 10? How does God see us? (As His work) What is His plan for us? (To belong to Jesus Christ and work for Him)

5. Invite someone to read Ephesians 2:11-12. In these verses a contrast is made between Jews and Gentiles. The Jews have known God since the time of Abraham. The Gentiles were without God. Gentiles were without hope until Jesus came.

6. Have a student read Ephesians 2:13-14.

A great change occurs here. Who made the change possible? (Christ Jesus)

How did Christ do this for us? (By giving His

blood on the cross) Now we have peace. Re-read verse 14. Jews and Gentiles who believe in Christ are now one people. The wall has been broken down. All believers are the chosen people, the children of promise. Verse 15 tells four things that have been accomplished:

- (1) God stopped the need for fighting between Jew and Gentile.
- (2) He put an end to the Law.
- (3) He made the two people one new kind of people like Himself.
- (4) God has made peace. Re-read verse 16: "He [Christ] brought both groups together to God. Christ finished the fighting between them by His death on the cross."

Encourage Application

7. Discuss the questions posed in the final paragraph of the study guide.

8. Discuss "Things to Think About."

9. Close with reading John 5:24 as another testimony of the same ideas: *"For sure, I tell you, anyone who hears My Word and puts his trust in Him Who sent Me has life that lasts forever. He will not be guilty. He has already passed from death into life."*

End with prayer that we might all enjoy the peace that comes of new life which we can have through belief in Christ.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

10. Recount these ideas to the class: In all cultures honors and awards are given to people who have shown great courage or have helped their nation by what they have done. Try to imagine giving an honor to someone who has not contributed anything. Imagine a committee coming to a person and saying, "We want to give you a reward. You haven't done anything outstanding, but we like you anyway." It

seems ridiculous, but in a way that's what God has done for us. He has offered us eternal life, not because we deserve it, but because He loves us. That is what Paul was trying to show us in the Ephesians passage we study today.

Encourage Application

11. Collect newspaper stories that show how various people groups hate others of different ethnic or religious make-up. Share these with the class. Then ask them how Paul thought we should view other groups. Ask:

How does God see these various groups?

13. Make sure everyone knows the definition of the word in the Word List. A few pictures of jungle scenes might help here. *National Geographic* is a good source. Ask them to record the word in their glossaries and any other word in the lesson which needs explaining.

14. Examine together the memory verse. This is one of the best-known verses among Christians. Make sure everyone understands it. Commit it to memory. Repeat it together and record it in the Memory Verse Record.

Close with prayer that offers thanks to God for this assurance.

Teaching Guide

Unit 3 LIVING THE WAY OF FAITH Lesson 9 *WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU*

Lesson Focus

God wants for us a commitment to and love for Him and for our fellow humans.

Focal Text

Ephesians 3:14-21

Memory Verse

“God is able to do much more than we ask or think through His power working in us.”

Ephesians 3:20

Connect with Life

1. Tell the class this:

Most religions have some form of prayer although they do not all define it the same way. Some see it as meditation for a person to understand his or her inner self. Some see it as bringing offerings of fruit or grain to leave before an idol. Christians see it as communion with God, a spiritual oneness. In today’s lesson Paul prays for the church. In Ephesians 3:10 Paul felt God had chosen him to tell the Gentiles God’s secret: *“This was done so the great wisdom of God might be shown now to the leaders and powers of the heavenly places. It is being done through the church.”*

Guide the Study

2. Ask someone to read the section of the study guide *“Paul’s Prayer for the Church.”*

Ask a student to read Ephesians 3:14-15. Tell the class: Paul’s earnest prayer was because he felt the urgency of equipping the church with the strength and wisdom to carry on God’s work by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Although most Jews prayed

standing, Paul is so moved he drops to his knees. God gives us the name of His people when we come to Him in trust.

Now have someone read the last two paragraphs of *“Paul on His Knees”* in the study guide. It was this kind of power Paul was praying for.

3. Request someone to read Ephesians 3:16-17a.

Ask: *What does Paul want for the Ephesians in the church?* (That they be strong with power through the Holy Spirit and that Christ will be a living presence in their hearts)

Ask a student ahead of time to be ready at this time to tell how Paul changed through His experience in Christ. See Acts 9:1-6 and 20-22. This was what Paul wanted in every person. Faith in Christ should produce results.

4. Ask a student to read Ephesians 3:17b-19. This passage speaks of love —love in the hearts of believers, God’s love, Christ’s love.

What did he want for Christians? (That they be filled with love)

What did he want us to understand about God’s love? (How wide, long, high, and deep it is)

Before class give out these scripture passages to be read here. If your class has few English skills, copy the verses rather than asking them to find them in their Bibles: John 3:16; John 15:17; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:35-39; II Corinthians 5:14-15; I John 4:7-10; I John 4:19.

Tell the class after the reading:

Here are the words from other books of the New Testament re-emphasizing how important love is: God’s love, Christ’s love, our love for others. (Check to see if there are any questions about the meanings of these verses.)

5. Request a student to read Ephesians 3:20-21.

Here Paul talks about how God's power can work through us as individual Christians and through the church to God's honor and glory. He is greater than we can understand. A lifetime of commitment would find us still trying to understand something so vast.

Encourage Application

6. Have a student read from the study guide the last paragraph under *"Paul Prayed for the Power of Living."* Ask another to read the last paragraph from *"How Can We Measure Christ's Love?"* Discuss the questions in these passages.

7. Discuss *"Things to Think About"* from the study guide.

Close with prayer that God would lead us closer to Him that the Holy Spirit might work in our lives as Paul hoped

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

8. I Corinthians 13 is often a part of marriage ceremonies because it defines how important love is and what its nature is. Read to the class I Corinthians 13:1-3 about its importance. Ask a student to read I Corinthians 13:4-7 while you record on a sheet of newsprint taped to the wall (or the board or a poster) its qualities. Your chart would look something like this:

Qualities of Love

Does not give up
Is kind
Is not jealous
Does not claim importance for self
Has no price
Is not jealous
Does not get angry
Does not remember hurts
Is not happy with sin
Is happy with truth
Takes whatever comes
Believes
Hopes
Keeps on

We find love in our worship of God, in marriage, with friends, with family. These qualities are present in every kind of love, and God urges us to love everyone—even our enemies.
read theirs.

Encourage Application

9. Several new words appear in our word list. Make sure everyone understands them. Add others as necessary. Encourage students to record them.

10. Examine together the memory verse. In pairs work to memorize. Record it in the Memory Verse Record. Have the group recite it together.

Close with prayer that we learn to love so that God's power can work in and through us.

Teaching Guide

Unit 4 LIVING OUT GOD'S PLAN Lesson 10 *HOW TO FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE CHURCH*

Lesson Focus

God intends for the church to be the instrument through which we can accomplish His will; we do this by becoming like Christ as individuals and as a church family.

Focal Text

Ephesians 4:1-16

Memory Verse

"We are to grow up and be more like Christ. He is the leader of the church."

Ephesians 4:15b

Connect with Life

1. Ask the class these things:

How important is church in your life?

How important is it in the lives of other people whom you know who claim to be Christians?

Discuss the benefits people may gain from being with church people. (Encouragement, understanding, spiritual stimulation, etc.)

What are some of the reasons you have heard from Christian people who have no interest in being a part of a church? (People in the church are hypocrites. My wife and I both work and Sunday is the only day we can be together. I can worship better on the golf course than in a building. And other excuses)

Have you every been guilty of using one of these excuses? Just how important is a church experience for the Christian? Paul's writings in Ephesians should help us to understand.

Guide the Study

2. Ask someone to read Ephesians 4:1-6. Paul was prepared to endure prison to further the kingdom of God. He urged believers to live up to God's expectations for each individual. List the directions he gave the Ephesians. Write these on the board or on a poster or sheet of newsprint as the students call them out. (Live and work without pride; be gentle and kind; do not be hard on others; work hard to live together in unity.)

What will be the result? (There will be peace.)

Ask someone to read the third and fourth paragraphs in the study guide of the section "**God Expects Christians in the Church to Live in Unity.**" *According to Paul, how important does God think church is?*

3. Invite a student to read Ephesians 4:7-11. When Christ came to earth that was God's gift to us. When He went back to heaven it was to give us another kind of gift. An earthly Christ could be only in one place at a time. A heavenly Christ can fill the whole world with Himself.

As further gifts, what has God given us in verse 11? (Abilities and talents of various kinds. Some were able to be missionaries, others preachers or pastors, others preachers who traveled, others leaders and teachers in the church.)

All these sound like such impressive gifts, but if you do not fit into any of those categories, other abilities are mentioned in other places in the New Testament. Perhaps you have the gift of sympathy or listening with understanding or hospitality or friendliness. God has given all His people gifts or abilities He expects us to use for Him.

4. Have a student read Ephesians 4:12-16.

What is the purpose of the gifts? (To help people work well for God)

What is the result when everyone uses his gifts?

(The church becomes strong.) Notice that Paul reminded us again that the church is the body of Christ. When we work together using our gifts this body becomes strong just as the physical body becomes strong when all its parts are used to the extent of their abilities.

If we are told “to be as one in the faith and in knowing the Son of God,” verse 13, does this sound like we have an option of not being a part of the church?

Request a volunteer to read “**God Expects Christians in the Church to Grow Toward Maturity.**”

What is a mature Christian like? He is like Christ.

That is our goal and our pattern. Christ is our leader (another passage calls Him the Head of the body). Look at verse 16. Paul thought that every part was in its right place and every part of the church helped other parts. This way the church itself can mature and not remain an infant.

Encourage Application

5. Discuss “*Things to Think About.*”

Close with prayer that God would help each of us to find our gifts and improve them and put them to use.

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

6. Tell the class this story:

Jill and Howard had a new baby. To them he was so perfect just as he was that they could hardly bear the thought that he would grow and change. Then one day they realized that he was not growing much, nor gaining weight, nor trying new things. When the doctor told them that he had serious problems and would probably die before many years, they were devastated. Then they realized that they did want to see progress and development in their child. The baby did die in a few years. Some churches are like that. They do not grow. Their parts do not function together.

They do not accomplish God’s will, and they die.

Today’s lesson helps us to see what Christ means for His church and how he expects it to grow and mature and accomplish what He planned for it.

Guide the Study

11. Assign one group to explore Galatians 16:1-2

Encourage Application

7. Ask the class to discuss their own church and how well its members work together in unity. Ask for suggestions of how each member can help to change any shortcomings.

8. Examine the new word for today. Allow time for students to add to their word lists.

9. Working together, memorize the memory verse. Record it in the Memory Verse Record. Ask the group to recite it together.

Close with prayer that God would enable us to grow more Christ-like and to work together in unity within the church

Teaching Guide

Unit 4 LIVING OUT GOD'S PLAN

Lesson 11 HOW TO WALK THE WALK AND TALK THE TALK

Lesson Focus

We prove to the world and to God how much we love Him by how well we live His teachings in our daily lives.

Focal Text

Ephesians 4:17-5:11

Memory Verse

"Live as children who have the light of the Lord in them."

Ephesians 5:8

Connect with Life

1. Tell the class this incident:

Joe was a rough-tongued man with a violent temper. He was a construction worker. His fellow-workers feared him because he was so strong and lost his temper so easily. One day there was a near-tragedy in his family. In the anxious days that followed Joe found a faith in Christ he had never known. He gave himself completely to Christ and began living an altogether different kind of life. His wife was astonished at how kind and gentle he suddenly was. His fellow-workers noticed that the profanity and vulgar language stopped. He kept his temper under control and began to speak more kindly to those about him. He attended church for the first time in his life and made a public statement of his faith. Some people doubted that this change would last, but it did. Joe had left his old ways completely and was living a new life for Christ.

This kind of change is what Paul is urging the Ephesians to make.

Guide the Study

2. Ask one of the students to read Ephesians 4:17-9.

Remember what Ephesus was like in Paul's day. It was a major trade route, a Roman colony, a center of pagan religion. These Gentiles came from this culture. Paul called the people of Ephesus: "people of the world who do not know God." Paul felt it was important for Christ's people to be different.

How else would the world see the importance of the Christian life?

What are some of the characteristics which those who do not know God show? (Foolish thoughts, darkened minds, strangers to God, indifferent to right and wrong, active seekers after sin) This behavior will not be acceptable for Christians. They must be different.

3. Have someone read Ephesians 4:20-24. Here Paul explained the urgency he felt for people to lead new lives, not the old sinful life. They must turn their backs on the old ways and walk in a new direction.

Why had they lived this way? (They were "fooled into following bad desires.") The Christians mind and heart must be made new. They must become new people and be God-like.

Re-read the last portion of verse 24: "*Then you will be made right with God and have a true holy life.*"

Now ask someone to read the section in the study guide called "**What a Difference Christ Makes.**"

4. Invite a person to read Ephesians 4:25-29. Paul listed many actions which the Christians must stop.

Ask the students to list these as you (or a student) writes them on the board.

Label the list:

ACTIONS CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT DO.

Your list will include these things:

lying, anger that causes you to sin, yielding to the devil, stealing, failing to work to provide for your needs and those of others who need help, using bad or critical words.

Paul gave some alternative actions also:

tell the truth instead of lying, try to overcome your anger quickly, say what is good and will make others grow in Christ.

5. The next portion of scripture will explain why this change is so important. Ask a student to read Ephesians 4:30. In the last part of chapter 4 Paul repeated or summarized some of the ideas he had already mentioned. Now have someone read Ephesians 4:31. In the last verse Paul went back to urge kindness and forgiveness. Ask someone to read Ephesians 4:32. Now invite a volunteer to read paragraphs 1-5 under the heading in the study guide ***“Do This, Not That.”***

6. Request that someone read Ephesians 5:1-2. These verses show how we ought to live.

It is a high calling indeed.

We are to do as God would do. We are to imitate him as a child imitates his father whom he loves. The motivation here is the same as God’s love.

7. Paul had several references to sex sins. Read to the class Ephesians 5:3a; 5:5a. Our society has become very lax in opposing sexual sins. Paul did not feel that way. A Christian is sexually pure.

8. Paul also referred to wanting material things. Read Ephesians 5:3b and 5:5. God’s will is to be primary in our lives, not possessing many things.

9. Read Ephesians 5:4 and 5:6-7. Paul emphasized again how important it is for a Christian to speak in a way that reflects Christ and His Way.

Instead of idle and foolish talk what should we speak? (Thanks to God for what He has done for us)

10. Have a student read Ephesians 5:8-11. Here Paul emphasized again how Christians ought to live. Ask the students to work in groups of 2-3 to write a summary statement of these verses. Let the groups share them with the larger group.

Encourage Application

Additional Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

13. Ask the class to think of people who “talk the talk and walk the walk.” Tell them to be careful of using real names. Ask for volunteers to share memories of these people. Ask them to also think of those who do not seem to “talk the talk and walk the walk.” Ask for volunteers to share these. Now ask,

Which group brought the most illustrations to mind?

What can we learn from this?

Encourage Application

14. Examine the word list and discuss. Add other words if necessary. Ask the students to record these.

15. Look at the memory verse. Work in groups to memorize it. Record it in the Memory Verse Record. Then recite it together.

Close with prayer asking forgiveness for not living more like Christ and guidance in how to do a better job of being Christ-like all the time.

Teaching Guide

Unit 4 LIVING OUT GOD'S PLAN

Lesson 12 HOW TO BE CHRISTIAN IN MY FAMILY LIFE

Lesson Focus

God's plan for a Christian family is built on love and echoes Christ's relationship to His church.

Focal Text

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

Memory Verse

"We are all a part of His body, the church."

Ephesians 5:30

Connect with Life

1. Ask one of the students to read the Introduction in the study guide.

Guide the Study

2. Ask someone to read Ephesians 5:21-24. Paul's first piece of advice was to both husband and wife.

What should each do in verse 21? (Be willing to help and care for each other) Paul saw this as a way of honoring Christ. Notice in these verses that he switched back and forth between advice for the family and advice for the church. His point is that the relationship should be similar.

In verse 22 Paul gave advice to wives. What did he say? (Wives are to obey their husbands.)

In verse 23 the reason is given. What is it? (Husbands are the head of the family as Christ is the head of the church.) Some people interpret verse 24 to mean that husbands have absolute authority and must be obeyed no matter what they say. The next few verses make that interpretation seem absurd.

3. Have a student read Ephesians 5:25-29.

In what way must a man love his wife? (As Christ loved the church so much He gave His life for it.) Most discussions of this portion of scripture seem to focus on family relationships, but Paul taught something about Christ and His church too. Picture how a husband might protect his wife with his own life. Christ did that for the church. It cost Him His life. He did it so that the church would be set apart for Himself and might shine in glory. It is to have no sin and to be holy and without blame.

Who is to be part of this church which Christ died for? (All believers in Christ) Many people today who call themselves Christians say they have no interest in "organized religion," by which they mean the church. Christ does not give us that choice. If we belong to Him, we are a part of His church.

If Christ so loved the church, how should a man love his wife? (Verse 28 states that it should be as much as he loves himself and his own body.) Unless a person is mentally unbalanced he or she cares for his or her own body that life might be prolonged and be productive and pleasant. Christ cares for the church in that same way.

4. Now ask a student to read Ephesians 5:30.

5. Invite someone to read Ephesians 5:31-33. When Paul said "for this reason," he was referring to verse 30. Paul has not yet finished his comparisons between Christ and His church and man and his wife.

What does he now say about marriage? (Man leaves his parents and becomes one with his wife.) This does not mean that a man turns his back on his parents, nor does the wife turn her back upon hers. It means that the first loyalty is now to the husband or wife, whereas when a child was growing up it was to his parents. Verse 32 comes back to Christ and the church.

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<p>Verse 33 gives the final advice for relationship between husband and wife. Read this verse together.</p> <p>6. A family extends to the children born to this couple. Paul next advice was to the children. Have someone read Ephesians 6:1-3. <i>How should children treat their parents?</i> (With obedience and respect) Paul then referred to one of the original Ten Commandments. Ask someone to read Exodus 20:12: <i>“Honor your father and your mother, so your life may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you.”</i> Respect for and obedience to parents brings a reward.</p> <p>7. Last of all Paul gave advice to the fathers in regard to their children. Although Paul did not mention mothers here, the same advice would apply to them. Invite a volunteer to read Ephesians 6:4. <i>What do we learn here?</i> (Parents must not be too harsh with their children so that they turn away. The children are to be reared with love. They must be taught Christian principles.) Both love and discipline are needed just as God shows us both love and discipline.</p> <p>Encourage Application</p> <p>8. Ask a student to read the last two paragraphs in the study guide under <i>“Children and Parents.”</i> Discuss these ideas.</p> <p>9. Discuss “Things to Think About.”</p> <p>Additional Teaching Ideas Connect with Life</p> <p>10. Ask the class to think of qualities that contribute to a happy home. Record these on the board or a piece of newsprint. The list may include these items: Love, courtesy, concern, willingness to listen, interest in everyone’s concerns, communication, reverence for God, regular church attendance and involvement in the affairs of the church, home worship time,</p>		<p>religious instruction and discussion, respect for the Bible and for its teachings, loyalty, laughter, etc. Tell the class that today’s lesson will help us to put these qualities to work in our own homes.</p> <p>Encourage Application</p> <p>11. Examine the word list and discuss. <i>What other words might be needed?</i> Record all these in the glossaries.</p> <p>12. Examine the memory verse. Remind the class of how the church and the family relate in this passage. Recite the verse together and record it in the Memory Verse Record.</p> <p>Close with prayer that God might help us to make our families into His pattern.</p>

Teaching Guide

Unit 4 LIVING OUT GOD'S PLAN

Lesson 13 *HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN WHEN IT IS NOT EASY*

Lesson Focus

Being Christian is not always easy, but God gives us strength when we trust Him.

Focal Text

Ephesians 6:10-20

Memory Verse

"Be strong with the Lord's strength."

Ephesians 6:10b

Connect with Life

1. Invite someone to read the Introduction to the lesson in the study guide.

Guide the Study

2. Ask a student to read Ephesians 6:10-12. Ask the class these questions:

Who is the enemy? (Not people, but powers of darkness; the demon world)

Where do we get our strength to fight? (From the Lord)

Where do we get our weapons for the fight? (God gives them to us.) We need to remember that the devil, or Satan, is very strong. He is stronger than we are, but not stronger than God. When we depend on God He can help us to victory. Now ask someone to read the section in the study guide called "*Who Is Our Enemy?*"

3. Read Ephesians 6:13-14a. When Paul said "Because of this," he was referring to the preceding verses. It is because of the power of the devil that we must use all the resources we have. Paul assured the Ephesians that if they

would use the defenses God provides, they would still be standing when the battle was over, meaning that they would be victorious.

4. Now ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 6:14b-17. To make this part clear use the picture of the Roman soldier in the Student Guide (or any later soldier with armor on). If you know of a child who has play armor, that would be even better as you talk about the various functions. There are even toy soldiers which might do, but they may be too small for a large group to see. Or, cut out armor from cardboard in the correct shapes so that you can show each piece as you talk about it.

The belt represents truth. We must be encircled with truth to hold all together.

The breastplate was important for protecting vital organs from sword thrusts or spear thrusts.

The shoes must be sturdy enough to offer protection to the feet and to make it easier to move over rocky ground. Sometimes you see pictures showing a shin guard from the shoes up to the knees. This part of the armor was called the Good News. We have little to stand on if not on the rock of Jesus' love for us.

The shield may have been round, perhaps a foot and a half or more in diameter. It had straps inside through which the arm was placed. It could be moved about to protect whatever part of the body needed it. If you can picture the devil's fire arrows being stopped by this shield, you can see how important they were. These were made of burnished bronze.

On the head was the **helmet of salvation**. These offered protection for the brain, eyes, face.

The last piece of armor was the **sword**. Most battles were hand to hand. This sword represents the Spirit of God as we have it in the Word of God. Remember that Jesus was called the Word. God's Holy Spirit works through us and our knowledge of Jesus and of scripture which is also called God's

Word.

We are not accustomed to wearing this type of armor. We would be very awkward with it. That's why the soldier had to train and practice. He must move with skill and speed for his armor and his weapons to do any good. Christians need practice too and familiarity with all these weapons God has provided for us. Most of the Ephesians would have been in the same situation. Few of them were soldiers. They, too, would need to practice and familiarize themselves with their weapons.

If you feel the concepts need re-enforcing, ask students to read the paragraphs under ***"God Gives Us What We Need for the Battle"*** in the study guide.

5. Invite a student to read the last portion of today's scripture: Ephesians 6:18-20. Notice the number of times Paul used the term "pray" in the verses. This gives us some idea of the importance Paul placed on prayer. Remember that he has been in prison for sometime and unable to move about to speak for Christ. Prayer was of great help and comfort to him to keep him from giving up. He prayed earnestly. He begged these Christians to do the same on a continuing basis.

What was Paul praying for most earnestly? (That he would be able to continue speaking to others about Christ and the Good News without fear)

Encourage Application

6. Discuss ***"Things to Think About."*** Try to get the group to discuss how to make their prayers meaningful and how to stand more firmly against the "fiery darts of the devil." Close with prayer that we might be good soldiers for Christ.

Supplemental Teaching Ideas

Connect with Life

7. Collect headlines and news stories which seem to show people at their very lowest. Share these with the group. Invite them to tell of such stories which might come from their home countries. Pose the question:

Why do people act this way? Emphasize to the

group that these actions are part of the devil's efforts to defeat God. Point out that Christians today are a part of that battle and like good soldiers must be prepared to meet the enemy. Today's lesson gives us ideas of how we can do that.

Encourage Application

8. Examine the word list and discuss the new words. Check to see if there are any others which should also be discussed. Ask the students to record these in their personal Word Lists for this quarter.

9. Read the memory verse. Ask for discussion of how we can be strong in the Lord's strength. Practice saying the memory verse. Recite it together. Then ask that they record it in their Memory Verse Record.

Close with prayer for faith to become a soldier for God.

10. Since this is the last lesson, review the memory verses from the Memory Verse Record. Ask students to find the verse that means the most to them and place a star by it. Suggest that these could make good focuses for personal devotional and prayer time.

Suggest that they pray silently while focusing on that verse.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across the entire width of the page, typical of notebook or primary writing paper. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.