



# 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

May 6-7, 2017

DATE

Ephesians

LESSON TITLE

Ephesians 1-3

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus-followers are united as God's family and loved by their heavenly Father

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Today, we're talking about Ephesians and the theme of chapters 1-3. Before the weekend, read it on your own and ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you to discuss it with the kids.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to write/give their notecard from small group (hopefully parents will overhear and ask them about it).

## large group heads up

Today, we're looking at part of God's story that's not a "story." It's a collection of letters called Ephesians. The cool part is they apply to us too, because we are a part of the same family (God's family!).



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### ICEBREAKER!

- You can have kids sit in their seats or get up and move around for this game.
- Give each kid a **yellow** and **red card** and pass out **markers**.
- Each kid should find another kid and...
  - On the YELLOW card, write something that's the same about you (both have brown hair, both like the same band, food, etc.)
  - On the RED card, write something that's different (hair color, favorite movie, etc.)
- Kids should go around and talk to as many others as time permits (Including volunteers!)
- Kids should bring their cards to Large Group!

**Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) identify why Ephesians was written for not just Ephesus, but us too! (2) Work as a unified team to explore how much God loves us.

**Why?** We want kids to understand that Ephesians is relevant to their lives, then begin to explore one of the main themes of all the letters (church unity) and the main theme of the first three chapters (God's love).

**Tip:** We hope understanding Ephesians' relevance will make kids want to explore it more. Make sure you encourage them to do that! Share your experience reading God's Word.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. Split the group into **2 teams** and **tear off a large piece of paper** for each side. Set out **markers**.
2. First, give each team a Bible and help them figure out where to find Ephesians.
3. Then have them race to list everything they remember about the Ephesians.
4. Cross off the things that are **DIFFERENT** than us.
5. Circle the things that are the same. (Make sure each team noted that we are part of the same family.)

*\*Explain: We don't have time to read all the letters Paul wrote to the Ephesian people for all of God's family to listen to. But this week, read chapters 1-3 on your own at home (we'll talk about the second half in Kids' Club next week). As you read, think about how much God loves you. And if you don't have a Bible at home, tell me at the end of Kids' Club and I'll give you one.*

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

Give each team a **measuring tape and a paper and pen/marker**. Each team's job is to go around the room and measure as many items as they can—the bigger the better. (Choose a team leader, one person to hold the measuring tape, and one person to record for each team. But they all have to help!)

- When teams return, compare measurements and discuss:
  - **Teamwork/unity:** How did you help each other? Was it easy to work as a team? Why or why not? What could you have done differently to work together? (Tie that to being part of God's family)
  - **Measurability:** Is there anything in here that can't be measured? Why can't it be measured? What other things can't be measured? What does it mean when Paul says God's love can't be measured?

**FINISH YOUR TIME BY ACTING LIKE PAUL**

- Give each kid another **note card**. Encourage them to write a note to remind or tell somebody how much Jesus loves them or share their favorite part of the verses they read. Not only are they acting like Paul, they're acting like a family!

*Extra time? Play Connect Time again with just your small group, so kids can met and write about new people within the group.*

## special notes

Remember to have kids bring their **yellow and red cards** from Connect Time.

## presenter tips

Today's whole lesson could be summed up like this: If we follow Jesus, we are part of God's family and should remember—and remind each other—that God loves us more than we could ever imagine.

## script

### WELCOME AND INTRO

**Main Goal:** Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

**Notes:**

- **Say:** Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm so happy to see you today! You guys have been getting to know each other and finding out some things that are different and the same. Let's hear some of what's different. (Let 3-5 kids share examples.)
- **Ask:** We can probably find lots of ways we're different, can't we? But what are some ways we're the same? (Let 3-5 kids share examples.)
- **Say:** Yeah, we've got some similarities too! In fact, one thing that's the same is that we're all in Kids' Club right now. And whenever we learn God's story, we're learning the same story! When we're a part of God's family, we're part of the same family!
- **Say:** Today, we're going to be learning a part of God's Story that is actually a collection of letters a guy named Paul wrote to some people in a town called Ephesus. Now, these letters are in the Bible because they're important for us to read too. ...But to find out why, let's play a little game to see how we're different and yet the same as the people of Ephesus.
- **Say:** I'm going to show you a picture and tell you something about the people of Ephesus. I want you to hold up your YELLOW card if it's the same as people in America. Hold up the RED card if it's different.

## COMPARE/CONTRAST TO THE PEOPLE OF EPHESUS

**Main Goal:** Recognize how we're alike/different to the Ephesians!

(Below are the items to compare/contrast. All have slides with photos except the first one.)

- **(No image)** They were alive around 60 A.D., about 2,074 years ago (RED)
- **(Image: Map)** Lived in Turkey (RED)
- **(Image: Photo of stadium)** They liked to go to big stadiums to watch plays or sporting events (YELLOW)
- **(Image: Beast fight)** Their favorite sporting events were wild beast fights (RED)
- **(Image: Gym)** They liked to go to the gym and workout by doing things like weight lifting, wrestling, running, swimming, and playing ball (YELLOW)
- **(Image: Heart)** They were loved by God (YELLOW)
- **(Image: Photo of toilet)** They used toilets with seats (a big deal back then) (YELLOW)
- **(Image: Row of toilets)** This is what the public restroom looked like (toilets are all in a row, no walls) (RED)
- **(Image: Robes/togas)** They wore robes, or togas (RED)
- **(Image: Cross)** Some of them believed Jesus rescued them and followed Jesus (YELLOW)

## OUR BIGGEST SIMILARITY

**Main Goal:** Understand that as followers of Jesus, we're all part of God's family.

- **Say:** Great job! OK, so maybe we wear different clothes, have different bathrooms, and watch different entertainment at stadiums...but we also have things that are the same, like we are loved by the same God and both get to follow Jesus.
- **Say:** And remember, everybody who follows Jesus is considered part of God's family. God is like our perfect dad who always loves us and never messes up, no matter what.
- **Ask:** Now, do we have anybody in this group who lives in the same house? (Call up two siblings. If there aren't two, just pretend. Ask discreetly: Why do you guys live in the same house? Let them whisper their last name, or, if it is different, how they are related. Be careful not to assume the exact type of relationship. Then return to the group.)
- **Say:** So if \_\_\_\_\_ (first kid) is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of family) and \_\_\_\_\_ (2nd kid) is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ (repeat name of family), then how are they related? (Let kids say: brothers/sisters/cousins/etc.)

**EPHESIANS IS FOR GOD'S WHOLE FAMILY (US TOO!)**

**Main Goal:** Understand what Paul wrote to the Ephesians, and how we encouraged them to act as a team.

- **Ask:** (Dismiss kids back to their sats) And just like that, if WE are part of God's family...and the Ephesians are part of God's family, how are we related to the Ephesians? (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Yeah, they're kind of like our brothers and sisters! So our biggest similarity is...we are part of the same family!
- **Say:** Paul wrote letters to the people in Ephesus about what it means to be in God's family, and these letters became the book of Ephesians in the Bible.
- **Say:** The good news for us is, they aren't letters about watching wild beasts fights or putting toilets in a row—things that are now totally different. They are letters all about being a part of the very SAME family! So the things that Paul wrote about being in God's family then...are important for us now.
- **Say:** One of the things that Paul tells us over and over in Ephesians is that we should act like a family with everybody who follows Jesus. Working as a team and helping each other out makes it much easier than just trying to do everything alone... kind of like in this video.
- **Video: Teamwork Crabs**
- **Say:** That was just a fun way to show teamwork. But it's really important to remember that being part of God's family, means we're on the same team, and we don't leave each other behind.

**EPHESIANS 1-3: WE RECEIVE JESUS' LOVE**

**Main Goal:** Read Ephesians 3:18-19 and understand that we're all united by God's love for us!

- **Say:** We don't have time to read all the letters today, but the whole first half of Ephesians is about how much God LOVES his family! Here's one of my very favorite parts, Ephesians 3:18-19:
- **Slide: Ephesians 3:18-19** **May you have power with all God's people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is. And may you know his love, even though it can't be known completely. Then you will be filled with everything God has for you.**
- **Say:** Wow, and that's just 2 verses! God's love is high and wide and deep, but it can't be known completely. That means he loves us more than anyone could EVER even imagine.

**RESPONSE TIME**

**Main Goal:** Give kids a chance to actively respond to what they heard, and listen to what God is telling them.

- **Say:** He wants to fill us with joy and peace and love and freedom. And the cool part is, like those penguins, we can work together and remind each other of how much we're loved!
- **Say:** We're going to watch a video that's about how we're all a part of God's family, and because of that, we have a unique job to do. We can help make God's family bigger and bigger by helping others follow Jesus. Feel free to lie down or sit comfortably.
- **Video: Context: Discipleship**

**PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

**Main Goal:** Close the lesson with prayer and worship.

- **Say:** Now let's tell God we love him back by praising him! When we remember his love and feel the joy that comes with knowing God loves us, we feel ALIVE in Christ.
- **Music Video: Brave Ones**
- **Music Video: Only Wanna Sing**
- **Pray:** Ask somebody to come and thank God that we can work together as a family, even with people from other countries or born in different times, and praise God for his unconditional love.

*Dismiss kids to small groups.*





### connect questions

Tell me about Ephesians.

How are we similar to the people of Ephesus?

### lesson supplies

| Connect Time     |                               |   |             |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Item             | Usage                         | Details   | Provided by |
| Markers          | 1 set per small group, reused | In room   | site        |
| Yellow note card | 1 per kid                     | Staples; <a href="#">Canary Index Card</a> ; Item #517615 | KC Central  |
| Red note card    | 1 per kid                     | Staples; <a href="#">Cherry Index Card</a> ; Item #517623 | KC Central  |

| Small Group                  |                               |   |             |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Item                         | Usage                         | Details   | Provided by |
| Markers                      | 1 set per small group, reused | In room   | site        |
| Adventure Bible              | 2 per small group, reused     | biblesbythecase.com                                       | site        |
| Large sheet of tear-of paper | 2 per small group             |   | site        |
| Tape Measure                 | 2 per small group, reused     | <a href="#">Dollar Days</a> , SKU #1785788                | KC Central  |
| Red Note card                | 1 per kid                     | Staples; <a href="#">Cherry Index Card</a> ; Item #517623 | KC Central  |
| White paper                  | 2 per small group             | 8.5x11, white   | site        |

| Large Group     |            |         |             |
|-----------------|------------|---------|-------------|
| Item            | Usage      | Details | Provided by |
| Adventure Bible | 1 per room |         | site        |

# A/V needs

3rd-5th



1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: map
3. Image: stadium
4. Image: beast fight
5. Image: gym
6. Image: heart
7. Image: toilet
8. Image: row of toilets
9. Image: robes/togas
10. Image: cross
11. Video: Teamwork Crabs (KC/SM media videos songs>videos>misc)
12. Slide: Ephesians 3:18-19 May you have power with all God's people to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is. And may you know his love, even though it can't be known completely. Then you will be filled with everything God has for you.
13. Video: Context: Discipleship (<https://vimeo.com/99064412>)
14. Music Video: Brave Ones (<https://vimeo.com/199998672>)
15. Music Video: Only Wanna Sing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fz1vGNMvQOU>)