

Get a Life!

Ephesians

God Chose You

Lesson Three

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Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

God Chose You

Lesson Goal: To show students the fact that God chose them to be His adopted children.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4-6; John 17:2; Romans 8:14-17; II Thessalonians 2:13

There is an interesting thing to be found in Ephesians 1:3-14. The way it was originally written in the Greek language, this is all one sentence. It is written like a song...a song of praise. Have you ever thought of how good something is, or how much fun something is, or how beautiful something is and just went on and on about it. That is what Paul seems to be doing here. He thinks about the things for which he is grateful, and the list just keeps going...on and on.*

Paul is beginning his discussion of the relationship of the Christian to God. Actually in this very long sentence, he discusses our relationship with God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. The song begins with praise...praise to God. Another way to say this would be, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (NASV) Paul wants his readers to sing a blessing to God. *The Message* translation says, "How blessed is God! And what a blessing He is." He says that Christians are given every spiritual blessing because of Jesus. We can experience some heaven on earth if we give ourselves completely to God.

As Paul thinks of the many, many ways God has blessed us, the first that comes to his mind is the fact that God chooses humans to be His children. God decided before we were ever born to allow us to be adopted into His family.

Some of you, studying this lesson, may know what it is like to be adopted...to not have parents and then be loved enough to become the adopted child of new parents. It is a special experience. When someone has no identity, outside themselves, and suddenly has a new name, a new home, new mom and dad who love them, it can be about as happy an event as one can imagine.

There was once a little boy, Shawn, who was homeless. One day there was a great parade. Shawn climbed into a tree beside the road so that he could see. After many bands, floats and flags passed, Shawn saw a great carriage drawn by many horses. As it approached, people were chanting, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" When the coach came by the tree where Shawn was sitting, a beautiful lady sitting by the King saw him and waved. Shawn didn't know what to do, so he just raised his hand and gave a little wave back. A few days later, some soldiers found him digging through the garbage of one of the restaurants. They told him that he was going to see the queen. Shawn overheard one of the soldiers say, "I have no idea why she

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wants to see this dirty kid.” When he was brought into the King’s palace, the beautiful lady he had seen in the parade met him and invited him to dinner. Before long, Shawn was asked by the king and queen if he wanted to be their child. He said, “Yes, definitely!” They adopted him. So, a boy who had nothing became the prince of the kingdom.

That is what happens to all of us who ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior. There was a time when all humans were without hope. They had nothing to look forward to but what they could provide for themselves. The end of it all was death. God decided to change that. He chose you, according to Ephesians 1:4, to be adopted as one of His children. That happens when we accept God’s invitation to be His children. He chooses us, but we must say, like Shawn, “Yes, definitely!”

God chose you before you were born. He wanted you to be His child. He had made a way for that to happen when He sent Jesus to earth to live a perfect life, to die on a cross...not for His sins, but for yours...to come back from the dead to prove He was God’s Son, and to go to Heaven to be with God. When we believe that with all our heart, God hears us say, “Yes, definitely!” At the bottom of the “Student’s Worksheet” you will find “How to begin a Personal Relationship with God.” It tells you how to “get a life.”

Ephesians tells us that we were chosen to be adopted (Verse 5), and that we are to be holy and blameless in His sight (Verse 4). All this is possible because of God’s grace. Remember, last time we found that grace means that something is given even though we can never deserve it. God’s gift is life...actually eternal life... becoming His child by His choice. You are adopted as the child of the King of all that you know anything about.

Each of us should want to live like we are children of God. He has chosen us and adopted us. What a happy thought. It caused the writer of Ephesians to want us to know that our adoption is a praise to God’s grace. It is not so much about us as it is about Him and the “One He loves,” Jesus. When we live good lives, lives that honor God and show respect for Him and His Word, we praise God and give testimony to His grace.

Memory Verse: “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight...” Ephesians 1:4

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

Student Worksheet

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Memory Verse: “Memory Verse: “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight...” Ephesians 1:4

- >In Ephesians 1:3-14, Paul thinks about the things for which he is _____, and the list just keeps going.
- >As Paul thinks of the many, many ways God has _____ us, the first that comes to his mind is the fact that God _____ humans to be His _____.
- >When someone has no identity, outside themselves, and suddenly has a new _____, a new _____, new _____ and _____ who love them, it can be about as happy an event as one can imagine.
- >God chooses us, but we must _____, like Shawn, “ _____, definitely!”
- >God chose you before you were _____.
- >Ephesians tells us that we were chosen to be _____ (Verse 5), and we are to be _____ and blameless in His sight (Verse 4). All this is possible because of God’s _____.
- >You are adopted as the _____ of the King of all that you know _____ about.
- Each of us should want to _____ like we are children of _____.
- >When we live _____ lives, we praise God and give testimony to His _____.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.