

God's Family — His Church

Theme: Obedient faith — How to be God's child

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Have a worksheet that features a maze. Make it harder or easier depending on the age of the students. This will get them thinking about how we “walk” and where we go.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

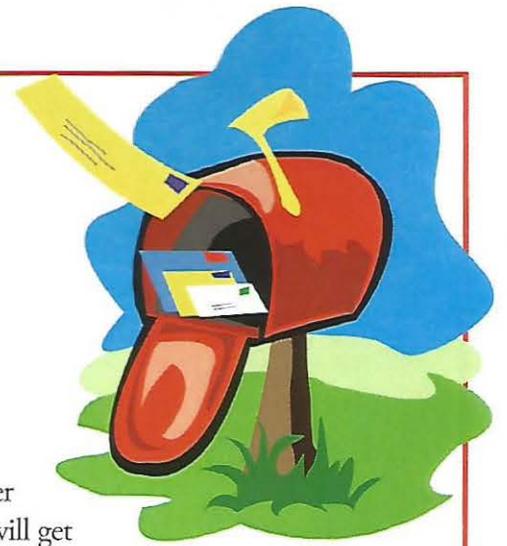
Memory Verse: Hide the Memory Verse strips in different places throughout the room. Have the students find the strips and place them on the floor in front of the pocket chart. Once all the strips are found, have the students place them in the pocket chart correctly. Read the Memory Verse aloud together.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Teaching the Lesson

1. In the classroom Bibles, have the students find and mark Ephesians 4:22-24.
2. Create a “church family” from the students. Have some be elders and deacons and their wives, older people, teenagers, and children. Talk about how a local church is made up of people who have many differences, but who must love each other and work together.
3. In the Letters from Heaven Package, place Lesson Graphics depicting a regular family and a spiritual family, a list of chores, footprints, and the armor of God. Take them out and use them at the appropriate times in teaching the lesson.
4. Ask the students to imagine they are all one family. Talk about how a regular family works. Different family members have different roles and responsibilities. What if one family member does not do his or her part in the family? What effect does this have on other family members? Take out the list of chores that must be done in most homes — cook, clean, do laundry, set the table, clean your room, vacuum or sweep the floors, take out trash, dust, and do the shopping. Talk about who usually does each chore in family life. Now, single out one student who is a child in a family. Give the list of chores to him, and explain that he must do all of them. No one else will help. How does this make the student feel? How will all the jobs be done? What is a better way? Make application to the way the church family works.
5. Assemble the church family to hear a letter read from the apostle Paul. The teacher is Paul who “talks” to the church by means of his letter. Develop the lesson around the BIG ideas that Paul writes in



Ephesians, and point out that each family member has a place and part. The BIG ideas in Ephesians are as follows:

- How we became a spiritual family — born into the family of God when we are baptized; God is our Father, Jesus is our older brother, and Christians are brothers and sisters to each other.
- How we are to walk as God's people and as a family — walk as a Christian; walk in the light; walk carefully.
- How we can be strong in the Lord — Christians fight a spiritual warfare and need the armor of God.

6. At the appropriate time in the lesson, read together Ephesians 4:22-24.

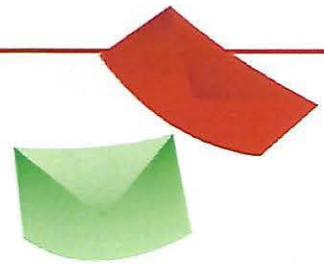
7. Put the key verse scroll on the Letters from Heaven Wall.

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- A Common Love

Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Provide paper and markers with instructions for children to write a note to some member of their spiritual family. Younger students may draw a picture to show what they are thinking, and the teacher can write words to explain it. Have a list of older members of the congregation, perhaps those who are shut-in, and ask the students to prepare a note to encourage them.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Cut the Memory Verse strips into smaller units, having only a word or two on each piece. Have the pieces on the floor in front of the pocket chart. Have the students arrange the pieces correctly in the pocket chart.

Prayer

Starter

Some days you think you would like to decide things for yourself without your parents, don't you? And this might be "fun" for a day or two, but it wouldn't be long before you realized how much you need your parents. If they weren't giving you what you need, how would you have food, clothes, and a place to sleep? If they weren't giving you information and direction, how would you know everything you need to do? When you really think about it, it's great to have a family. It's also great to have a spiritual family — the church.

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Lesson

1. *Objective: Illustrate getting into God's family*

☀ Take two white tee shirts to class. Using a black marker, write words such as *hate, fight, selfish, and proud* on one shirt. Make it look torn and dirty. On the other shirt, which is new and clean, use blue, green, red, and yellow markers to write words such as *love, gentle, kind, and humble*. Use the first shirt to demonstrate someone in sin. Use the second one to demonstrate the new self. Talk about how we have forgiveness of sins in Jesus, and when we are baptized we become a part of God's family. Children are part of God's family, since they are "safe." But later in their lives when they understand sin, they will want to have their sins forgiven and be "saved" in Jesus.

2. *Objective: Illustrate the way we walk*

☀ Have footprints going in different directions taped on the classroom floor. Have forks in the road and intersections in which walkers have to decide which way to go. Have some paths with good destinations, indicated by pictures at the path's end, and some with bad destinations, indicated in the same way. Explain that the paths represent ways we "walk." We can walk selfishly – just the way we want to and not consider God or other people; we can walk with the world – decide to talk and act like the world; or we can walk with God. Allow students to walk on the footprints and make decisions at the forks and intersections. Discuss with the students key verses in Ephesians about walking with God.

Show how the decisions we make determine the outcomes. This activity may be modified in various ways and used in later lessons.

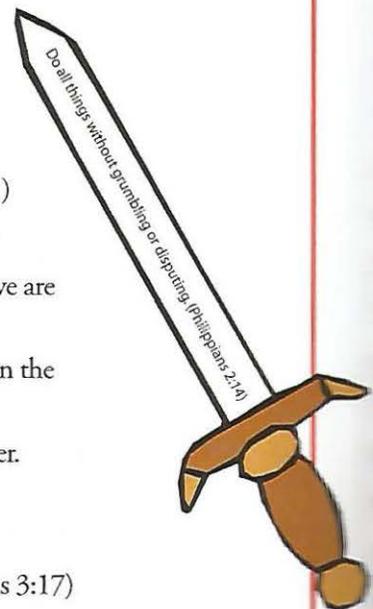
3. *Objective: Illustrate putting off the old person and putting on the new person*

- ☀ Have several large tee shirts that will slip on over the students' clothes. Print several graphics of children doing "good" things, such as sharing, visiting the sick, and reading the Bible. Attach one graphic to the front of each shirt and put it on a clothes hanger. Hang them around the room. Make one shirt a "bad" shirt — with a marker write on it words such as *sin*, *bad words*, *lying*, and *cheating*. Make cuts in the "bad" shirt and smear dirt on it. Select a student to stand and put on the "bad" shirt. He or she then takes off the "bad" shirt and throws it down on the floor and stomps on it. Talk about a decision to put off the old person. Next, the student goes around the room and chooses a "good" shirt, puts it on, and wears it for the remainder of the class period. Repeat the process for each student. This is a decision to put on the new person.

4. *Objective: Demonstrate using the sword of the Spirit*

- ☀ Have several swords made of card stock, each containing a verse or verses of Scripture as listed below. A pattern for a sword is found on page 66 of this Guide. Alternately, swords may be prepared using a computer and printer.

- Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11)
- Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. (Proverbs 16:18)
- Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. (Ephesians 4:25)
- ... always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father. (Ephesians 5:20)
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother. (Ephesians 6:1-2)
- Do all things without grumbling or disputing. (Philippians 2:14)
- And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (Colossians 3:17)
- Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men. (Colossians 3:23)
- But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. (James 1:19)



Each of the following words is printed on a card. A sword from the list above addresses the temptations and sins on the cards. As you draw a card and read it, ask a student to take the sword that will be the best to fight against the sin.

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| • Temptation | • Disobeying parents |
| • Getting mad | • Complaining |
| • Being selfish | • Telling a lie |
| • Being lazy | • Pride |

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- A Common Love

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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