

Letters From Heaven



Parents' Page

Lesson 3

God's Family—His Church

Your child should understand...

Obedient faith—How to be God's child

Your child should be able to...

1. Describe how we get into God's family.
2. Tell how we give honor to Jesus.
3. Tell what we must do to fight the devil.
4. List at least two pieces of armor God has given us to fight the devil.

Your child should be memorizing...

Romans 1:16

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."
(NIV)

Please help your child read...

- 1 Ephesians 1:17-23
- 2 Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10; Ephesians 3:5-6, 20
- 3 Ephesians 4:3-6, 11-12, 14-16
- 4 Ephesians 4:24-27, 31-32; Ephesians 5:1-2, 4
- 5 Ephesians 5:9-11, 15, 18-20; Ephesians 6:11

Lesson 3

God's Family—His Church

Paul sent a letter to the Christians in the city of Ephesus. This letter is the book of *Ephesians*. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus how we get to be children in God's family, which is His church.

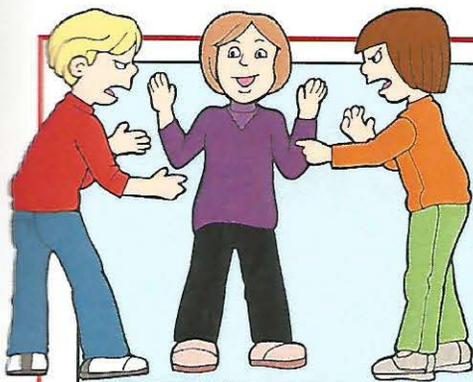
In Old Testament times, the Jews were God's children—His special, chosen people. He gave them special promises and took care of them. But we are not Jews. So, how does God make *us* His children? God worked so that all who believe in His Son Jesus are His children. He sent Jesus to live on earth, to die on the cross, and to rise from the dead. Then the apostles preached the gospel to people all over the world. They told everyone how Jesus died for *all* of us. People heard this, and they believed. Then they were baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. God loves us and wants us to do the same things. He wants to add us to His family!



How do people get to be in God's family?

A person must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and be baptized for the forgiveness of his or her sins. God adopts that person into His family, the church. Do you know anyone who has been adopted? An adopted child, just like any other child, has a mother and father and sometimes sisters and brothers. When we are adopted into God's family, we have a Father—God—and *lots* of sisters and brothers. All who believe and obey Jesus are sisters and brothers in the church.

In God's family, we try to be like God, our Father. We try to act like Jesus. We love one another and forgive one another. We are kind, and we don't fight or tell lies! We aren't always wanting more and more money or things we don't really need. In God's family, we pray to God in the name of Jesus to thank Him for everything, and we sing to Him in praise. God wants everything we do to give honor to Jesus. He wants other to be able to see by the way we act that we are believers in Jesus.



How does God want us to treat one another in His family, His church? _____

When we fuss and fight with each other, do we give honor to Jesus? _____

But there is *someone* we must fight. Paul said we must put on God's armor to fight the devil! Paul told the Christians in Ephesus to put on their armor, such as *truth* and *faith* to fight Satan. Also, *God's Word* is like a sword against the devil.

God will help us fight the devil if we ask Him to. Two things we can do to fight the devil are to *pray to God for help* and *use the armor He has given us*. If we do these things, we will be able to beat the devil and keep our family—God's church—strong.

Read Ephesians 6:13-18.

How can we fight the devil? What are the weapons God has given us? Draw lines from the names of the weapons to the picture.

One has been done for you.



helmet of salvation

belt of truth

feet prepared with the gospel of peace

armor of godliness

shield of faith

sword of the Spirit—the Word of God

Lesson 3

God's Family-His Church

Memory Verse:

Fill in the blanks in your memory verse:

_____ 1: _____

"I am not _____ of the _____,
because it is the _____ of _____ for the
salvation of _____ who _____: first for
the _____, then for the _____." (NIV)

What is **Acts** about?
(The gospel preached and received)

What is **Romans** about?
(Being right with God through faith in Christ)



Can you say the **Beatitudes** from Matthew 5?

("Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.") NASB

On your **Bible map**, put your **thumb** on the city of **Samaria**.