

Ephesians 1: 1

Topic: a) What is Gods will?

a) Gods will is what God wants to happen.

a) What was Gods will for Adam and Eve?

a) Jesus dying for our sins....What is Gods will? (That we live)

a) Ernie's dad bought him a mini bike. It was a cool red one that could go pretty fast. It looked like a little motorcycle. His dad also bought him a good helmet. His dad also had some rules. He told Ernie not to ride across the street. He told him not to ride down the steep hill and he told him to always wear his helmet. Dad smiled as Ernie revved up the mini bike and took off down the sidewalk.

- What was dads will for Ernie? (To have fun and be safe)
- Gods will for you is the same. His will is that you have abundant life.
- How do we get it? (By hearing Him and obeying)

Topic: b) What is faithful?

b) There is a boy who eats two thousand tacos. What is he full of ?

b) There is a girl at school who is always making fun of people. She hurts their feelings and does all sorts of mean things. What is she full of? (hateful)

b) There is a boy. Whenever this boy is scared or in trouble...he prays. After he prays he thanks God because he knows God will do the best thing and take care of him. What is he full of ? (Faith)

b) Julie has a puppy. His name is Pookie. Julie likes to go for walks with Shnooky. She tells Pookie that she wants him to follow her and stay right behind her. She does this because she wants him to be safe and not get lost or go in the road. As they walk Julie looks behind her to see if Pookie is there. Every time she does, there he is right behind her.

- Is Pookie faithful?
- Jesus calls us to follow him? Are we with Him?

Ephesians 1: 2

Topic: a) What is grace?

a) Edward was getting ready for school. His dad came into his room and said, “Edward I have a special surprise for you tonight!” He wouldn’t tell Edward what it was. Edward would have to wait until he got home to find out. In school the only thing that Edward could think about was the surprise. The problem was that Edward had a bad day at school. He got a note for talking in class, for running in the hall, for pushing a kid and for not having his homework. Edward sadly brought all the notes home and gave them to his father. He knew he had done wrong. “I guess I don’t get the surprise,” Edward said sadly. “You don’t understand,” said his father. “I bought you the surprise weeks ago. The only reason I want you to have it is because I love you.” His dad opened the garage door and there was a shiny red go cart.

- Was Edward rewarded for being bad? (We never are)
- Was he rewarded for being good? (He wasn’t good)
- Then why did he get the surprise? (Grace)
- We are saved by grace. You don’t earn it. You can’t lose it. You thankfully take it from someone who loves you.

Topic: b) What is peace?

b) There was a cat. Every day the people would give the cat a bowl of milk. There was a mouse. Every day the mouse would sneak into the kitchen and drink all the cats milk. The cat did not like the mouse stealing his milk. He was not happy. The mouse wasn’t very happy either. He knew that the cat was mad at him so he couldn’t run around the house anymore. He had to hide and was afraid. One day the mouse decided to do something about it. He got a big piece of cheese, walked up to the cat and said, “Here this is for you and I promise never to steal your milk again.” The cat smiled and said, “OK I’m not mad at you. We have peace.” Now the mouse could go wherever he wanted without being afraid.

- What did Jesus do to make peace between God and us?

Topic: c) What would you want to hear from a king?

c) If you were to go before a king on his throne, would you want to hear him say, “Get away from me!” or “Arrest that kid!” or “Throw them to the lions!” or “Off with his head!” or “Grace and peace to you!”

- Because of Jesus, the creator of the universe looks at you and says, “Grace and peace to you.”

Ephesians 1: 3

Topic: a) God has given us everything to live.

a) Sandy is going to the beach. Her mom packs a backpack for her. She puts in a towel, shorts, bathing suit, money, food, pop, flippers, a snorkel, swimmyies, sun glasses, sun screen, a hat, a blanket to lay on, a blow up raft, flip flops, toys, emergency phone numbers, a radio, cell phone and a sweater in case it gets cold. As she is leaving her mom asks her if she needs anything else. “Mom” said Sandy, “I have everything I need and then some!”

- God has given us everything we need to live now and forever.

Topic: b) Where do we find it?

b) One day there was a fish walking down the road on a very hot day. The fish was tired and hot and was finding it hard to breathe. In fact the fish felt so bad that he didn't know if he was going to be able to live. The fish passed some children on the road. The kids noticed that the fish wasn't looking too well. The kids gave him directions to the beach because they thought he would be better off there. The fish walked to the beach and saw something wonderful....water! The fish ran down the beach as fast as his little flippers could carry him. He dived into the water. Immediately he could feel himself getting better. He could breathe! The water was filled with all kinds of things that fish like to eat. There were other fish that he soon made friends with. The fish was very happy. He had everything he needed.

- Where did the fish find life?
- We have been given life in Jesus. In Him is life.

Ephesians 1: 4-6

Topic: a) Chose us before he made the world.

a) Baseball season had started. Zack's neighborhood was starting up a team for kids. They would play other teams from the neighborhoods around them. Zack really wanted to be on the team. The only problem was that Zack knew he wasn't a very good ball player. He was worried that the coach wouldn't let him on the team. The day of the first practice came. Zack walked to the field. Coach was standing by the back stop making a list of players that would be on the team. Zack was nervous. He walked up to the coach and told him that he wasn't a very good ball player but he hoped he could be on the team. Coach smiled and said, “Don't worry Zack. I put your name on the list weeks ago.” Zack was very happy.

- God chose you before you were born. He chose you even before He made the earth.

Topic: b) Predestinated

b) Predestinated means you are going to get to where you want to go.

b) There was a caterpillar named Herman. It was very cold out and Herman was all snug inside his cocoon but Herman was worried. All his life he wanted to be a butterfly. He had seen other caterpillars become butterflies but he was afraid he would never make it. "I don't even know how to fly" he thought. Finally Herman was able to go to sleep. When he woke up it was warm outside. He poked his head out of his cocoon. He saw beautiful butterflies flying through the trees. "If only I could" he thought. Herman raised his little caterpillar legs to crawl out of his cocoon only something was different. Herman looked down. Instead of little caterpillar legs there were two beautiful orange wings.

- Herman was predestined to become a butterfly.

b) Jerry wanted to be with Jesus. He knew how good Jesus is and it made Jerry feel glad whenever he thought about Him. Jerry believed that Jesus died for his sins and rose again. He really wanted to and really tried to obey God. Sometimes he did but then sometimes he didn't. Jerry thought "Will I ever be like Jesus? Will I ever get to go to heaven?" Five hundred years later Jerry was flying around heaven shining like a star.

- He was predestined by God to become like Jesus.
- Do you want to be predestined by God to live forever? Then you are!

Topic: c) Why would God do this for us?

c) Once there was a boy who was very poor. He was very hungry because there was hardly any food in his house. One day the boy walked by a bakery. He could smell the bread and the cakes. He walked in. There on the counter was a plate full of cupcakes. He was so hungry that he looked around to see if anyone was watching, took one of the cupcakes and started eating it. The boy didn't know it but there was a policeman looking in the window and saw the boy steal the cupcake. The policeman took the boy out, put him in the back of the police car and called his parents. The boy was in the back of the car crying. He looked out the window and through his tears saw the baker coming towards the car. The boy was sure that the baker was going to yell at him. The baker opened the car door and reached out his hand to the boy. In his hand was a chocolate cupcake which he gave to the boy.

- Why would the baker do this?
- Everything we have from God is because God is good.

Ephesians 1: 7-8

Topic: a) Redemption through His blood.

a) There was a city where any time you did something wrong you had to put a rock on your head. Everyone in the city was walking around with a pile of rocks on their heads. This really hurt and they were getting so heavy that the people were dying. The king of the city loved his people and it made him sad to see them hurting so much. One day the king called all the people together. He then went out, took all the rocks off their heads and put them all on his. The weight was so great that the king died but all the people lived.

- All of our sins were put on Jesus and He died.
- But Jesus didn't stay dead.
- We live because of His death and resurrection.

Ephesians 1: 9-10

Topic: a) In Christ

a) There were a bunch of kids hiking in the forest. Suddenly they smelled smoke. Soon they realized that they were in the middle of a huge forest fire. They were surrounded by flames all around them that were getting closer. The kids started running but there were flames everywhere. Then through the smoke one of the kids saw a river. The kids jumped into the river and swam out to the middle of it. They grabbed hold of some tree limbs that were floating by. Flames were on both sides of the river. They could feel the heat. The fire wanted to go into the river but it couldn't. As long as the kids stayed right in the middle of the river they were safe.

- If you are in Christ, surrounded by His love, you may feel the heat of the sad things in this world but you are safe in Him.

Topic: b) How do you get in Christ?

b) Sarah's family was going on vacation. Everyone was in the car waiting for Sarah. Sarah came out. Everyone yelled, "Come on Sarah get in the car!" Sarah stood outside the car. "How do I get in?" she asked.

- How does she get in? (Open the door)

b) Bill was standing outside church. His friend Henry was inside looking out of a window at Bill. Henry knocked on the window and yelled for Bill to come inside. "How do I get in?" asked Bill.

- How does he get in? (Open the door)

b) How do I get in Jesus?

- The door has been opened for you.
- Believe that He has taken away your sins and that He is alive.
- Live in His love
- If you want to be in Him...ask and believe that His answer is always “Yes!”

Ephesians 1: 11-12

Topic: a) What is waiting for us?

a) One day Williams dad said that he had the best surprise in the world for him. He told William that this surprise was so cool that William could never even guess what it is. William started guessing. He guessed all the coolest surprises he could think of. None of his guesses were right. William couldn't even imagine what the surprise was. His dad took him outside. He told William that his surprise was in the garage. He opened the garage door. When William saw the surprise he was so happy that he had a heart attack and fell over.

- If you knew what was waiting for you in heaven, you would be so happy that you would explode.
- That's why Jesus is going to give us new bodies that will be able to hold all that happiness when we get there.

Topic: b) Why are we going there?

b) Sarah woke up. It was Saturday morning, no school. “I know what I'm going to do today!” she said. Sarah grabbed her helmet and skateboard. She jumped on her bike and rode to the skateboard park. Once there she practiced all her tricks. She got to be really good.

- Why did Sarah go to the skateboard park? (She wanted to)
- Those who go to heaven are those who want to and Jesus shows them the way.
- Who is the way?

b) One day Sam's uncle called him. “Sam” he said...”Today I am taking you to Video Game World and paying for all the games you want to play. Sam went to Video Game World and he and his uncle had a great time.

- Why did Sam go to Video Game World? (His uncle said he would take him and he wanted to go)
- Jesus wants you in heaven and will bring you there.

- “Whoever believes in Me will not die but live forever.”

Topic: c) Why do we praise Him?

c) Shawn’s dad brought him on a camping trip. Shawn couldn’t wait to get there. They were going to spend four days camping, fishing and hiking. Once there they unloaded the car. Shawn noticed that his dad had brought everything they would need. There was plenty of food, sleeping bags a tent and fishing poles. Shawn’s dad took good care of him. He taught Shawn how to start a campfire and how to fish. Once when they were fishing, Shawn fell into some deep water. His dad jumped in and pulled him out. At night Shawn could hear animals in the forest making noises. It made him scared. His dad held him close, protected him and made him feel better. When they went hiking, Shawn got real tired and couldn’t walk any further. His dad picked him up and carried him. When they got home, Shawn told his friends about the camping trip. One of the kids asked Shawn what his dad was like. Shawn said, “He’s the best!”

- Why did Shawn say that?
- Could you tell what Shawn’s dad was like by the things he did?
- We sing to, worship and praise Jesus because He really is the best.
- No one will ever love you like God has.

Ephesians 1: 13-14

Topic: a) You heard...Do you believe?

a) There was a big red button. Everyone said that if you ever pressed the button the whole world would blow up. Then one day it started thundering and lightning. The wind was blowing a hundred miles and hour. There was a huge earthquake. Buildings were shaking and falling down. There was a boy who was standing next to the red button. His dad yelled to him, “Quick...! Press the button!!!!” Everyone else yelled, “NO...!!! Don’t press the button. You’ll blow the whole world up!!!” His dad yelled, “Trust me, press the button!” The boy listened to his dad and pressed the button. As soon as he did, the storm died down, the earthquake stopped and everything was peaceful.

- Did the boy hear his father?
- Why did he press the button? (He trusted)
- A person who is saved believes in Jesus.

- How can you tell they believe? (They trust Him)

Topic: b) Sealed until the day of redemption.

b) Raymond has a new toy. He wants the toy to stay new and not get broken, dirty or scratched so he put the toy into a metal box and buried the box in the back yard. Then he forgot about it. One hundred years later a little boy was digging in the dirt in the place where Raymond's house used to be. He found a little metal box. He opened the box and there was the toy. It looked just like new.

- Why did the toy stay new for so long? (Sealed in a box)
- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit
- Nothing can take Gods children out of His hand.
- Those who trust Jesus are going to heaven and no one can stop them.

Ephesians 1: 15 – 16

Topic: a) Do you think of your friends?

a) One day Marci cut out little cardboard squares. She was going to draw pictures on them and give them to a couple of her friends because she wanted to make them happy. She made three cards. Then she thought of some other friends who would like to get a card so made some more. Then she thought of a few more friends so she made some more cards. Then she thought of some more friends so she made even more cards. By the time she got to school she had a pile of cards to hand out to her friends. There were a lot of smiles in school that day.

- When you think of a friend and pray for them it's like sending a card to God asking Him to bless them.
- When you're in a quiet place, think of your friends and send a prayer to God for them. There will be smiles.

Ephesians 1: 17

Topic: a) To know God.

a) There was a boy. He didn't have a home to live in. One day a king told the boy that he could live in one of his castles if he wanted to. The boy was very, very happy and ran to the castle. He opened the huge door and went in. He entered a large room and to his delight found that the room was filled with everything he loved. He saw another door which led to another room. He went in. This room was filled with even more fun stuff than the first one. He saw another door. The next room was filled with even more of the

most fun things he had ever seen. Finally he got to the one hundredth room. He couldn't believe his eyes. Each room was better than the one before but this room was so great that when he saw what was in it he couldn't even talk. Then he found out something even better. There were more rooms and they went on forever.

- This is what it is like to know God.
- There is nothing better and it just keeps getting better and more glorious forever.

Ephesians 1: 18

Topic: a) Do you know that God has something better for you?

a) Genesis 3: 1-5....The lie...."I have something better for you.

a) There was a man who was very hungry. He asked someone where a good place to eat was. The man told him to go to the restaurant down the street. The name of the restaurant was "Bug Burgers." In this restaurant they serve a huge hamburger roll filled with all sorts of bugs. You have to eat it fast because the bugs will crawl out of the roll. The man asked someone else where a good place to eat was. This man said he knew of a better place than "Bug Burgers." It was called "Juicy Cheeseburgers." The man went to Juicy Cheeseburgers and saw that they served the juiciest most delicious looking cheeseburgers he had ever seen. The man decided to eat there.

- Why did the man decide to eat at "Juicy Cheeseburgers" rather than "Bug Burgers?" (It was better)
- No matter what this world has for you...God has something better.

a) Matthew 4: 18-22....Nice job being a fisherman. They left everything to follow Jesus. Why? (It was way better)

a) Mark 2: 14... 14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Why would this man leave all his money and position to go with Jesus. Jesus didn't even have a home. (Because it was better)

a) There was a boy who entered a race. He came in first and received first prize which was a pass with which he could get into this really cool water park for free for a whole year. The boy was smiling. The race was fun but the best part was receiving the prize.

- When our time on earth is over...What is our prize? (Being with God)

Ephesians 1: 19-20

Topic: a) God is the power that moves us.

a) Once there was night light that lived on a table next to a little girls bed. The night light really wanted to shine when it was dark in the room because it knew that some times the little girl was afraid of the dark. The night light tried and tried to shine but no matter how hard it tried it couldn't shine and the room remained dark. Then one night the little girl got out of bed and plugged the night light into a electrical socket. The night light could feel the electricity surging through it. Immediately it was giving light to the room.

- It is God who gives us the power to serve and obey Him. We cant shine without Him.

Ephesians 1: 21-23

Topic: a) He is above all things.

a) One night there was an argument. They were arguing about which one of them was the best. The dirt said that it was the best because things grew in it. The grass said it was the best because it was a pretty green and people could walk on it. The flower said it was the best because it was so pretty and smelled so nice. The tree said it was the best because it was so big and gave shade to everyone. The moon said it was the best because it was bigger than all of them. Then the sun came up. The darkness of night went away and it started getting light and warm. The sun was so bright that they couldn't even look at it. They all knew that none of them could live without the sun. "Well" they said, "I guess we know who the boss is."

- Jesus is the boss of the whole universe. He is above all things.