

Ephesians 5: 1

Topic: a) Be like God

a) There was a boy named Peter. Peter was five years old. Peter wanted to do everything that his dad did. If his dad washed the car, he would give Peter a sponge and let him wash the wheels. If his dad was mowing the lawn, Peter would grab his toy lawn mower, go out and help. If his dad was driving, Peter would sit in the seat next to him and pretend that he was driving. Everything that his dad did, Peter wanted to do it too.

- Why did Peter want to do everything his dad did? (Wanted to be like him)
- Why did he want to be like his dad?
- No one loves you more than your Father in heaven.
- Imitate Him.

a) John 8: 1-12...The adulterous woman

- Were her accusers being like God?
- What was Jesus like?

Topic: b) How can we ever be like God?

b) There was a little car. It was all rusted. It couldn't even start because it was out of gas. Down the street lived a race car. This car was shiny and new. It would roar down the street going very fast. The little car would watch the race car and wish that he could be like him. One day the race car saw the little car. He told the little car to follow him down the street. The little car told the race car that he wanted to be like him but couldn't because he couldn't even get himself started. The race car pulled up next to the little car and gave it some of his gas. The little car started right up and followed the race car down the street.

- If we know the love of God...We will love Him and want to be like Him.
- He gives us His Holy Spirit and changes us.
- Psalm 18: 35....Your gentleness has made me great.

Ephesians 5: 2

Topic: a) Walk in love

a) There was a girl who walked through a giant mud puddle. She walked into his house. She tracked mud all over the kitchen floor, all over the carpet in the living room, all over the stairs and all over his bedroom.

- What has she been walking in?

a) Once there was a boy who happened to come across a huge barrel of dead fish. It smelled really bad. The boy stepped back, ran and jumped right into the barrel of dead fish. When he went home, no one would let him in the house because he smelled so bad. He had to spend the rest of his life living in a tree in the back yard.

- What has he been walking in?

a) There is a girl who is very mean. She's mean to her friends and makes them feel very sad. She's mean to her teachers and makes them feel very sad. She's even mean to her mom and dad and makes them feel very sad.

- What is she walking in?

a) Once there was a boy who fell asleep under a tree. He didn't know it but in one of the trees limbs was the worlds largest bee hive. The bees didn't know the boy was lying under their hive. One of the bees accidentally opened the door at the bottom of the hive. Soon the sleeping boy was covered from head to foot in honey which poured out of the hive. It was hard to walk home because the honey was sticking to his shoes. When he got home his mother said, "Hey you smell really sweet today."

- What was he covered with? What was he walking in?
- We are covered in Jesus' love.
- Walk in His love. Stay in His love. Love others.

Topic: b) Who walks in love?

b) There was man who owned a helicopter. One day he told all the kids in the neighborhood that he would give everyone who wanted a free helicopter ride. He told the kids to be at his house at exactly nine o'clock in the morning. Some of the kids came at ten o'clock. Some came at noon. Others came at two o'clock in the afternoon. But some of the kids came right at nine o'clock in the morning.

- Who were the ones who flew? (Those who obeyed)
- When we obey God ... we are walking in love.

Topic: c) How has Jesus loved us?

a) c) Once there was a king. This king lived in a castle surrounded by a great wall. The castle was a fun place to live. It had a lot of bedrooms and every bedroom had its own swimming pool. The king's people lived outside the gate. Their houses were very poor, had holes in the walls and no heat. One day the king came outside the gate and made an announcement. He told his people that the next day he was going to open the gates of the castle and anyone who wanted to come and live inside the castle could. They could live there for free and the king would take care of them. The king only had one rule...DO NOT JUMP INTO THE POISONOUS SLIME PIT. Outside the castle walls there was a pit full of poisonous slime. If anyone jumped in it they would get the poisonous slime all over them and die. This poisonous slime was especially bad because the only way you could get it off you was if you put it on someone else and then they would die. So the king reminded the people not to jump into the poisonous slime pit and that tomorrow he would open the gates and let them all in. As soon as the king closed the gate and went back inside the castle, every man, woman, and child jumped into the poisonous slime pit. When the king came out the next morning to let all the people in, there they were, covered in slime and getting sicker by the minute. The king loved his people and he wanted them to live. The king went from person to person, took all the poisonous slime off them and put it all on his own son. His son died.

- All our sins were put on Jesus.
- He died
- He came back to life to give us forever life.
- There is only one who has loved you forever.

Ephesians 5: 3-4

Topic: a) Things that shouldn't be seen.

a) One day Eric went outside. He liked to look up into the sky to see what he could see. This day he looked up into the sky and saw a submarine flying through the clouds.

- Should this be?

a) One day Jenny was walking down the road when she heard a loud sound behind her. She turned around and saw a bus coming down the road going very fast. She looked as the bus sped past her. There in the driver's seat, driving the bus was a huge fish.

a) One day Eric was walking down the street. He didn't know it but there was a bank robbery going on. Eric watched as the bank robbers ran from the bank. He looked closely and saw that the bank robbers were all policemen.

- Should this be?

a) Serena knew a girl who said she was a Christian. This girl was mean and selfish. She did everything that God said not to do.

- Should this be?

Topic: b) The things you have been saved from.

b) There was once a boy named Spitty. Spitty had a real bad habit. He liked to spit on things. He would even spit on people. He always felt bad about it but it was like he couldn't help himself. He had to spit. After a while the people around him became very angry. All his friends and his whole family were angry with him. They told him to stop spitting but he didn't. Finally his parents brought Spitty to the doctors. The doctor examined Spitty and said they would have to brain surgery. So he operated and removed the spitting part of Spitty's brain. When he got home from the hospital he was no longer spitting. Everyone was glad to see him and his life was much better.

- Jesus has forgiven us all our sins
- But when we do sin we hurt ourselves and those around us.
- When we see a sin in our livesTell Jesus and He will remove it.

Ephesians 5: 5

Topic: a) Who won't get into heaven?

a) There were two planets. One was far away from the sun and one was close to the sun. The one far away was cold and dark. The planet close to the sun was warm and had plenty of sunshine. One day the planet closest to the sun sent space ships to the cold dark planet far away from the sun. They told the people that if they wanted they could come and live on the planet close to the sun and have light and be warm. Some of the people on the planet far away from the sun wanted to go and did. Others didn't want to go and didn't. Those who did went to the planet closest to the sun, walked in the light and warmth and loved it.

- Who didn't get to live in the light and warmth? (Those who liked darkness better)
- Jesus is the light of the world.
- Those who don't like Jesus and His goodness will not be in heaven.
- There is no sin in heaven because sin steals life.
- People who love sin won't be there.

a) Once there was a bunch of kids who had a "wood club." All the kids in this club loved to make things out of wood. They would make statues, tables, chairs, wooden toys and many other wooden things. One day there was a knock on the door of the wood club. One of the kids opened the door to see who was there. When she opened the door she was surprised to see a

group of termites standing there. The termites told the girl that they wanted to join the wood club. The other kids came to the door and told the termites that they were not allowed to come in or join the club.

- Why couldn't the termites come in?
- No one will be allowed in heaven who would destroy the fun and happiness there.

Ephesians 5: 6-7

Topic: a) Don't be deceived.

a) Genesis 3

- Oh it's not bad...It's good!
- Did his words sound sweet?
- Don't be deceived.

a) There was a hanging wooden bridge going over a deep gorge. Some people were on the bridge. They were ripping the wooden steps out of the bridge and throwing them in the water. Someone came by and yelled at them. "Hey if you rip apart the bridge it's going to collapse!" The people yelled back, "No it's fun throwing the wood down and watching it hit the water!" Later that day the person came back to see what had happened. The bridge was gone and so were the people.

- People who love sin are like those tearing apart the bridge.
- Don't go with them.

Ephesians 5: 8-9

Topic: a) Walk as children of light.

a) Once there was a boy who was born in a dark hole. Some people came by and rescued the boy from the hole. When he came out into the light he couldn't believe his eyes. Everything was so bright and beautiful. He saw things that he never even imagined. One day he was walking in the sunshine amazed at everything he saw when someone came up to him. This person said to him, "You should walk with your eyes closed. It's fun!"

- Should he?
- How should he walk?
- Jesus has rescued us from darkness.
- How should we live?

Ephesians 5: 10

Topic: a) How do we know the way?

a) There was a sailor who was steering a ship through dangerous waters. There were big sharp rocks under the water. If the boat hit one it could sink. The sailor had a map showing where all the dangerous rocks were. Not only that but the man who made the map was on the ship too. The sailor did something very smart. He asked the man who made the map to steer the ship through the dangerous waters.

- This is how you get through your life safely....
- Read your map (The Bible)
- Talk to the one who wrote it (God)
- Let Him steer you.

Ephesians 5: 11

Topic a) Expose the darkness

a) There were some candles. The candles were all lit and were shining. Some of the candles were mean and put themselves out. Then they went around and put out other candles. Things got very dark. But there was one candle who wouldn't let the mean candles put him out. Whenever they tried he would just shine brighter and brighter. The other candles who had no flame looked at him and said, "I'd rather be like that!"

- Obey God and shine bright in this world.

Ephesians 5: 12-14

Topic: a) Things done in darkness will be exposed.

a) There were a bunch of rats. These rats liked to eat garbage. At night they would sneak around and crawl into garbage cans. The reason they did it at night was because they knew it was disgusting. Yet they loved garbage. One night a man heard one of his garbage cans tip over. He ran out and shined his flashlight in the darkness. When the light hit the rats they scattered like rats. The reason they scattered like rats was because they were rats.

- God knows. God sees.
- No matter what people try to hide...God sees it.

Topic: b) Receive life

b) There was a place where there was no night. It was sunshine all the time. The people who lived there didn't need to sleep. They could always see where they were going. They could always see where they had been. They weren't bumping into each other and

getting hurt. If they did fall they could see why and they could see the hurt and get it fixed. They lived in the light.

- Want to see where you're going?
- Want to know what is right and wrong?
- Want to be able to do what is right?
- If you sin do you want the hurt to be fixed?
- Believe and ask Jesus into your heart. Live in the light.

Ephesians 5: 15

Topic: a) Want to be a fool?

a) One day Waldo went to the zoo. While he was there he saw a sign that said, "Do not put your hand in the lions mouth." Waldo put his hand into the cage and into the lions mouth. When he got out of the hospital he went back to the zoo. There he saw another sign that said, "Do not jump on the alligator." Waldo climbed the fence and started jumping on the alligator. When he got out of the hospital he went back to the zoo. He saw another sign that said, "Do not stick your head into the bear cage." Waldo stuck his head in the bear cage. While in the hospital he received a phone call. It was from the zoo. They told him never to come back.

- You can be just like Waldo if you want to.
- Want to be a fool? Here's what you have to do....Do not believe the truth and do not obey God.

Ephesians 5: 16

Topic: a) Redeem the time.

a) Joey and Jack are going to have a race. Jack takes off running towards the finish line. Joey takes off but he doesn't run, he walks. Then he starts to run backwards. Then he starts running around the parking lot. Then he lays down under a tree and goes to sleep.

- Who will win?
- Will you live your life like Joey? or Jack?
- Live to win.
- Don't miss out on life.
- Know what God wants and do it.

Ephesians 5: 17

Topic: a) Understand

a) A man and a girl are going to jump out of a plane. The pilot says to both of them, “I want you to wear a parachute.” The man says, “I think that pilot wants to ruin all my fun. I don’t need a parachute!” The man then jumped out of the plane. The girl hears what the pilot says, knows why the pilot said it and she obeys.

- Who will live?
- God tells us how to live.
- He does because He wants us to live.
- Know what God says. Know that He tells you because He loves you. Obey Him.

Ephesians 5: 18

Topic: a) Dissipation

a) Dissipation: Doing something that might look or feel good but will really hurt us.

a) There is a boy who likes to jump on the trampoline. He hears about a trampoline park. The trampoline in this park is the largest in the whole world. It is a mile long. It is so cool that you can jump one hundred feet in the air on it. It is so soft that no matter how high you jump or how you land, you won’t get hurt. The boy goes to the park. At the park they are selling food. The boy eats candy, ice cream, four milkshakes, cotton candy, six candy bars, five sodas, French fries and two candy apples. By the time he got on the giant trampoline he was so full he couldn’t even jump. In fact he felt sick. He missed out on all the fun.

- God has the best for us.
- We can fill up on other things or be filled with the Spirit of God.
- Anything you can see...won’t last forever.
- The things you can’t see are forever.

Ephesians 5: 19

Topic: a) Praising God

a) Re 4:8 ...*The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"*

- Are they being forced to praise God?
- Why would they continually do this?

a) There was a boy who lived in a snow bank. One day he crawled out of the snow and stood in the sunshine. He began to get warmer and warmer. The longer he stood in the sunshine the warmer he got. The warmer he got the happier he got.

- Did anyone make him get warmer?
- Why was he getting warmer?
- Did anyone make him stand in the sunshine?
- Why did he do it? (He wanted to because it was the best place)
- When people know God ...they want to praise Him.

a) There was a boy who went to the ocean. He went to the edge of the sand and stood in the water. The waves were coming in and hitting his knees. Suddenly a huge wave came in. This wave was so big that it came up over his head, picked him up, tossed him around and threw him back on the beach.

- He was overwhelmed by the wave.
- People praise God when they are overwhelmed by His goodness.
- He is worthy.

Ephesians 5: 20

Topic: a) Why does God love you?

a) There were some mice trying to sleep in their nest out in a field. The trouble was that they couldn't sleep because it was so cold. They tried to huddle together to get warm but the cold was everywhere. They shivered all through the night. In the morning the sun came up. The mice went outside and stood in the sunshine. Things began to warm up. The mice stood in the sunshine and became warm and happy.

- Why did the sun make everything warm? (Because the sun is hot)
- Jesus loves us on our good days and bad. Why? (Because God is love)

a) There were some people who spent all their time looking up into the sky. The reason they looked into the sky was because they like to watch the birds flying in the sky. The

reason they liked to watch the birds flying in the sky was because they really, really wanted to fly. They tried jumping in the air. They tried jumping off cliffs. They tried jumping out of trees but no matter how hard they tried none of them was able to fly. One day a huge bubble came floating by. When it came close enough, the people all jumped into it. The bubble floated up into the air with the people inside of it. Everyone was laughing. Finally they were able to fly.

- How come the people were able to fly? (They were in the bubble)
- God the Father loves His Son, Jesus.
- If you believe in Jesus it's like you are in Him
- God loves you and someday you will fly.

Topic b) Thank Him, you are in His hand.

b) It was winter. It was so cold and dark that even the snow was frozen hard. The wind was blowing so hard that you couldn't even walk. In this cold dark winter day there was a field. It was so cold in this field that there was no life. There was however a tree. At the bottom of this tree was a hole. Inside of this hole lived a family of rabbits. Outside it was dark and stormy and no life. Inside that hole it was warm and cozy. The storm couldn't touch the rabbits as long as they stayed inside their cozy hole.

- That's what it like being in Gods love.
- John 10: 27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*
- Thank Him every day.

Ephesians 5: 21

Topic a) I want to do what is best.

a) Marci always wants to be first. One day when the kids were getting off the school bus, Marci cut in front of Nadia. She pushed so hard to get in front of her that she almost knocked Nadia over. This made Nadia angry. Nadia knew she had to do something. She could either fight with Marci or let her go. Nadia knew what God wanted her to do. She knew that God would want her to let Marci go and not make a fuss so all the kids could get off the bus safely. This is what she did. Nadia's teacher saw what happened. She came up to Nadia and said, "I saw Marci cut in front of you. You didn't whine or fight. You are a strong girl!"

Topic b) Why do things Gods way?

b) Jason is getting out of school and about to ride his bike home. He wants to be home in ten minutes because his friends are coming over and they are all going skateboarding. There are two roads he can take. One is easy to ride on, it's all downhill but it will take him thirty minutes to get home because it curves around. The other road is harder to ride on because it has some steep hills but it goes straight to his house and he would home in ten minutes.

- Which road should he take? (the straighter harder one)
- This road is harder. Why should he take it? (Because it's the best way)
- Gods' way is not the easiest way but it's always the best way.
- Nadia pushing Marci out of the way because she cut in front of her would have been the easy way but not the best way.

Ephesians 5: 22-24**Topic a) Families**

a) Genesis 31: 11 *"Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'*

12 "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

13 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'"

14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?"

15 "Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.

*16 "For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children's; **now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.**"*

- God told Jacob what to do
- Jacobs wife, Rachel encouraged him to do what God said.
- Jacob was smart and listened to his wifes wise advice.

a) There was a group of people who wanted to go to the city. They started walking. They came to a place where there were many roads all going in different directions. Some of the people said they should take the road on the left. Some said they should take the road on the right. Some said they should take the road in the middle. Some said that they missed the right road and should have taken the one that they passed.

- What do they need? (Someone to look at a map and make a decision. Otherwise they wont go anywhere)
- In a family someone has to hear from God and make a decision.
- The Bible says that someone should be the dad.

Topic b) Who's the boss?

b) There was a vegetable garden. The sun told the vegetables to let him shine on them so they could grow and be strong. The tomato family started arguing. Dad tomato said that they should stay in the shade where it's cool. Mom tomato said that they should go live inside the house. They kept arguing and soon just withered away. The cucumber family did what the sun said. They lived and grew strong.

- The best family isn't where dad is the boss. It isn't where mom is the boss. It isn't where the kids are the boss.
- The best family is where Jesus is the boss. They will live.

Ephesians 5: 25

Topic: a) Love unconditional

a) Amanda and Paris are friends. No matter what Amana does, Paris is still her friend. If Amanda is snotty...Paris is still her friend. If Amanda is selfish...Paris stays her friend. If Amanda is unkind...Paris stays her friend. One day Amanda and Paris were walking down the sidewalk when someone came up to Paris and asked her who Amanda was. Paris answered, "This girl is my friend!"

- Was Paris a friend to Amanda?
- How do you know?
- The love that Jesus has for you never changes.

Ephesians 5: 26-27

Topic: a) Cleansing by the Word.

a) There was a monkey who wanted to be a chicken. He went to the home of a scientist. He knocked on the door. When the scientist came to the door the monkey told him that he wanted to be a chicken. The scientist invited the monkey inside. He took the monkey into the basement. In the basement was a huge machine with lots of lights and wires. The scientist hooked a bunch of wires onto the monkey and put him into the machine. The lights on the machine began to flash. The machine made a huge noise. When it stopped the scientist opened the door and there was a chicken! The monkey was happy that he was now a chicken. The only problem was that the monkey even though he was

now a chicken, kept acting like a monkey. The scientist gave him a book. The title of the book was, "How to be a chicken." The more the chicken read the book the more he acted like a chicken and not like a monkey. .

- We were far away from God
- Jesus made us children of God by taking away our sins and making us clean.
- But sometimes we still act like sinners.
- God has given us the Bible to show us how to live as children of God.
- The more we read it...the more the Spirit of God changes us to be like Him.

Ephesians 5: 28-33

Topic: a) He nourishes and cherishes.

a) Once upon a time there was a head. It was a very nice head. One day the head was rolling down the street when it passed by a body store. He saw a body in the window looking very sad because it had no life. The head went into the store and bought the body. When the body was attached to the head, it came to life. The next store the head saw was an arm store. The head went in and bought two arms. Then the head went to a leg store. He bought two legs. The whole body was now very happy. The head took good care of the body and kept it alive. All the parts were different yet they were all one.

- Jesus is the head of the church. He bought us (How?)
- Those who believe are all different from one another but one with God and each other.
- One in His love.