

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, swimmies, 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.

Ephesians 2: 1

Topic: a) Were dead, now alive.

a) There was a flower who lived in the sun. It was pretty, smelled nice and was growing large. The people who lived in the house had one rule for the flower...Never go into the basement. Even though the flower was living in the sun, it thought that maybe the reason the people didn't want it to go down into the basement was because it was actually better down there. So one night when no one was looking, the flower snuck into the house and went down into the basement. It was dark and cold and damp down there. The flower didn't like it but the door shut and it was trapped. It was down there for days and soon it withered and died. One day the boy who lived in the house was down in the basement and found the flower. He brought it outside and planted it out in the sun. Soon the flower got warm and started to come to life. Out in the sun it lived and grew again.

- The flower got away from the sun and couldn't live.
- We got away from God (sin) and there was no life in us.
- The boy brought the flower back into the sun.
- Jesus brought us back to God. How?
- Whoever believes in Him has eternal life.

Ephesians 2: 2-3

Topic: a) We were in darkness

a) Once there was a planet that had no sun. There was no day, only night. The only light the people had was a gigantic candle. This candle was so big that it gave everyone light and heat. There was one rule on this planet...Don't blow out the candle. There were some people on this planet who for some reason thought it would be cool to live in the darkness so they climbed to the top of the candle and blew it out. Now all the people had to live in darkness. They couldn't see where they were going so they got hurt. They also got so angry because of the darkness that they began to hurt each other.

- Adam and Eve sinned and Satan sent the world into sadness and death.
- But then something happened. What? (The light of the world appeared)

Ephesians 2: 4-5

Topic: a) Why did He save us?

a) Once there was a king who lived in a beautiful castle. The king's people didn't have any houses to live in. The king loved his people and told them that whoever wanted to could come and live with him in the castle. There was only one rule...Don't jump into the deadly sticky slime pit. The deadly slime pit was filled with deadly stinky sticky

slime. If you got any of it on you, you would die. The only way you could get the slime off was if someone who was really strong took it off you and then it would have to be put on someone else. So the king said that tomorrow the doors of the castle would be open and anyone who had not jumped into the deadly, stinky slime pit could come in. As soon as the king went back inside, every one of his people jumped into the deadly, stinky, sticky slime pit. When the king came out the next morning there were all his people covered with slime and dying. The king who was the only one strong enough to do so, took all the slime off the people and put it all on his son. His son died. The people lived and went inside the castle.

- Why did the king do this?
- Did the people deserve it?
- Why did God the Father put all your sins on His Son Jesus?

Ephesians 2: 6-7

Topic: a) He raised us up.

a) It had been raining for weeks. It rained so hard that the birds couldn't fly. They had to stay on the ground where it was cold and wet. The water was getting so high that they thought they might drown. They were cold, wet and getting sick. Suddenly a strong eagle swooped down from the sky. He covered the birds with his wings. They could hear the rain but under the eagles wings it was warm and dry. Not only did he keep them warm and dry but after telling the birds to hang on he flapped his wings and took off into the sky. He flew higher and higher through the storm with the birds hanging on. The eagle flew high enough to go above the clouds. Below them was the storm but above the clouds it was bright sunshine and warmth.

- Jesus died to take our sins away.
- He came back from death.
- If you believe you will live forever because He lives forever.

Ephesians 2: 8-9

Topic: a) Salvation is a gift.

a) Julie was lying in her bed. She could hear someone coming up the stairs. Her dad came into her room. He had something in his hand. He put it on the table next to her bed. It was a little bowl with a goldfish in it. Julie was so happy. Now she had a friend to sleep next to her bed. She hugged and thanked her dad for the present. He kissed her goodnight and shut the door. Julie lay there looking at the goldfish swimming around. She had a big smile on her face.

- Why does Julie have a goldfish on the table next to her bed?

- Did she get a job, earn money and buy it?
- Did she win it by doing something?
- Then why? (It was a gift)
- You have heaven. Why? (It's a gift from God)
- Have you received this gift?

Topic: b) No one will boast.

b) Time to play... "Which one is in Heaven?!"

- Contestant #1... "Well I don't think I am in heaven. I haven't been very good and it seems I do more bad things than good."
- Contestant #2... "I'm in heaven because God is so good that He came to earth and took away all my sins. All my sins are gone!"
- Contestant #3... "I am in heaven because I'm a good kid. I obey. I'm nice to my friends. I have done a lot of good things."
- Which one is in heaven?

Ephesians 2: 10

Topic: a) He makes us fit.

a) Cindi wanted to ride on the big roller coaster. She stood in line. Up ahead was a sign with a line on it. It said that you had to be taller than the line in order to ride the roller coaster. Cindi walked up to the line but was sad because she was too short and they wouldn't let her ride. She went home and tried to stretch to make herself taller. She tried jumping up and down but nothing worked. Finally she gave up and thought she would never be able to ride the roller coaster. The next summer she and her friends went to the amusement park again. All her friends were going to ride the roller coaster. They wanted Cindi to come but she told them she couldn't because she was too short. Finally they talked her into trying. As she walked up to the line she thought she was going to be sad again but to her surprise she was taller than the line! She was so happy. Cindi rode the roller coaster all afternoon.

- Who made Cindi tall enough?
- Only Jesus is good enough.
- The only way we can become good is if He makes us good.

Topic: b) Created for good works.

b) Once there were a bunch of candles. They were sad candles. They were sad because they weren't lit. If a candle isn't burning and giving off light, it's like they're not even alive. One day someone came who had matches. He saw the sad candles. This person loved the candles and wanted them to live. He took out a match and lit every one of them. Now the candles were burning brightly. They were so happy. They were doing what they were made to do. Their light shone on everyone so all could see.

- Why did the person light the candles? (He loved them and wanted them to live and for the sake of the people around them)
- Jesus saved you because He loves you and wants you to live.
- Also so you can be a light and do good for people around you.

Ephesians 2: 11-13

Topic: a) No life away from God.

a) It was the middle of winter. There was a field. It was so cold in this field that even the snow was hard. The wind whipped through. Nothing could live, not even weeds. Everything was frozen solid. In the middle of the field there was a tree. There were no leaves on it. No birds were sitting in the tree. If they did they would freeze to death. At the bottom of the tree was a hole. In this hole lived a family of rabbits. Inside the hole it was warm and cozy. The rabbits could hear the wind howling outside but inside they were safe and warm. Outside was freezing death. Inside that hole was life.

- Jesus is Gods love
- Outside of God there is no life.
- Jesus has brought us to God.

Ephesians 2: 14-16

Topic: a) All can join the family of God.

a) William wanted to join a club. There were lots of clubs at school and he wanted to belong to one. One club was called "The big feet club." William couldn't join that one because his feet were too small. Another club was called, "The purple hair club." He couldn't join that one because he had black hair and he didn't even want purple hair. Another club was called "The bad teeth club." William couldn't join that one because he brushed his teeth every day and took good care of them. Another club was called, "The clean ears club." William couldn't join that one because even though he took a bath he kept forgetting to wash behind his ears. Then there was one club that anyone could join. It was called, "The friends club." In order to join this club you didn't have to be or do anything. You just have to want to be a friend.

- Anyone can join Gods family. Jesus has done everything for us. Those who believe are brothers and sisters.

Topic: b) No rules...just faith

b) If you want to get a drivers license you have to.....

- If you want to go to college you have to....
- If you want to learn to play the piano you have to....
- If you want to be on the safety patrol you have to....(follow the rules)
- If you want to go to heaven you have to....(Believe that Jesus has done it for you)

Ephesians 2: 17

Topic: a) You can come home.

a) The prodigal son...When Jesus told that story the people probably thought the boy was going to be punished by the father for what he had done. They must have been surprised when the father ran out, hugged him and threw a party. Some might have asked, "Is He saying that God is like the father in the story?"

a) Will's parents were going out for a while. His dad had some open cans of paint in the basement. He told Will not to touch the paint. His parents left. Will went down to the basement. He saw the open cans of paint and the brushes. He thought, "It won't hurt anything if I just stir the paint." He started stirring. Soon he was spilling paint on the ground. Soon he was waving the brushes around and getting paint on everything. He had gotten paint on his moms new coat. He panicked. He took the coat and threw it in the washing machine. There were other clothes in there. Not only did the paint not come out but now there was paint on all the other clothes. He decided to bury the clothes in the backyard. He took a shovel and started digging. He hit something hard. He smacked it with his shovel. It was an underground water line. Soon water was pouring out of the pipe and into the house. The basement filled up with water. Soon the water was flooding the upstairs. Will had to do something. He took his fathers drill and started drilling holes in the wall to let the water out. The water came out but the holes made the walls so weak that the whole house fell down in a heap. Will left home. He moved far away and lived in a dark cave. Some time later he received a note in the mail. It said, "Dear Son, We have been looking for you. We miss you. Come home, all is forgiven." Will was so happy that he was finally able to go home.

- Jesus has sent a message to us...."Come home."

Ephesians 2: 18

Topic: a) We can approach Him.

a) In the Bible there is the story of Queen Esther. Esther had to go in and talk to the king and ask him a favor. The problem was that no one could just go in and talk to the king. If the king didn't want to see you he would have his guards take out their big swords and cut off your head. If the king did want to see you he would point his scepter at you and then you could talk to him. Esther didn't know if the king wanted to see her but she went in anyway. She didn't know if she was going to lose her head or get to talk to the king. She walked in. The guards were holding their swords. The king saw her. When the king saw Esther he smiled and pointed his scepter at her. She could come in and ask the king for a favor.

- Can you talk to God anytime you want?
- Will you lose your head or will He smile?
- Why?

Ephesians 2: 19-22

Topic: a) How they built the temple.

a) The temple was the place where the people met with and worshiped God. The first they did was to build a strong foundation out of huge stones. Then they would build the temple on top of this foundation. Then they would put the biggest and strongest stone in the foundation. This was called the corner stone. This was the strongest stone that held the whole building up.

Topic: b) You are the temple of God.

b) We don't need a temple. Our foundation is the Bible. Our corner stone is Jesus.

- You are with God and God is with you wherever you go.

b) There was a lighthouse. It stood tall on the shore and gave light to ships on the water. This lighthouse had a strong foundation. No matter how big a storm came or how big the waves got, nothing could knock it over. On top of the lighthouse was a very big and bright light. All the ships on the water could see the light and when they saw it they felt safe. The light showed them where the rocks were so the ships wouldn't crash.

- This is what the church is...
- Strong because Jesus holds us up.
- Light ... Jesus shines through us so that people can see and hear the truth.
-

Ephesians 3: 1-2

Topic: a) God uses people

a) Once there was a crayon who lived in a crayon box with all the other crayons. The color of this crayon was “sky blue.” The problem was that this crayon was never used. It was so far down in the corner of the box that the little girl who owned the crayons never saw it. The crayon was sad. He could hear all the other crayons laughing as the little girl colored with them. He was a crayon and he wanted to be used to color things. One day the little girl was coloring. She dumped out the whole box of crayons. She saw the sky blue crayon. “Oh!” she said, “Here’s a pretty crayon!” She began coloring with the crayon. The crayon was very happy. Soon the crayon was all used up and he went to crayon heaven and became the blue in the sky.

- If God wants to make someone smile. If He wants someone to know the truth...He will use us.
- There is nothing better than to be used by God to color this world with His love.

Ephesians 3: 3-6

Topic: a) No one is left out.

a) Randy went to the playground. There were some kids running a race. Randy wanted to run too. “Go away Randy you’re too short!” they yelled. There were some kids playing basketball. Randy went up to play. “Go away Randy, you’re too short!” they yelled. There were kids playing baseball. Randy wanted to play. “Go away Randy! You can’t be on our team. You cant even hit the ball!” Randy went home sad and alone.

- Is God like that?
- There are two words that God will never say to you. (Go away!)
- There are two words that God will always say to you. (Come closer!)

Ephesians 3: 7

Topic: a) All things come by grace.

a) Randy liked to put models together. One day they went to the store and Randy’s dad bought him a really cool car model. His dad put the model in the trunk. “This is for you” he said. “You can have it later.” When they got home Randy jumped out of the car, ran into the garage, grabbed the lawn mower and mowed the whole lawn. “I mowed the lawn for you. Can I have it now?” “No” said dad. Randy went in and washed the dishes. “I washed the dishes can I have it now?” “No” said dad. Randy cleaned the whole house.

“I cleaned the whole house. Can I have it now?” “No” said dad. Randy washed the car. “I washed the car. Can I have it now?” “No” said dad. “Then tell me, what do I have to do to get the model?!” “Nothing” said dad, “It’s a gift. Just take it!” Randy was very thankful.

- Everything is a gift from God.

Ephesians 3: 8

Topic: a) How do we get the biggest prize?

a) Andrew was on a baseball team. He hit twenty home runs. He got the prize for hitting the most home runs.

- Why did he get the prize?

a) Teresa entered a talent contest. She sang and danced. Everyone thought her singing and dancing was the best. She got the prize for the best performance.

- Why did she get the prize?

a) Dee loves to skateboard. She entered a skateboarding contest. She did a double flip off her board and landed perfectly. Everyone cheered. She got the prize for best skateboarder.

- Why did she get the prize?

a) The biggest prize in the universe is heaven.

- You are going to get it.
- Why?

Ephesians 3: 9

Topic: a)

a) God had a solution.

a) Billy had a problem. His ears kept falling off. Then he couldn’t hear anybody. So Billy went out, bought ear muffs and glued his ears into them. Now he could hear everything. He fixed the problem.

a) Rachel had a problem. Every time she put her hand into her pet alligators mouth he would bite her. She thought and thought...How can I fix this problem? Maybe if I don’t put my hand into the alligators mouth he won’t bite me. So she did and the problem was fixed.

a) This world has a problem. People have gotten farther and farther away from God and without God there is no life. God fixed this problem.

- How? (By sending Jesus)

Ephesians 3: 10-11

Topic: a) How do the angels know what God is like?

a) They see Him but there's another way.

a) Sandy looked out of bedroom window. Every day she saw an old man walking down the sidewalk. She wondered what the man was like. Every day a little puppy would run out to meet him. She saw the man pet the puppy and give him a treat. When the birds saw him they would flock around him. He would take a bag of seed out of his pocket and feed the birds. One time she saw a little kid fall on the sidewalk. The boy was crying. The old man walked up and helped him. One day her mom saw the man. "I wonder what that man is like" she wondered. "I know what he's like" said Sandy.

- How does she know?
- The angels saw God come down from heaven, become a person and take the punishment for our sins on the cross.
- They know the love of God by watching God love us.

Topic: b) What does God want us to do?

b) Mark's room was a mess. There were so many clothes on the floor that you couldn't open the door. The only way to get into Mark's room was to go through the window. Mark's dad left a note. It said, "There is one thing you have to do today and you know what it is."

- What is it?

b) There is really only one thing that God wants you to do.

- What is it? (Live)

Topic: c) How do we do this?

c) There was a mouse who couldn't find any food. She was so hungry that she thought she was going to die. Suddenly a huge gorilla came by. The mouse followed the gorilla. The gorilla grabbed one of the trees and shook it. Fruit from the tree came falling down to the ground. The mouse ate and ate.

- How will the mouse live? (By following the gorilla)
- How do we live? (By following Jesus the only one who can give life)

Ephesians 3: 12

Topic: a) access

a) Once there was a king who sat on his throne. No one could come near the king because the king was too great, powerful and mighty. One day the king's son came into the throne room. He ran up to the throne and started jumping up and down on the king's lap. The people outside were shocked. They asked, "How come he gets to come in and get so close to the king?" (How come he gets to?) One day the king's son brought in a bunch of his friends. They all ran up to the throne and started jumping all around it. The people outside were shocked. They said, "I know the king's son can come in whenever he wants to but how come these other kids get to be so close to the king?"

- Why do the other kids get to be so close to the king? (Because the son brought them in)
- Jesus is the Son of God. He came to save us and bring us to God.
- We can come before God's throne in prayer any time, any place.
- Don't stay outside.

Ephesians 3: 13-15

Topic: a) How many brothers and sisters do you have?

a) One day the teacher asked the kids in her class about their families. One boy got up and said that he had an older brother. A girl got up and said that she had a brother and sister who lived in California. Another boy got up and said he had two brothers, one lived in Florida and the other in Arizona. He also had a sister who lived in Alaska. Then a girl named Alice stood up. She said that she had thousands of brothers and sisters who lived in every country on earth and thousands of brothers and sisters who lived in heaven.

- What is she talking about? (God's family)
- Are you in God's family?
- How do you join?

Ephesians 3: 16

Topic: a) strengthened with might.

a) David and Goliath

- Who looked the strongest?

- Who was faster?
- Who had better weapons?
- Who was bigger?
- Who had more muscles?
- Who was stronger? (David...he won the battle)
- Why?

a) Once there were two trees. One was huge. It stood forty feet high. It was so big that if you got close and looked up you couldn't even see the sky. The other tree was little. It was short, thin and hardly had any leaves on it. The big tree was big on the outside but hardly had any roots in the ground. The little tree was little above ground but had long strong roots deep in the ground. One day there was a wind storm. The wind blew so hard that it knocked the big tree over. When the storm was over the little tree was still standing.

- What did the little tree have that the big tree didn't? (Roots)
- We are rooted in Jesus' love.
- Nothing can destroy us if we are living in His love.

Ephesians 3: 17-19

Topic: a) What is the most important thing?

a) There is a man who is going to enter a car race. They will race around a track going very, very fast.

- What is the most important thing he needs to know? (How to drive)

a) There is a woman who is going to swim across the ocean. It is going to take a long time and the swim is very dangerous.

- What is the most important thing she needs to know? (How to swim)

a) Us living our lives which are sometimes happy, sometimes sad.

- What is the most important thing we need to know? (The love that God is and has for you)

a) There was a boy who wanted to fly. He made a gigantic kite. This kite was so big that he put a seat on it. He sat in his kite and took off. The wind took the kite higher and higher. Suddenly the kite started to go down fast. The wind came and took it back up into the sky. He was nearing some mountain tops. It looked like he was going to run right into them and crash but the wind took him up higher and he sailed on safely. He sailed through the sky having the best ride ever. He knew that as long as the wind was there he was safe.

- The love of God is like that wind. It holds us up. We need to know it.

a) There was once a balloon. The boy holding it let go and the balloon flew high into the sky. The balloon was so happy. It could see for miles and miles. The view was beautiful. Higher and higher it went. Soon it was in outer space. It could see the earth far below with stars all around it. The balloon went higher. Finally it went so high that it just couldn't hold it all in and it exploded.

- If you really, really, really knew how good God is. If you really, really, really knew how Jesus has loved you... You would have so much joy that you would explode.
- That's why we'll have new and better bodies in heaven.

a) There was a monkey in the jungle. One day the monkey saw a lion. The monkey was amazed at how big and powerful the lion is. The monkey wanted to know just how great that lion is. The monkey asked the lion if he could follow him around. The lion said yes. The monkey listened to the lion talk. The monkey talked to the lion. The monkey asked the lion a lot of questions. Whenever the monkey was scared or in trouble he would ask the lion for help. That monkey was with the lion all the time. Every day he got to know more and more just how great the lion is.

- Want to know the love of God? Tell Him. Spend time with Him.

Ephesians 3: 20-21

Topic: a) I'll never do it. Jesus can!

a) There was a boy who liked to play in the woods. There was a wide creek flowing through the woods. The boy wanted to get to the other side of the creek. He kept trying to jump over it but it was too far and he always fell in. One day he was walking through the woods with his father. They came to the creek and the boy said, "I'll never be able to jump over that creek." "I can" said his dad. With that his dad picked the boy up and threw him over the creek. The boy landed safely on the other side. He stood up and yelled, "I made it!"

- However close you want to be to God...Jesus will bring you there.
- Jesus can do more than we can even imagine.
- You cannot save yourself... You can't make yourself good....But Jesus can...Do you want Him to?

Ephesians 4: 1

Topic: a) Walk worthy

a) Mike and Jeff both got a call from the coach of the football team. He told them that if they wanted to they could try out for the team. Mike started running to get in shape. Jeff lay on the couch. Mike lifted weights to build up his muscles. Jeff watched television. Mike ate healthy foods so he could grow stronger. Jeff ate candy.

- Which one should be on the team?
- You have been called to go to heaven
- What should you be doing?
- What should you not be doing?

Ephesians 4: 2

Topic: a) How should we be if we believe in Jesus?

a) There were two teams of kids running a race. One of the little kids fell down. He was lying on the ground crying and wouldn't get up. One of the kids on his team yelled at him..."If you don't get up we'll lose the race!" Some of the other kids called the little boy names. Some said, "He's a cry baby, just leave him!" There was one girl on the team who bent down and spoke gently to the little boy. She found out that he had hurt his ankle. She picked the little boy up and carried him to the finish line.

- This girl believes in Jesus
- Is she being like she should?
- We should pray that God makes us like Jesus.

Ephesians 4: 3

Topic: a) Unity of the Spirit

a) Ray and Sarah built a fort in the woods. They built it out of old pieces of lumber they had found. They were in their fort when suddenly they heard a weird noise. They looked out and saw a swarm of termites crawling towards their fort. Termites are bugs that love to eat wood. The kids knew that if the termites got into their fort they would destroy it. Ray and Sarah went out with fly swatters and tried to fight the bugs off but there were too many of them. They got shovels, dug a ditch around their fort and filled it with water. The termites couldn't swim and turned back. Ray and Sarah played in their fort. There was no way they were going to let those bugs in to wreck it.

- There are bugs trying to get into our families and church. (Jealousy, hatred, meanness, disobedience to God)

a) It was a hot summer day. Jenn wanted an orange Popsicle. The store that sold Popsicles was a mile away. Jenn started walking. It got hotter and hotter. She met one of her friends along the way. Her friend was eating candy. She said, “You don’t have to walk all that way for a Popsicle. Here have some candy instead.” Jenn said no and kept walking. She met another friend on the way. He said, “You don’t have to walk all that way to get a Popsicle. Here have some pie.” Jenn said no and kept walking. She met another friend. “Hey you don’t have to walk all that way to get a Popsicle. Here have some chocolate cake.” Jenn said no and kept walking. Finally she got to the store and bought an orange Popsicle. She sat on the curb and ate it. It tasted better than anything.

- Why did she walk all that way to get an orange Popsicle? (It was the only thing she wanted)
- How do we keep the bugs out of our families and church?
- When the only thing we want is to obey God.
- With God there is only love.

Ephesians 4: 4-6

Topic: a) One?

a) There was a group of people who wanted to plant a garden. There is a big rock in the middle of the place where the garden is to be. They are all going to have to help, pick up the big rock and move it. Every one of these people are different. Some are girls, some are boys. Some are black, some are white. Some speak different languages. They all like different things and look different from one another. They all get together, pick up the rock and move it. All of these people are different yet they are one.

- How can that be? (They are all doing the same thing...moving the rock)
- We are in Gods family. We are all different yet we are one because we are loved by God and we want to make Him smile.

Ephesians 4: 7

Topic: a) To each one of us.

a) There was a king who loved his people. The people knew that their king loved them. one day the king came out and told the people, “I have something for each of you.” All the people lined up to receive their gift. He handed the first person a box. She looked inside. She was so happy with what was in the box that she couldn’t even talk. The king gave the next person a different box. This person was so happy that he couldn’t even

talk. Finally all the people had a gift box. No two boxes were the same. They were all different. The king loved them and gave each one the perfect gift just for them.

- Jesus has special heavenly gifts that are just for you and no one else.

Ephesians 4: 8-10

Topic: a) He descended and ascended.

a) There was once a mighty river. It was strong and filled with water. One day the river heard that a little fish had left him and gotten lost. The river knew that if the fish didn't have its water it would die. The river shrunk itself down and became a glass of water. It searched and saved the little fish. Then it became a river again as big and mighty as before and any fish who wanted to live in its waters could.

- We are like that fish
- Jesus is God, our creator.
- We were lost because of our sin.
- Jesus shrunk down and became a man to save us and bring us back to God.
- Then Jesus went back to heaven and fills the whole universe.
- Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Ephesians 4: 11-12

Topic: a) Gods helpers

a) There was a pond called the "Snake and alligator pond." It was very dangerous to fall into this pond but it was very cool if you could see the snakes and alligators. There was a person who wanted people to be able to see the snakes and alligators so this person built a path that went right over the pond. The person didn't want anyone to fall into the pond so he put people all along the path to guide visitors and make sure they stayed on the path.

- God has put people around you to help keep you on the path of life.
- Pastors, moms, dads, grandparents, Sunday school teachers....people who tell you the truth about Jesus.

Ephesians 4: 13

Topic: a) What are we growing into?

a) There was a little seed. This little seed would sit in his bedroom and stare at a poster he had on the wall. It was a poster of a huge red tomato. The little seed would stare at the poster and dream that someday he could become like that tomato. One day the farmer came, picked up the little seed and gently planted it in the ground. The farmer watered the little seed and made sure it had plenty of good seed food to eat. One day a green vine grew out of the seed, poked through the ground and grew higher and higher. Then a little round green thing grew on the vine. Then one day the farmer came out to look and there was a huge red tomato on the vine. The little seed had gotten what he wanted.

- Jesus is taking care of us. Making us grow.
- As time goes on and we listen to Him, we become more and more like Him.
- Then one day we will see Him in heaven and we will be more than we can imagine.

Ephesians 4: 14

Topic: a) tossed to and fro

a) There was a little kid named Nathan. One day the big kids told Nathan that the moon was really a big piece of cheese. “Really?!” said Nathan. He went home and told his dad. “That’s not true” his dad said. Then the big kids told Nathan that there was a monster hiding in his bedroom closet. He went home and told his dad. “That’s not true” his dad said. Then the big kids told Nathan that they had built a rocket and they were going to put Nathan in it and send him into outer space. He went home and told his dad. His dad said, “Look Nathan whenever these kids tell you something, you come home, tell me and I will tell you if it’s true or not. Nathan did and the big kids were never able to fool him.

- There are a lot of lies out there.
- Who do we come to if we want to know the truth about something?
- Jesus is the truth.
- Is there a book that contains the truth?

Ephesians 4: 15

Topic: a) grow up into.

a) One day the teacher asked the kids to stand up and tell the class what they wanted to be when they grew up. One boy stood up and said, "I want to be a policeman and drive a police car down the street with a siren." A girl stood up and said, "I want to work with computers and work in a tall skyscraper way above the street. A boy stood up and said, "I want to be a pilot and fly airplanes." Another girl stood up and said, "I want to be an astronaut and go into outer space!"

- All these things are great but God wants you to grow up into something even higher than the universe.
- To grow in Gods love until one day in heaven we will be like Jesus.

Ephesians 4: 16

Topic: a) The body

a) There was a boy who was outside playing. He became hungry. His body needed food. His brain told the legs to go to the store and buy some healthy food and a few treats as well. The brain in his head told the hands to pick up the food and put it in his mouth. The brain then told the teeth to chew and the throat to swallow. Soon his stomach was full and the brain told it to send all that good stuff to the different parts of the body, giving them strength.

- The church is like a body.
- Every person loves the Lord and loves each other.
- Jesus is like the head.
- We get everything we need from Him and we grow together to be like Him.

Ephesians 4: 17-19

Topic: a) Don't live like those who don't know God.

a) Once there was a girl who looked up into the sky and wanted to go higher and higher. There was someone she knew who said they were going to go higher and higher. This person was standing in a hole with a shovel and kept digging the hole deeper and deeper. She knew someone else who said they were going to go higher and higher. This person was building a rocket ship and was going to blast off into outer space. The girl wondered, "Who should I hang out with?"

- Who should she hang out with? Why?
- People who try to live without God are like those digging a hole.
- If you know God then obey Him ...and fly.

Ephesians 4: 20-21

Topic: a) Truth

a) There is a boy. He doesn't know it but there is an arrow coming directly at his head. Someone walks up to him and hands him two envelopes. One marked A and one marked B. The boy opens A. The note inside says, "Stand still and don't move." The boy opens the B envelope. The note inside this one says, "Duck!!!" He believes and does what the note in envelope B says.

- What is going to happen to him?
- No one can live without the truth.
- Where do we find the one and only truth?

a) Genesis 3...The lie sounded good. Gods words keep us alive.

Ephesians 4: 22-24

Topic: a) Take off – Put on.

a) There was a place where it was very, very cold. In this place it was very fashionable to wear worm coats. All the people wore these coats. These worm coats weren't warm and the worms were biting worms. One day a man came who had a truck load of new coats. These coats were made of soft material, were very warm, cozy and they were free. Whoever wanted could take off their worm coat and put on a brand new one.

- Would you take off the old coat and put on a new one?
- Before a person believes in Jesus they are lost in darkness and they act like it.
- When a person believes in Jesus they are made brand new. All sins are gone and they act like it.
- Take off the old sin. Put on the goodness of Jesus.

Ephesians 4: 25

Topic: a) Speak the truth

a) There was a flock of sheep. One day a wolf who was wearing a sheep hat came to the flock. "Hello friends" said the wolf. "Who are you?" asked the sheep. "Oh I'm just a sheep like you, just part of the flock" said the wolf. "Gee I don't know" said the sheep, "You look like a wolf." "Oh no!" said the wolf, "Just listen." With that the wolf raised his head and said, "Baaaa!"

The sheep said, "Well he does say baaaa. He must be a sheep."

- Can he be part of the flock?
- What is he there for?
- No lie can be of the truth.
- Jesus never has and never will lie to us.
- Everything that comes out of our mouths should be truth.

a) There was a man who said, "I don't want any holes in my back yard!" One day a boy came over with a shovel and started digging a hole. The man came out and saw it. "Did you dig a hole?" he said to the boy with the shovel. "No" said the boy. The man left and the boy dug the hole deeper. The man came back. "Are you sure you didn't dig a hole?" he asked. "No said the boy I would never dig a hole in your yard." The boy dug the hole deeper. The man came back. "If you're digging a hole you're going to be in big trouble!" he yelled. "I am not digging a hole!" said the boy. The man left and the boy dug the hole deeper. This time when the man came out the hole was so deep that he couldn't even see the boy anymore.

- If we do something wrong it's like we're in a hole
- If we think lying about it will get us out of trouble....we make the hole deeper.

a) One day Sams dad had to go to work. He told Sam that he didn't want him to leave the house while he was gone. Sam promised to stay home till dad got back. After dad left some of Sams friends came by with their skateboards. They wanted Sam to come with them. Sam told them that his dad didn't want him to leave the house. The kids told Sam that if he left with them his dad would never know. All Sam had to do was to get home before his dad did. Sam left with his friends. On his way home from work his dad passed the park. He saw Sam skateboarding with his friends. Sam realized it was getting late, ran home and got there just before his dad pulled into the driveway. When dad came in he asked Sam if he has stayed home like he was told to. Sam told his dad that he never left the house. He said he did just what dad had told him to do. Sam thought he got away with it but his dad was sad. He was sad because he loved Sam but now he knew something. He knew that his son was a liar.

- Lord help us to always tell the truth.

Ephesians 4: 26-27

Topic a) Don't stay angry.

a) There was a girl who was walking down the street. On the sidewalk she found a bomb that was ticking. She picked it up and carried it around with her. Her friends saw her and told her that she had better get rid of that bomb. "No" she said, "I think I'll keep it for a while."

- What is going to happen to her?
- Anger and hatred are like a bomb. If we don't get rid of it...it will hurt us and others.

a) Once there was an apple sitting in a basket with a bunch of other apples. This apple had a little brown spot on it. One of the apples said to it, "Hey that's a rotten spot. You better get rid of it!" The apple didn't listen and kept the brown spot. Soon the brown spot had spread all over the apple. Then the apple shriveled up and the rottenness spread to the other apples.

- If we don't get rid of anger and hatred....we will become rotten.

Topic: b) How do we get rid of it?

b) There was once a boy with a huge pimple on forehead. The pimple grew and soon it was almost the size of the boys head. He went to the doctor. The doctor told him that he had better get rid of it or it would take over his whole body. The boy believed the doctor and knew that the doctor wanted to help him so the boy asked the doctor to remove it.

- How do we get rid of anger or any other sin?
- We believe what Jesus says about it.
- We ask Him to remove it.

Ephesians 4: 28

Topic: a) Turning a taker into a giver.

a) Once there was a planet. The only thing that was on this planet was a bunch of trees. This planet was kind of mean and only wanted to do what it wanted to do. One day the planet hid behind the moon. It was dark and cold. The trees began to die. The planet didn't care. It said, "I don't care, as long as I get to do what I want to do." One day the

sun told the planet that if it came out and let him shine on him that the planet would be happier than ever before. The planet did what the sun said. Soon it was light and warm on the planet. The trees came back to life. Flowers grew. There was life. The planet was happier then ever before. It never wanted to be in the dark again.

- People do bad things.
- When Jesus shines on them...They come alive, obey God and live!

a) Once there was a monkey. Whenever this monkey was hungry he would go around and steal bananas from the other monkeys. This made the other monkeys sad and angry. The monkey would take his stolen bananas, sit down and eat them with a grumpy face. One day a lion whispered in the monkey's ear that there was a better way. The monkey listened and did what the lion said. The next time the monkey got hungry he climbed into a tree and picked his own bananas. When he had a bunch he gave some to the other monkeys who were hungry. For the first time this monkey felt happy when he sat down to eat his bananas.

- Live Gods way and live forever.

Ephesians 4: 29

Topic: a) Don't tear down....Build!

a) To edify means that we do or say something that will give people Gods love.

a) Mr. Edify builds beautiful houses for people to live in. Mr. Quench goes around and tears down peoples homes.

- Which would you rather be?

a) Mr. Edify build a playground for kids to play in. Mr. Quench came by and tore it down.

- Which are you?

a) Mr. Edify built a rocket ship to take people higher and higher into space. Mr. Quench blew it up.

- Which are you?
- Our words can build people up or tear them down.

a) Mr. Edify gave people free balloon rides. They went high into the sky. The people could see everything. Mr. Quench took people down into a cold dark pit where you couldn't see anything.

- Which one are you?
- Jesus wants to bring people up...not make them sad.
- We can bring people up or bring them down.

Ephesians 4: 30

Topic: a) Don't miss out on what God has for you.

a) Once there was a lady who wanted to take all the kids in her neighborhood to an amusement park. This park had the worlds largest roller coaster and the worlds best water slide. The lady was going to pay for all of them plus buy them all lunch and ice cream. When it came time to go, all the kids came to her and told her that they didn't really want to go. They said they would rather sit in the house and watch TV. The kids ran off. The lady was sad. She was sad because she knew the kids would have had a really good time but they missed it.

- Jesus has shown us how to live.
- If we obey God we will have life abundant and forever.
- When we disobey God we miss out on life.
- Make God smile.

Ephesians 4: 31-32

Topic: a) How not to be...And to be.

a) There were two stores selling cup cakes with whipped cream on top. On one cupcake the cream was sour and had worms in it. It made people sick. On the other cupcake the cream was fresh, sweet and delicious. It made people smile.

- Are we giving people worms or the love of God.

Topic: b) How can we ever do this?

b) There was a car that was all rusted and ruined. It was going to be taken to a junk yard and crushed. A man saw the car. He saved the car from the junk yard, took it home and fixed it. The car felt great. Later on the man wanted to take a trip. The car wanted to drive him and was glad to do it. The man filled the car up with gas so that the car could do it.

- Jesus saved us and has given us life forever.
- Those who love God will want to obey Him.
- He gives us the power to do it.

Topic: c) Why forgive?

c) There was a man walking down the street. Suddenly a giant hungry spider landed on his head. His friend saw him walking down the street with the giant hungry spider on his head. "Hey you better get that giant hungry spider off your head!" he said. "No" said the man, "I think I'll let it stay there for a while." Later the man's friend went looking for the man with the giant hungry spider on his head. All he found were his shoes.

- If someone does something mean to us and we carry around our anger...it will eat us up.
- Jesus forgave us all our sins. We need to forgive others.

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 won't 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 Amanda 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.

Ephesians 6: 1-3

Topic: a) Why obey?

a) There was a factory with a lot of people working in it. One day the boss came in and told one of the workers to take the garbage out and throw it in the dumpster. The worker became very angry... “Why do I have to do that?!” he yelled. “Give me one good reason why I should have to take the garbage out to the dumpster!”

- Why should he?
- Who is the boss of the whole universe?
- We obey because He is our creator.
- He is God. We are not.

a) Some kids went to an apple orchard to pick apples. One tree had low branches and the apples were easy to pick. The other tree had high branches and the apples were harder to get to. The farmer who grew the orchard came out and told the kids to pick the apples off the tree with the high branches. He told them that those apples were sweeter and didn't have any worms in them.

- Should they obey him? Why? (Because he grew the trees so he knows best. Also because he wants the kids to have the best apples)
- Why obey our parents? (Because God created all things and He knows best and He wants you to have the best life)
- Which tree was easier to pick from?
- Which tree was better?

a) There were two houses side by side on a street. The kids in one of the houses got together and said, “It's fun to wreck things!” They ran from room to room smashing windows and breaking the furniture. That family had to live in a broken home and there was sadness. The kids in the other house all got together and said, “Let's build something!” These kids built all kinds of fun things. They built a ping pong table, a club house to play in and an entire playground. This was a happy house.

- Disobedient children tear a home down and bring in sadness.
- Obedient children build their homes and bring in happiness.

a) There was a monkey who was searching for bananas. He looked everywhere. He looked on the ground. He looked in the water. He even dug a hole hoping to find some bananas. One day the lion saw the monkey looking everywhere for bananas. The lion

wanted the monkey to be happy so he sent a messenger (a parrot) with a message for the monkey. The message said, “If you want to find bananas you should climb a banana tree.” The monkey obeyed and climbed one of the trees. At the top of the tree the monkey found bunches of delicious bananas. He was very happy.

- Who was the monkey really obeying? The messenger or the lion?
- When you obey your parents you are really obeying God.

Topic: b) How can I obey?

b) Shannon’s grandfather is very nice. Whenever she went to his house he would spend a lot of time with her and take her places. Sometimes when she spent the night and had a bad dream he would sit in a chair by her bed and read to her until she fell asleep. Shannon’s grandfather took good care of her. She knew that he loved her. One day Shannon and her friends were building a fort in the back yard. Shannon’s grandfather came out and asked Shannon if she would run to the post office to mail a letter for him. Shannon stopped building the fort, took the letter and headed for the post office. One of her friends didn’t like this. She said to Shannon, “We’re out here playing, building a fort and having a good time. Your grandfather asks you to do something and now we have to stop playing so you can do it. Why are you doing this?”

- Why is Shannon obeying her grandfather?
- To obey God you have to want to.
- There is only one reason to want to....Jesus said, “If you love me you will obey my commandments.”

b) Remember those kids who were picking apples and the farmer told them to pick the ones on the high branches because they were better? The kids wanted to obey him. They knew that the farmer knew best and that he wanted them to have the best apples. The problem was that the best apples on the high branches were out of reach. The kids were trying but they couldn’t get to them. The farmer saw this, came out and lifted the kids up so they could do what he said and pick the apples on the high branches.

- If we know God and want to obey Him...He will lift us up so we can do it.

Ephesians 6: 4

Topic: a) Is God unreasonable?

a) There was a father who one day ordered his son to go into the back yard and dig a hole. “Why?” asked the son. “Because I said so!” answered the father, and he whacked the son upside the head. Later the father came out and said, “What is this hole doing in my back yard? Fill it in!” The father came out later and said, “I thought I told you to dig

a hole!” The boy started digging again. Later the father came out and said, “What is this hole doing in my yard?! Fill it in!” So the boy started filling the hole in with dirt. When he was done his father came out and said, “I am telling you for the last time...Dig a hole!!!”

- Is God like this father?
- When God tells us to do something there is always a good reason. It is always because He loves us.

Ephesians 6:5

Topic: a) Do a good job.

a) Sam has a boat. He wants to go sailing but his boat has a hole in it. Sams dad shows him how to patch the boat. There was some special hole filler that you fill the hole with. Then you put this stuff that looks like black paint over the special hole filler. Sam was in a hurry. He quickly threw some of the special hole filler into the hole not doing a very good job because there were still some spaces that weren't filled. Then because he was in a hurry he didn't put any of the stuff that looks like black paint over the hole. He put the boat in the water, paddled out a little way and immediately his boat filled up with water and sank.

- If you are going to do a job...Do it right.
- Don't sink.

a) Maggie was told by her mother that before she did anything she would have to go up and clean her room which was a total mess. Maggie didn't want to. Her friends were waiting outside for her to go to the park and play. Maggie ran upstairs and threw some dirty clothes into a basket but because she was in a hurry to get outside she didn't pick up anything else. Her mom came up and saw that Maggie had only picked up some of the stuff in her room. She told Maggie to clean the whole room or she wouldn't be able to go with her friends. Maggie picked up some more stuff. Her mom came up to inspect. She saw that once again Maggie had only picked up some of the stuff in her room. This went on all morning. By the time Maggie had done the job the right way the morning was over and her friends had left without her.

- What should Maggie have done?
- If you have a job...Do it right. Everyone will feel better.

a) Mrs. Stingle had two flower gardens, one in the front of her house and one in the back. She hired two boys from the neighborhood to pull all the weeds in her gardens. One boy took the front garden, the other took the back. The boy in the back garden pulled up every weed there was. Then he picked up the pile of weeds and threw them in the garbage. He even watered the garden for Mrs. Stingle. The boy in the front pulled some

of the weeds, not all of them. He left the ones he pulled out in a sloppy pile on the lawn, laid down under a tree and went to sleep. Mrs. Stingle came out to see how the boys were doing. She went to the back garden and saw how great it looked. She said to the boy, "You young man have done an excellent job!" She then went to the front garden; found it a mess and the boy sleeping under a tree. "You" she said to the boy, "Are the worst worker I have ever seen!"

- One of these boys is a Christian.
- Which one should it be?

Ephesians 6: 6-7

Topic: a) Obey God everywhere and in everything.

a) There was a boy who liked to play the harmonica. He played it everywhere he went. He played it sitting at breakfast. He played it on the school bus. He played it when he was on the playground. He played it when he went over to his friends house. He even played it in church. He even played it underwater when he went swimming. No matter what was happening he played his harmonica. He played it when he was happy. He played it when he was sad. He played it when he was scared. He played on rainy days and sunny days. Everywhere and in every way he played his harmonica.

- Don't always play the harmonica (unless you want to)
- But always obey God always and everywhere.

Topic: b) Don't be a phony

b) There was a man named Smiley. He would walk down the street with a real grumpy mean face. Whenever he saw someone he would smile and they would say, "Hi Smiley!" As soon as they walked by he would go back to his grumpy face. Then when someone else would walk by he would do a pretend smile again. Then he would go back to his usual grumpy face.

- Should he really be called Smiley? Why not? (He was just acting like it)
- Lord help us to really be a Christian and not pretend to be one.

Ephesians 6: 8

Topic: a) Everything good you do brings good.

a) There was a boy who spent all his time hitting his hand with a hammer. One day he wondered, "Why does my hand hurt?"

- Why does it? (Because of what he was doing)

a) There was a boy who spent all his time throwing a bowling ball up in the air directly over his head. One day he wondered, “Why does my head hurt?”

- Why does it? (Because of what he was doing)

a) There was a boy who walked outside and dug for worms. He put a bunch of worms on a plate, went inside and ate them for supper. Afterwards he wondered, “Why does my stomach hurt?”

- Why does it? (Because of what he did)

a) There was a girl who always did really rotten things. She made her parents sad, her teachers sad and her friends sad. In fact after a while she didn’t have any friends. One day she wondered, “Why is my life so rotten?”

- Why is it? (Because of what she has been doing)

a) There was a girl who loved to obey God. Wherever she was and in whatever she did...she did good things. One day someone walked up to her and asked her, “Why are you so happy?”

- Why was she? (Because of what she did)

Ephesians 6: 9

Topic: a) How to be a boss.

a) Some kids were planting a garden. Mindy and Rachel were in charge. Mindy yelled at the kids if they did something wrong. If they asked a question she would yell at them. One time she got so mad that she told some of the kids to go home. She told them that they couldn’t work in the garden any more. She even called them “stupid!” Rachel spoke kindly to the kids. If one of the kids didn’t know how to plant something, Rachel would show them. The kids learned how to plant a garden by watching how Rachel worked. If they had any questions she would answer them kindly.

- Who is the better boss?
- The Bible tells us how we should treat people.

Ephesians 6: 10

Topic: a) Be strong in His might.

a) There were some kids who had a hard job to do. There was a field full of big heavy rocks. The kids had to pick up all the rocks and move them out of the field. The kids tried and tried but the rocks were so heavy they couldn’t even budge one of them. There was a girl who had a giant robot. There was a little door in the back of the robot so you could get inside of it, sit in a little chair and control the robot. The girl got inside the robot and started picking up rocks. She picked them up easily and was able to throw them far away.

- Which one of the kids was able to clear away the rocks?
- Was it her strength?
- We don't have the strength to obey God. Ask Jesus for the strength to do good and live.

Ephesians 6: 11

Topic: a) Put on armor

a) There was a mean dragon who was bothering the people. The king sent four of his knights to the dragons cave to chase the dragon away. When the first knight entered the cave the dragon roared loudly. The knight got so scared that he turned and ran away. The second knight went into the cave. The dragon opened its mouth and breathed out fire. All that was left of that knight was a pile of ashes. The third knight entered the cave. The dragon lifted his mighty tail, brought it down and squashed the knight flat. The fourth knight entered the cave. This knight wore special armor. He wasn't afraid of the dragon because he had his armor on and it was fireproof and smash proof. The dragon couldn't do anything to the knight. When the knight raised his sword, the dragon ran out of his cave and flew away.

- Satan can do nothing to us. He can't fool us or destroy us because of the protection God has given us.

Ephesians 6: 12

Topic: a) There is a reason things are bad.

a) There was a tree whose roots went deep into the ground. There was an evil wind who hated the tree. One day the evil wind blew by the tree and whispered that the tree didn't need its roots to go deep into the ground. The wind said that the tree should pull its roots out of the ground...that way it could move around if it wanted to. The tree listened to the evil wind and pulled up its roots. Then the evil wind blew as hard as it could and knocked the tree over. Someone walked by and asked, "Why did that tree fall?"

- Why did it? (Because the tree believed the winds lie and the wind wanted to destroy the tree)
- Why is there sadness in the world? (Because Satan has fooled people and he wants to destroy)

Ephesians 6: 13

Topic: a) Stand.

a) There was another tree. The evil wind hated this tree too. This tree wouldn't listen to the evil wind. Whenever the wind blew hard, the tree would dig its strong roots deep into the ground and hold tight. The wind blew and blew but it couldn't knock this tree over. Not only did the tree stand but it grew tall and filled with fruit.

- Will your life be like the tree that got blown over or like the other tree?
- Take what God has for you and stand forever.

Ephesians 6: 14

Topic: a) Truth

a) If soldiers back then didn't wear a belt to gird themselves they would fall over in battle

- If we don't know and have a love for the truth...we wont stand. We will believe the lie.

Topic: b) What is truth?

b) John 18: 37-38...."What is truth?" The truth was standing right in front of Pilate.

- John 14: 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

b) There was a tall building. Some people were standing far away looking at the building. One person said, "That building is made out of rocks." Another person looking at the building from far away said, "That building is made out of wood." The man who built the building was standing there also. He said, "That building is made out of bricks."

- Which ones word is true? How do you know?
- Who made the whole universe?
- Whose word is truth?

Topic: c) How do we get truth?

c) There was a dad who had four kids. To the one he said, "I want you to be filled with boloney." So the kid started eating boloney. To another he said, "I want you to be filled up with hamburger." So the kid started eating hamburgers. To another he said, "I want you to be filled up with air." So the kid started breathing real hard. To another he said,

“I want you to be filled up with water.” So the kid started drinking water. To another he said, “I want you to be filled up with truth.” The kid said, “How do I do that?”

- How does he?

Topic: d) Righteousness

d) If you were in battle and someone shot an arrow into your chest. What would happen?

- Back then soldiers wore a breastplate which was armor protecting their heart.
- Bible says to put on the breastplate of righteousness.
- Righteousness is how good a person is.

d) There were two buttons on a wall. Over one was a sign that said, “Doing bad.” Over the other button was a sign that said, “Doing good.” A boy walked in. He thought the “Doing bad” button would be more fun so he pushed it. Immediately a trap door opened and he fell into a room full of alligators. Another boy walked in. He thought it would be more fun to push the “Doing good” button. He pushed the button. Immediately a giant spring flew out from beneath him. The spring threw him up in the air. A door in the ceiling opened up. The boy went sailing through it and flew into the sky. While he was up in the air he discovered something amazing. He found out that he really could fly!

- Lord help us to do what is good.

d) There was a group of kids who had a club. It was called “The candy club.” The only thing the members of this club ate was candy. You could tell that they belonged to the club because none of them had any teeth. There was a girl who ate a lot of candy. She wanted to join the club but they wouldn’t let her. “You can’t join our club if you have any teeth!” they said. “But I only have one tooth!” she cried. This wasn’t good enough. They wouldn’t let her join the candy club.

- In order to get into heaven you cant even have one sin.
- How will we ever get in?
- Jesus gives us His goodness.

Ephesians 6: 15

Topic: a) Be ready to march!

a) If a soldier doesn’t have his boots on...Will he be ready for the battle?

a) There was a boy who lived in the land of falling rocks. The falling rocks had smashed all the houses and buildings. All day and all night you could hear the rocks smashing as they hit the ground.

- Where is he going to live? (In a cave)
- What is he going to do? (Hide)
- Why is he going to hide in the cave? (Because he can see the rocks falling)

a) There was a girl who lived in the land of the bugs with big teeth. These bugs lived on the ground and covered the ground as far as you could see. They were mean and they bit.

- Where is she going to live? (In a tree)
- What is she going to do? (Stay off the ground)
- Why? (Because she can see the bugs)

a) There are a bunch of kids who know the love of God and how He saved them and will one day bring them to heaven.

- Where are they going to live? (In His love)
- What are they going to do? (Obey Him)
- Why? (Because they see how good He is)
- Be ready to do what God calls you to do.

Ephesians 6: 16

Topic: a) What is faith?

a) Faith is believing what someone says and believing it so much that it changes your life.

a) There was a boy walking home from school. He was walking down the road he always took to go home when a man met him on the road. The man told him that he shouldn't walk down that road because there was a giant gorilla hiding in the bushes and whenever anyone walked by, the gorilla would jump out and steal their shoes. The boy heard what the man said. He believed what the man said. He turned around and took a different road home.

- What did this boy have? (Faith)
- How can you tell that he believed what he was told? (He went another way)
- How can you tell that someone really believes what God says? (They obey)
(They have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives)
- Noah believed God and started building an ark.
- Mark 2: 11....Jesus tells a lame man to stand up. The man did it.
- Matthew 4: 18-20....The apostles believe Jesus, leave everything and follow Him.
- God told Abraham to leave his home and He didn't even tell him where he was going. Abraham obeyed.

- God told Abraham and Sarah that they were going to have a child. Abraham believed even though he knew it was impossible.
- John 9: 1-7....Jesus tells a blind man to go and wash his eyes. He obeyed.
- Peter when he believed Jesus was walking on water. When he believed the storm, he sank.

Topic: b) How do we get faith?

b) There was a girl named Beth. One night Beth couldn't sleep. She picked up a book that was by her bed and started reading it. It was her Math book from school. She stayed up all night reading the Math book. The next morning she went to school. In Math class the teacher said, "Students today we are going to have a surprise test." Later that day the teacher saw Beth in the hall with her friends. She was very happy to tell Beth that she got all the answers right on her test. Her friends all asked, "How did you get so smart?"

- How did she get so smart?
- The more you read the Bible...the more faith you get.

b) Matthew 17: 24-27....Jesus tells Peter to find coins in a fish's mouth.

- Do you think Peter's faith grew?
- Why? (Because he trusted Jesus, obeyed Him and found out that everything Jesus said was true)
- The more you trust and obey....your faith will grow stronger.

b) Judges chapters 6 and 7.....Gideon

Ephesians 6: 17

Topic: a) Helmet of salvation.

a) There is a boy out on the water in a boat. Someone standing on the shore yells to him, "You're drowning in the water and there are sharks!" The boy doesn't panic. The reason he doesn't panic is because he knows something.

- What does he know? (That he is in the boat)

a) There is a huge rain and thunder storm outside. There is a house. Inside the house there is a girl all wrapped up in a blanket, sitting in front of the fireplace. Someone calls her. They say, "There is a huge storm! You're going to get struck by lightning and blown away!" She isn't scared because she knows something.

- What does she know? (That she's in the house)

a) There is a boy who was outside playing in the mud. He is filthy. He goes home and takes a bath. Later that night his parents take him to a really fancy restaurant. There is a sign outside the restaurant that says, "You cannot come in if you are filthy." The boy smiles and walks into the restaurant. He was smiling because he knows something.

- What does he know? (That he took a bath and is clean)

a) There is a boy walking down the street. A real mean person comes up to him and says, “You are not going to heaven!” The boy just smiles and walks on. He smiled because he knows something.

- What does he know?

a) What do you know?

- Do you know and believe what Jesus has done for you?
- Then you will go to the party. Nothing can stop you because Jesus will bring you there.

Topic: b) Sword of the Spirit

b) Once there was a very mean and evil giant. One day the very mean and evil giant jumped out in front of a bunch of kids who were out walking. “I am going to destroy you!” yelled the giant. The kids stepped back, reached to their sides and each one pulled out a golden sword. When the very mean evil giant saw the swords he screamed and ran away.

- Do you know what makes Satan run? (The truth)
- The Bible is your sword. Use it!

Ephesians 6: 18

Topic: a) Pray for yourselves and others

a) There was a mouse who had a best friend. This best friend was a dog named Rudy. Rudy gave the mouse a special present. He gave him a whistle. This way whenever the mouse was in trouble and needed help all he had to do was blow the whistle and Rudy would hear it and run to help him. One day the mouse was cornered by a mean hungry cat. The cat was just about to pounce when the mouse remembered his whistle. He took it out and blew on it as hard as he could. Rudy was close by and heard the whistle. When the cat saw Rudy running towards him he turned and ran away as fast as he could. The mouse was safe.

- God has not given us a special whistle
- He has given us a voice for prayer.....Use it!

a) One day the mouse was sleeping safe in his hole in the wall. Suddenly he was awakened by someone crying for help. He peeked out of his hole and saw another mouse who was his friend being chased by the mean hungry cat. The mouse ran for his whistle. He blew it. Rudy the dog heard it and came crashing to the rescue through the doggie door in the kitchen. The cat screamed and took off running. The mouse was safe. He was glad that he had a friend who would blow his whistle and call to help him.

- We all need to pray for Gods help
- Pray for others who need help too.

a) There was a boy named Eric who liked to explore caves. He would find a hole in the ground that led to a cave. Then he would get some friends who would lower him down into the hole with ropes. Exploring caves is very dangerous. Eric and his friends had walkie talkies. This way they could keep in constant contact with each other. When Eric went into the cave he would keep talking to his friends up above. He would always tell them where he was and what was going on in the cave and if he needed anything they would send it down through the hole.

- Why did Eric keep in constant contact with his friends?
- Keep in constant contact with God.
- And you don't need a walkie talkie.

Ephesians 6: 19-20

Topic: a) Ask people to pray for you.

a) Andrea was riding her bike. Suddenly her back wheel came loose and fell off. Andrea fell off her bike. She didn't get hurt bad but her bike was in pieces and she was a long way away from home. Andrea called her friend Amy and asked her if she could come and help her bring her bike home. Amy did. The two girls carried the broken bike back to Andrea's house. They put the bike in the garage and Amy helped Andrea fix it.

- Why did Andrea ask Amy to help her? (Because two are better than one)

a) Andrea and her friends were planning a sleep over at Amy's house. They were going to stay up all night, talk, watch movies and eat pizza. Andrea asked her mom if she could stay at Amy's house. Then Andrea's friend Marsha called Andrea's mom and asked if Andrea could stay at Amy's. Then Gilda called Andrea's mom and asked if Andrea could go. Then Rhonda called Andrea's mom and asked if she could go. Then Sophie called and asked if Andrea could go. Finally Andrea's mom said, "Yes, yes, yes....! You can go sleep over at Amy's house!"

- Why is Andrea going to Amy's house? (Because so many people asked her mom)
- Ask people to pray for you. The more voices the better.

a) Amy had a problem. There was something that was really worrying her. It was a secret problem. This problem began to bother her so much that she told her friend Andrea what the problem was. Andrea listened and when Amy was done telling her about her problem they prayed together. Amy walked away with a smile on her face. She felt better because she had shared her problem with a friend and she knew that God would answer their prayers.

Matthew 18: 19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Topic: b) People need to hear.

b) There was a plane flying high in the air with people on board. Suddenly one of the engines exploded. The pilot got on the microphone and told the people that the plane was going to crash. He told the people to grab a parachute and jump out of the plane. All the people heard, did what the pilot said and lived.

- Why did the pilot tell them what he told them?
- Did they need to hear? Why?
- Do people need to hear about Jesus? Why?
- How will God tell them? (Us)

Ephesians 6: 21-22

Topic: a) Keep in touch.

a) There were a group of people who were going to go diving underwater. They were going deep into the water so they had to breathe through an air hose. The problem was that there was only one air hose. When they were under water they would have to share it.

- Do they need to be together? Why? (Only one air hose)
- There is one God. We need to be together. This is why we come to church.

a) There were a bunch of balloons that were flying higher and higher in the sky. These balloons stayed together. If one of the balloons started to lose its air, the other balloons would fly over and share theirs. The bigger balloons would get underneath the smaller balloons and help push them higher and higher. If one of the balloons got tired the other balloons would encourage and help it to keep going up. If one of the balloons got a hole in it, another balloon would fly over and put a band aid on it. If the balloons were by themselves they probably wouldn't make it.

- Are we going up or down?
- Believers need to be together.

Ephesians 6: 23

Topic: a) Why did he do this?

a) There was a lady who had a flower garden. Every day she was out in her garden watering her flowers and pulling out the weeds. Her flowers grew bright, strong and happy.

- Why did she do this? (Loved the flowers)

a) There was a boy who collected bottle caps. He would walk along looking in the dirt for bottle caps that people had thrown out. When he found one he would take it home, wash it off and glue it into a special display case which hung on the wall in his room.

- Why does he do this? (Because he loves bottle caps)
- Why did God create the world?
- Why did He make you?
- Why did he come down from heaven and die for our sins?
- Why does He show you the way to have a good life?
- Why is He coming back for you?
- Is God lonely?
- Does God need people around?
- They why does he do all these things? (Because God is love)

Ephesians 6: 24

Topic: a) Why do we love Him?

a) There was a girl named Natalie. Every evening around eight thirty just when it was starting to get a little darker outside, Natalie would go out into the back yard, sit in the grass and watch. She would watch the sun go down. As the sun went down, things around her got darker but the sky would turn a bright orange. Even the clouds looked orange. The dark blue sky, the red and orange colors made her think that God had just done a beautiful painting. One evening when Natalie was out watching the sun set a friend of hers came by. “Why are you always out here watching sun sets?” asked her friend. Natalie replied, “Because I love it.”

- Why did she love watching sun sets? (Because she saw how beautiful they are)

- People who truly love God have seen how good and wonderful He is.
- Pray that God will cause you to see this.

Topic: b) How do we know if we really love Him?

b) There was a boy who said, “I love ice cream cones!” His problem was that the only place that sold ice cream cones was ten miles away. One morning the boy got up early and started walking. Even though it was hot outside, he walked and walked and walked. Finally he made it to the place that sold ice cream cones. He got a triple dip chocolate cone with sprinkles.

- How do you know that the boy loved ice cream cones?

b) There was a girl who said, “I love a clean room!” She went upstairs to her bedroom. When she looked in she saw that her room was a mess. She started picking up. She picked up all her dirty clothes and put them in a basket. She picked up her clean clothes and put them in her dresser drawers and hung them in her closet. She picked up all her toys and games and put them on her shelves. She vacuumed her rug. She made her bed. She even cleaned the window. When she stood back and looked at her room, everything was in place. She was very happy.

- How do you know that the girl loved a clean room?

b) In the Bible, Abraham was called “A friend of Gods.” Abraham said he loved God. One day God told Abraham to pack up his stuff, leave his home and go to a place that God would show him. Abraham packed up his stuff, left his home and started walking. He didn’t even know where he was going. He walked and believed that God would show him.

- How do you know that Abraham loved God?

b) Noah, in the Bible said that he loved God. One day God told Noah to build a huge boat because there was going to be a flood that would wash away everything that was evil. Noah got some wood and started building the huge boat. It took him one hundred years to finish. The people thought Noah was crazy building a huge boat when there wasn’t even any water around.

- How do you know that Noah loved God?
- If you know God....
- If you love God.....
- You will want to obey Him.
- He will save you.