

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.
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