



Compass Kids

Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 2:1-10

Event:

Compass Kids partners with families to disciple their children through Bible comprehension and memorization.

Each semester, the Compass Kids curriculum will guide children through learning a mid-sized passage of Scripture. They'll memorize a new piece each week through auditory (song and speech), visual, and kinesthetic activities, building up to recitation of the whole passage. As they learn God's Word, our hope is salvation for those who are not yet believers and sanctification for those who are.

Ephesians 2:1-10 was put to song by Northway Collective: Kids and is available on all streaming platforms. Click [here](#) to listen on Spotify.

Ephesians 2:1-10:

Every passage we select is chosen with prayer and careful thought. We chose Ephesians 2:1-10 because of how clearly and concisely it presents the narrative of the Gospel: dead in sin, made alive in Christ, and called to good works!

Materials:

Included you'll find 11 weeks of content, followed by a final celebration and competition we've called the Compass Bowl!

Each week includes the following materials:

- **Curriculum Overview:** a guide for small group leaders to follow as they lead their class. It includes instructions for an opening activity, the memory verse folders, a game, and any helpful definitions.
- **Verse:** a weekly print-out to give to each child. On it, you'll find that week's portion of the memory verse and a blank space for writing it out or drawing an interpretation of it. We hole-punched these and placed them in a folder with brads for each child.
- **Large Group:** a manuscript for the teacher leading the large group time, including suggested hand motions and a summary of main ideas.
- **Small Group:** a guide for small group leaders to discuss each week's lesson with their class, including extra open-ended questions for older grades.



INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 2:1-10

Suggested Schedule

Our program ran from 6:00-7:20PM (doors open at 5:45), and we provided dinner for each child. Here are the schedules we followed for preschool and elementary.

Preschool Schedule

6:00 – Opening activity
6:10 – Large group
6:30 – Dinner
6:40 – Small group and folders
7:00 – Game

Elementary Schedule

6:00 – Dinner and opening activity
6:10 – Large group
6:30 – Small group and folders
7:00 – Game





Week #1

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:1-2a

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.”

Opening Activity:

Get to know the kids in your class and let them decorate the front of their folders with stickers!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Helpful Definitions:

“Sins” - anything we do, say, or think that displeases God

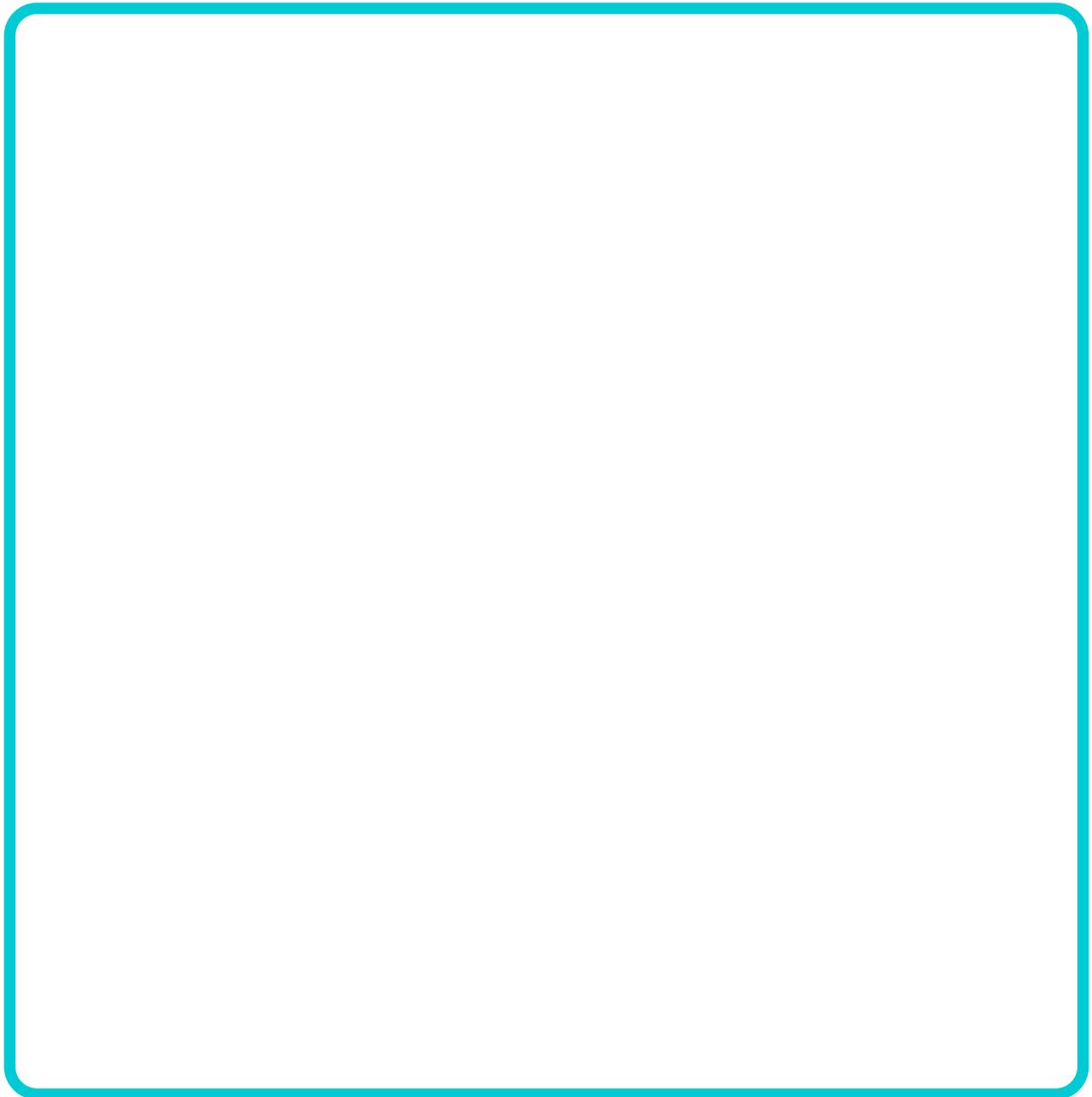
“Trespassing” - to go against the commands and laws that God has given us



VERSE

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked."

Ephesians 2:1-2a



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:1-2a

Passage:

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked."

Hand Motions:

- "And you" – point out
- "were dead" – arms crossed over chest or zombie walk
- "in the trespasses" – arms crossed in an X
- "and sins" – thumbs down
- "in which you once walked" – walk in place

Teaching:

this is a longer lesson than usual because it's setting up context for the whole semester

This semester we will be studying and memorizing Ephesians 2:1-10.

The book of Ephesians was a letter that Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. The people in the church were facing a lot of conflict and problems, but rather than focusing only on the problems the people were facing and telling them how to deal with them, Paul encouraged the church in Ephesus by reminding them that God is in charge of everything. As we learn this passage, we'll learn about how Jesus came to save sinners!

Before we start learning about this week's passage, we first have to look back to one of the very first stories in the Bible.

When God made everything, He also made one man and one woman, named Adam and Eve. He put them in a garden called the Garden of Eden, and He gave them only one rule: do not eat the fruit from one specific tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Bible even says that God was with Adam and Eve in the garden, and nothing is better than being with God.

One day, as Eve was walking through the Garden of Eden, she met a serpent. The serpent spoke lies to Eve, convincing her to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree. Not only did Eve eat the fruit, Adam ate as well. When they ate it, were they obeying God? No! They were doing exactly what God told them not to do. Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God. If this is what sin means, were Adam and Eve sinning when they ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? Yes, because God told them not to!



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:1-2a

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree, the world became broken with sin and now all people are born with hearts that are sick with sin.

The first part of this verse says, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins." We just talked about what sin is. Can anybody remind us what sin is? Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God.

Have you ever seen a sign that says "No Trespassing"? Sometimes fields or buildings are marked with this sign. The sign is telling people that they are not allowed to enter without permission from the owner. Since God is in charge of and knows everything, only God knows what is best for His people. Trespassing means to go against the commands that God has given us. We do what we are not supposed to do. We don't obey God or live as He wants us to.

This verse is telling us that ALL people have sinned and trespassed against God. When a person lives in sin, they are not living how God wants them to live.

When this passage says we are "dead" in trespasses and sins, does this mean that we are physically dead right now? No! But the punishment for trespasses and sins is death, physical and spiritual. We deserve to die forever separated from God because of our sins against Him, but Jesus took that punishment on the cross so God's children can live forever with Him. We'll learn more about this in a few weeks, but the important thing for us to know is that all of us are born with hearts that are sick with sin.

The picture that this passage gives us is the image of somebody walking, or living. It is trying to help us understand that every single person is born living in their trespasses and sins against God.

Summary:

- **Ephesians was a letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus.**
- **Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden, everyone is born dead in trespasses and sins.**
- **Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God.**



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:1-2a

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked.”

1. What story did we look at today in Large Group?

The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden.

2. What happened in this story?

- God created Adam and Eve and was with them in the Garden.
- God gave them all they needed and told them there was only one tree they could not eat from.
- The serpent came and lied to Eve, convincing her to eat from the tree.
- Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the forbidden tree.

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2:1-2a. Let's read it together.

3. What is sin?

Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God.

4. This verse uses the word “trespasses.” What does that mean?

To go against the commands God has given us.

5. Since sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, how is everyone else born?

With hearts that are dead in trespasses and sins too.

Deeper discussion question for older classes: This verse says we are “dead in our trespasses and sins.” If we have all sinned but are still living and breathing, what does this verse mean?

Summary:

- Ephesians was a letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus.
- Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden, everyone is born dead in trespasses and sins.
- Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God.





Week #2

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:2b

“... following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of air, the spirit that is at work in the sons of disobedience...”

Opening Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

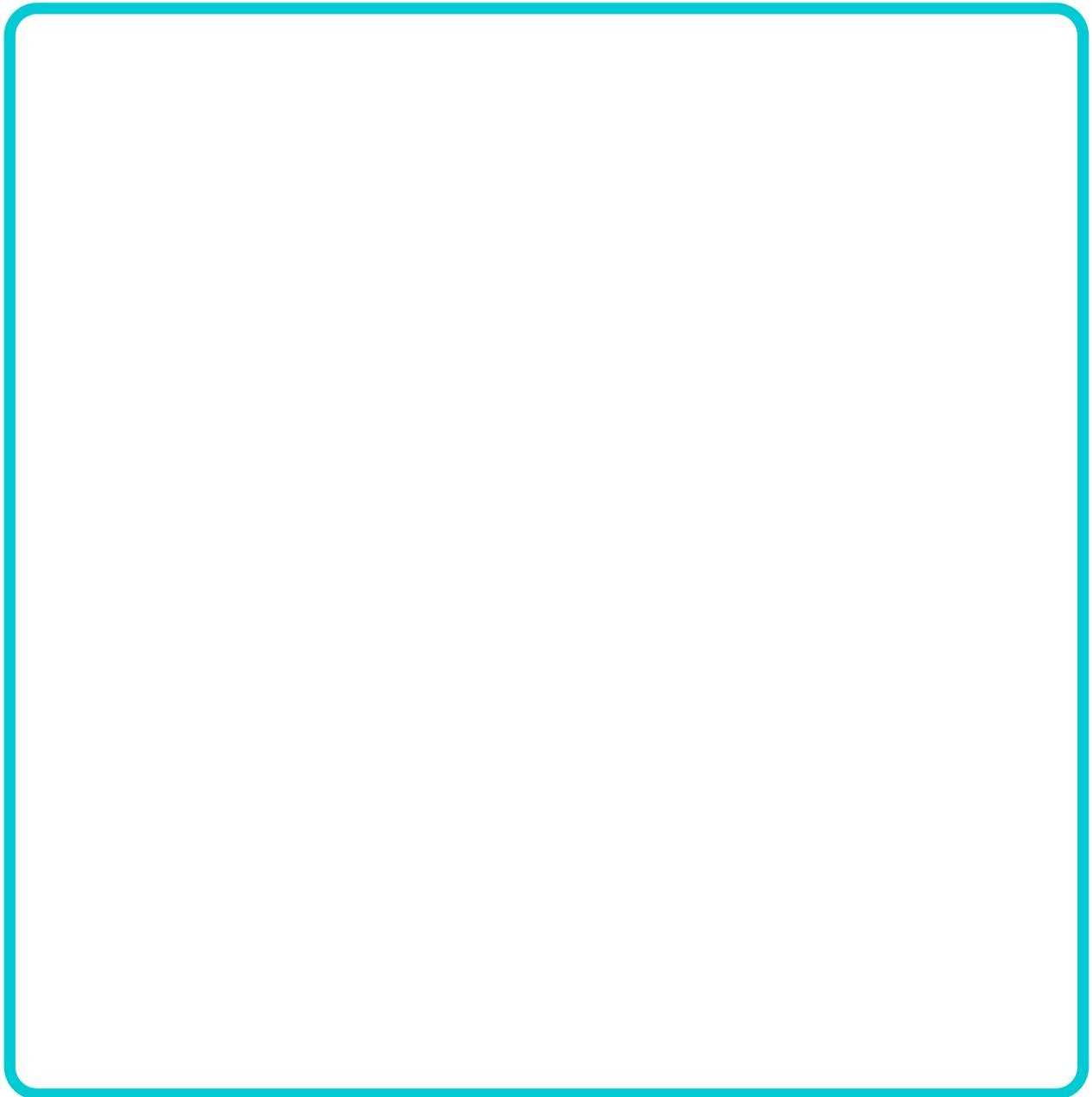
Helpful Definitions:

“Prince of the power of the air” – Satan
“Sons of disobedience” – unbelievers

VERSE

“following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.”

Ephesians 2:2b



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:2b

Passage:

"... following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience..."

Hand Motions:

- "following the course" – make a winding road motion with hands
- "of this world" – make a circle with arms, like hugging a globe
- "following the" – same winding road motion
- "prince of the power of the air" – pretend to put on a crown
- "the spirit that is now" – sign language for wind
- "at work" – flex muscles
- "in the sons of disobedience" – thumbs down

Teaching:

Last week, we learned that ALL people are born in sin and all of us disobey God and trespass against Him. We talked about how God knows what is best for His children and has told His children what is best through His commands.

Do you think that we, as sinful people, automatically follow God's plans and rules? No! It is our nature to rebel against or disobey God. This passage is saying that all of us follow the plans of the world instead of following God.

Last week when we talked about the Garden of Eden, we talked about how there was somebody in the garden who spoke to Eve. Do you remember who it was? The serpent, Satan! Satan was an angel who was made to worship God, but unlike the other angels, Satan rebelled against God and disobeyed Him. Because Satan disobeyed God, he is no longer an angel.

Satan is an enemy of God. When this passage refers to the "prince of the power of air" and "the spirit that is at work," it's talking about Satan being at work trying to get all people to disobey God. We are all born as sons of disobedience because every single person is born in sin. Satan is trying to lead a rebellion by turning the sons of disobedience against God.

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:2b

Even though Satan is an enemy of God, God is more powerful. When a person loves and trusts Jesus, they are no longer a son of disobedience because they become a child of God.

God's children don't need to fear Satan! They know that God is in control of everything and can protect them from his lies. God's children know that Satan is at work in the world trying to get them to rebel against God, but God has already defeated sin and will help His children when they feel tempted. God's children know that God is bigger than His enemy: Satan!

Summary:

- **Satan tempted Adam and Eve to sin.**
- **Satan wants everyone to disobey God.**
- **God is stronger than Satan and helps His children when they feel tempted!**



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:2b

“... following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of air, the spirit that is at work in the sons of disobedience... ”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 2b. Let's read it together.

1. Who is the prince of the power of the air?

Satan.

2. What is Satan at work doing?

Trying to lead a rebellion against God.

3. Who are the sons of disobedience?

Everyone is born as a son of disobedience because everyone is born dead in their trespasses and sins.

4. When a person loves and trusts Jesus, are they still a son of disobedience?

No, they become a child of God and seek to obey Him.

5. Since God is in charge of everything, should God's children be afraid?

No! God can protect them from Satan's lies, and they can go to God in prayer to ask for His help when they are tempted.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Is there something you feel tempted to do even though it would be disobedient to God? What are some ways God helps His children overcome temptation? (You can read 1 Corinthians 10:13 together if it would be helpful)

Summary:

- Satan tempted Adam and Eve to sin.
- Satan wants everyone to disobey God.
- God is stronger than Satan and helps His children when they feel tempted!



Week #2



Week #3

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:3a

“... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind”

Opening Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

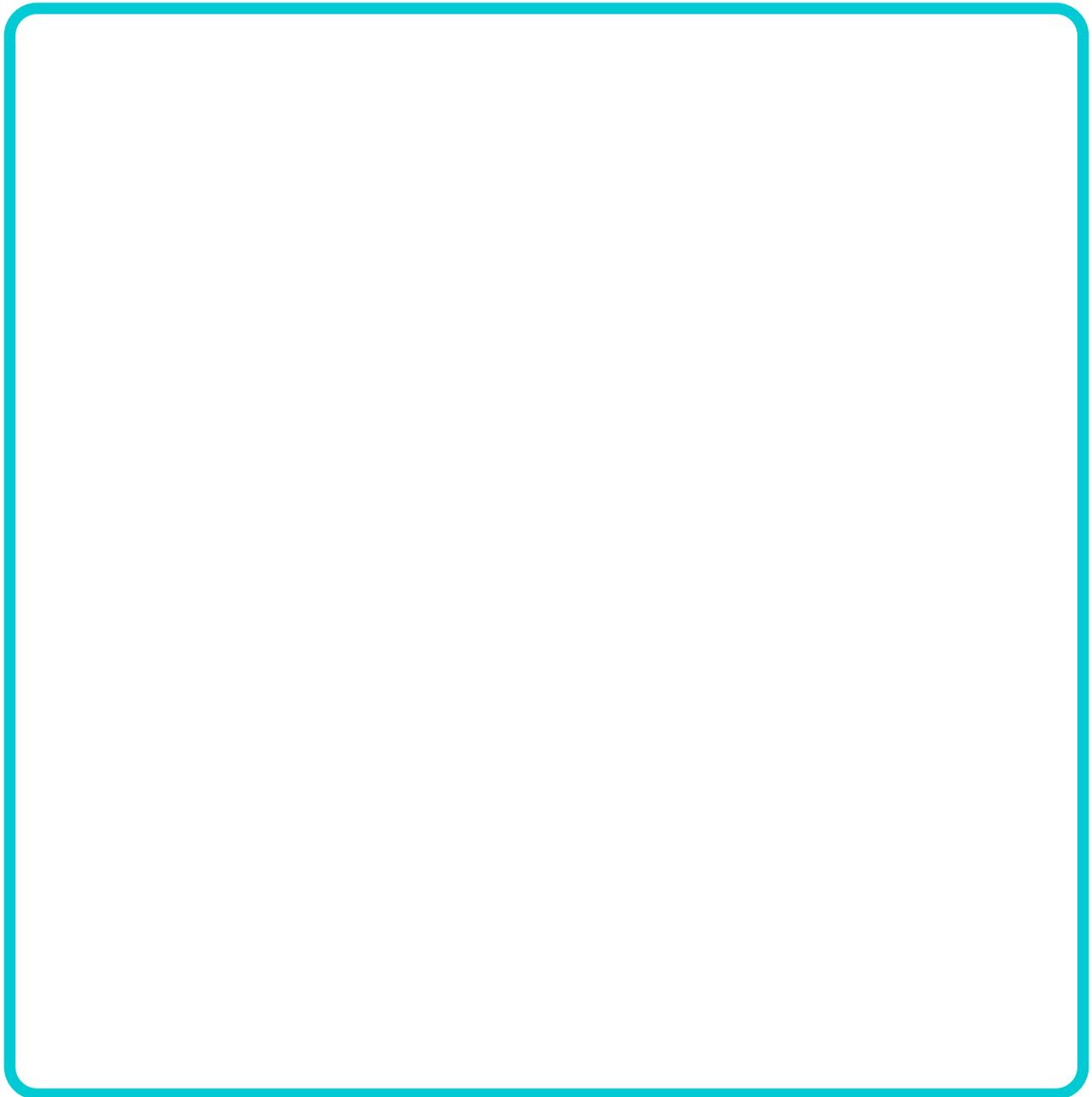
Helpful Definitions:

“the passions of our flesh” – our desires that go against what God says is best

VERSE

“... among whom we all once lived in the passions
of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body
and the mind”

Ephesians 2:3a



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:3a

Passage:

"... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind"

Hand Motions:

- "among whom we all once lived" – spread arms outward like over a crowd
- "in the passions" – place hands over heart and do a heartbeat motion
- "of our flesh" – point down at the skin of your arm
- "carrying out" – salute (like carrying out orders)
- "the desires" – heartbeat motion
- "of the body" – point towards whole body
- "and the mind" – point to mind

Teaching:

The past few weeks we've been learning about what it means to be dead in our trespasses and sins. We learned that when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the forbidden tree and disobeyed God, sin entered the world. Since then, all of us are born into sin.

This verse is just telling us in bigger words that all people are born as sinners who disobey God. The phrase "in the passions of our flesh" means to do what we want instead of what God wants. When we "carry out the desires of the body and the mind," it means the same thing. We do what makes us happy instead of doing what would please God.

There are two ways people carry out their desires. Sometimes, they break God's commands by lying or stealing or saying unkind words to others. Is this what God wants us to do? No! He wants us to obey the rules and guidelines He has given us in the Bible because He knows what is best for us.

The other way people do this is a little sneakier. Sometimes we follow God's good rules but for the wrong reasons. Instead of obeying out of love for God, sometimes we obey to impress other people, avoid trouble, or make ourselves feel really smart and important.



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:3a

The good news is that God wants to help His children obey Him and love Him! God's children can read the Bible to know how to obey, and they can pray for more love when they realize they're not obeying for the right reasons.

We are all born as sinners who disobey God to get what we want. The good news is that God wants to help His children obey Him and love Him! As we pray and read the Bible, God helps us obey and grows our love.

Summary:

- Living in the "passions of our flesh" means doing what we want instead of what God wants.
- Sometimes we carry out our desires by breaking God's rules. Other times we carry out our desires by obeying God's rules for the wrong reasons.
- God helps His children truly obey Him and love Him.



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:3a

“... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 3a. Let's read it together.

1. What are the passions of the flesh?

Things that honor our own desires more than God's.

2. Has everyone had these passions?

Yes. We are all born with sinful hearts that long to do things that disobey God.

3. What are some ways that we carry out our own desires?

Sometimes we carry out our desires by breaking God's rules. Other times we carry out our desires by obeying God's rules for the wrong reasons.

4. Who can help God's children obey even when they want to carry out their own desires?

God's children have been given the Holy Spirit to help them.

5. What are some ways God's children can learn how to hear the Holy Spirit better?

Praying for God's help, reading the Bible, turning away from sin, being a part of godly community (the Church)

Deeper discussion for older classes: Have you ever wanted to do something that you knew wouldn't please God? Have you ever obeyed God for selfish reasons?

Summary:

- Living in the “passions of our flesh” means doing what we want instead of what God wants.
- Sometimes we carry out our desires by breaking God's rules. Other times we carry out our desires by obeying God's rules for the wrong reasons.
- God helps His children truly obey Him and love Him.





Week #4

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:3b

“...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Opening Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out in their folders.

Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

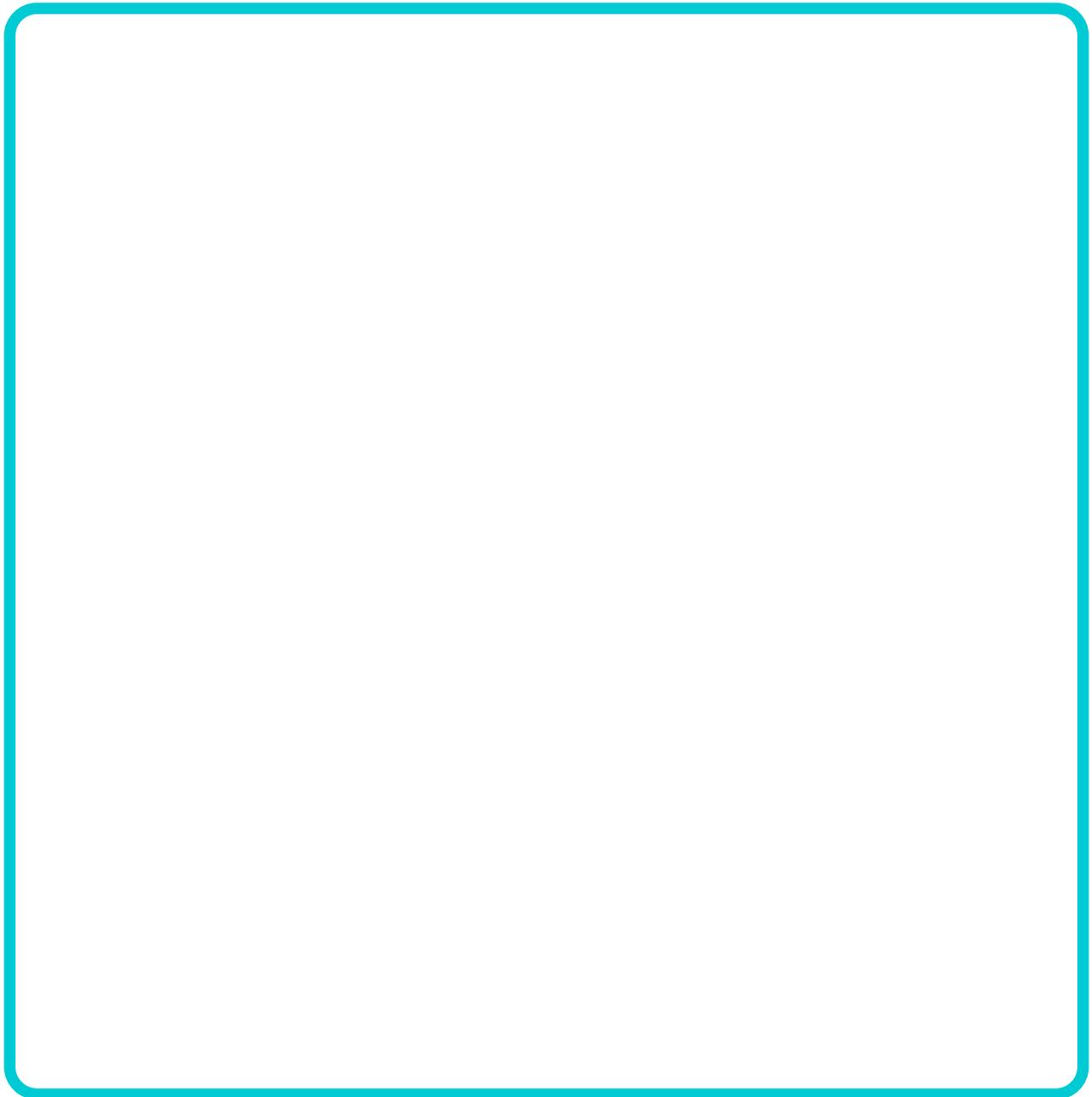
Helpful Definitions:

“Wrath” – God’s right anger and punishment for sin
“Mankind” – all people everywhere

VERSE

“...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Ephesians 2:3b



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:3b

Passage:

"...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

Hand Motions:

- "and were by nature" – pose like a tree
- "children of wrath" – curl one hand into a fist and bring it down like a gavel
- "like the rest of mankind" – hook arms with your neighbor

Teaching:

Do you think that God ever gets angry? The Bible tells us that God is good, patient, and kind. The Bible also tells us that God gets angry. So how can God be both good and angry?

God is very angry at sin, because sin hurts the world He created. Remember, sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God. God gets angry when people disobey Him because their sin hurts themselves and others. Sin also dishonors God as the Creator who knows what is best. God is holy— completely perfect and separate from sin— and sin is the opposite of holiness.

God is perfect, and it is impossible for Him to do anything wrong. Because God is perfect and in charge of everything, He has the right to punish sin. When this verse says that we "were by nature children of wrath," it means that God has the right to be angry with and punish each person for their sin.

The Bible also tells us that no one is without sin and that everyone has failed to keep all of God's commands. This means that God can be angry with all people. Mankind means all people everywhere, so nobody in the world is excused from God's punishment for their sins.

Does God want to stay angry at His children and punish them for their sins? No. God loves His children and wants to forgive them. That's why He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Next week, we'll learn more about this and how much God loves us.

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:3b

God is holy and set apart from sin. God is angry at sin because it hurts the world He created and dishonors Him.

Summary:

- God is angry at sin because it hurts the world and people He created.
- Because God is perfect, He has the right to punish sin.
- God loves His children and sent Jesus to take their punishment!



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:3b

“.. and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 3b. Let's read it together.

1. Do you remember what sin is?

Sin is anything we do, say, or think that displeases God.

2. Why is God angry at sin?

It hurts the world He created and dishonors Him.

3. Does God's anger at sin mean He isn't good or kind?

No! Because He is good and kind, He has wrath for sin.

4. Does God want to stay angry with His children?

No! God loves His children and wants to forgive them.

5. How can a holy and just God forgive sinners?

Someone had to take the punishment so that God could forgive sinners. That is why He sent Jesus to take their place. This was the only way a holy and just God could show sinners mercy. He didn't give them the punishment they rightly deserved because Jesus took the punishment for them. This is called mercy.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Romans 3:23 together as a class and then read Romans 6:23. According to these verses, who deserves God's wrath? What does God offer His children instead?

Summary:

- God is angry at sin because it hurts the world and people He created.
- Because God is perfect, He has the right to punish sin.
- God loves His children and sent Jesus to take their punishment!





Week #5

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:4-5a

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses...”

Opening Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Helpful Definitions:

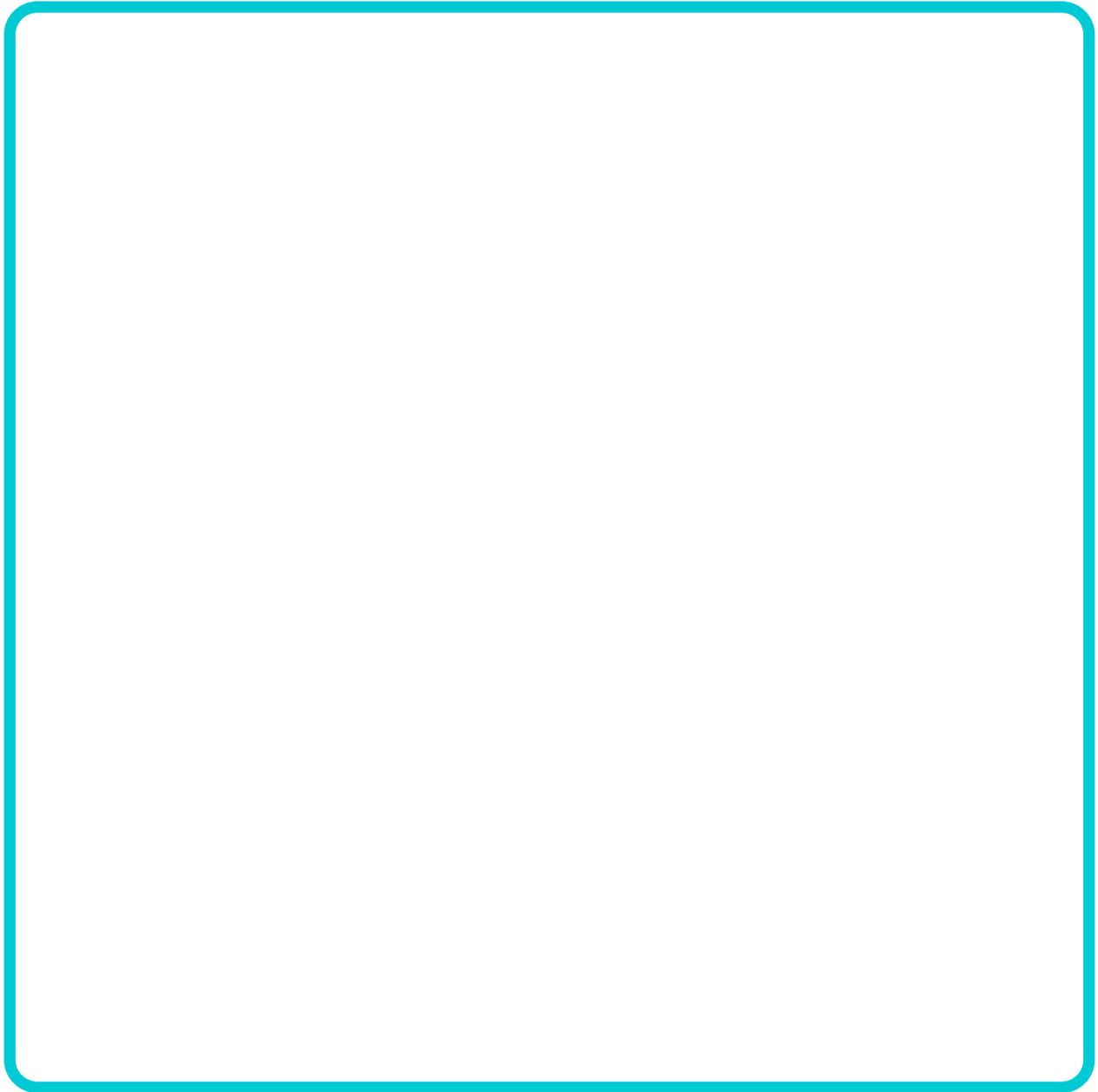
“Mercy”- not getting the punishment we deserve.

“Dead in our trespasses” - (review) to go against God's commands and live separate from Him

VERSE

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses...”

Ephesians 2:4-5a



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:4-5a

Passage:

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses..."

Hand Motions:

- "But God!" – jump twice while pointing up
- "being rich in mercy" – cash/money hand motion
- "because of the great" – arms out wide
- "love" – hands over heart
- "with which He loved us" – big hug
- "even when we were dead" – repeat motion from week 1
- "in our trespasses" – arms in an X

Teaching:

Last week we learned that because every single person has sinned, every single person deserves God's wrath. We have all sinned and all of us deserve the punishment of God.

Our verse today begins: "But God." These words are getting our attention to show us something very important about God!!

The next phrase tells us that God is "rich in mercy." What do you think of when you hear the word rich? Maybe you picture big piles of money or treasure! When somebody is rich, they have a lot of something, so this verse is telling us that God has a LOT of mercy. Mercy means not giving the punishment someone deserves.

Every single person is a sinner and therefore every single person deserves punishment for their sins. But instead of punishing every person, God gives mercy to those who love and trust Jesus. God is merciful!

Is God ever going to run out of mercy and not have enough to give to every person who loves and trusts Jesus? No! This verse tells us that God is rich in mercy and has so much He wants to give. He will give mercy to all who love



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:4-5a

and trust in Jesus.

The very first week of Compass Kids, we learned what the word “trespass” means. Does anybody remember? To trespass means to go against the commands and laws that God has given us. When we trespass, it means that we disobey God and sin against Him.

Throughout the Bible, God gives us little pictures or examples to help us understand more of who He is and what He is trying to teach us. This passage uses the picture or example of all people being dead. Often, we talk about how all people are born with hearts sick with sin. This verse is saying the same thing, but using a different picture: all people are born with hearts that are dead in sin. To say that somebody is dead in their sin means they are living a life that is separate from God. When Paul says “we were dead in our trespasses,” he is saying that even when God’s children were disobeying Him, God did something amazing.

Even though we all deserve God’s punishment for our sins, God gives mercy to those who love and trust in Jesus and does not give them the punishment they deserve.

Summary:

- **Everyone is born dead in their trespasses.**
- **God shows mercy to His children, which means He doesn’t give them the punishment they deserve.**
- **God is rich in mercy, so He’ll never run out of it!**



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:4-5a

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses...”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2:4-5a. Let's read it together.

1. What is important about the phrase “But God”?

It tells us that something very important happened. We deserve God's punishment, but He had a different plan for His children!

2. What do we usually think of when we hear the word “rich”? What is God rich in?

Lots of money or treasure. God is rich in mercy.

3. What does having mercy mean?

Not giving the punishment someone deserves.

4. Who receives God's mercy?

God's children, those who love and trust Jesus.

5. How is it possible for God to show His children mercy?

God sent Jesus to take the punishment God's children deserved so they could be forgiven.

6. Will God ever run out of mercy or stop loving His children?

NO! He is “rich” in mercy. He will never run out! He will give mercy to anyone who truly loves and trusts in Jesus, and He has a steadfast love that never ends.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Has someone ever shown you mercy? What did they do, and how did you respond? How does that situation remind you of God's mercy?

Summary:

- Everyone is born dead in their trespasses.
- God shows mercy to His children, which means He doesn't give them the punishment they deserve.
- God is rich in mercy, so He'll never run out of it!



Week #6

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:5b

“made us alive together with Christ– by grace you have been saved”

Opening Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups.
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Helpful Definitions:

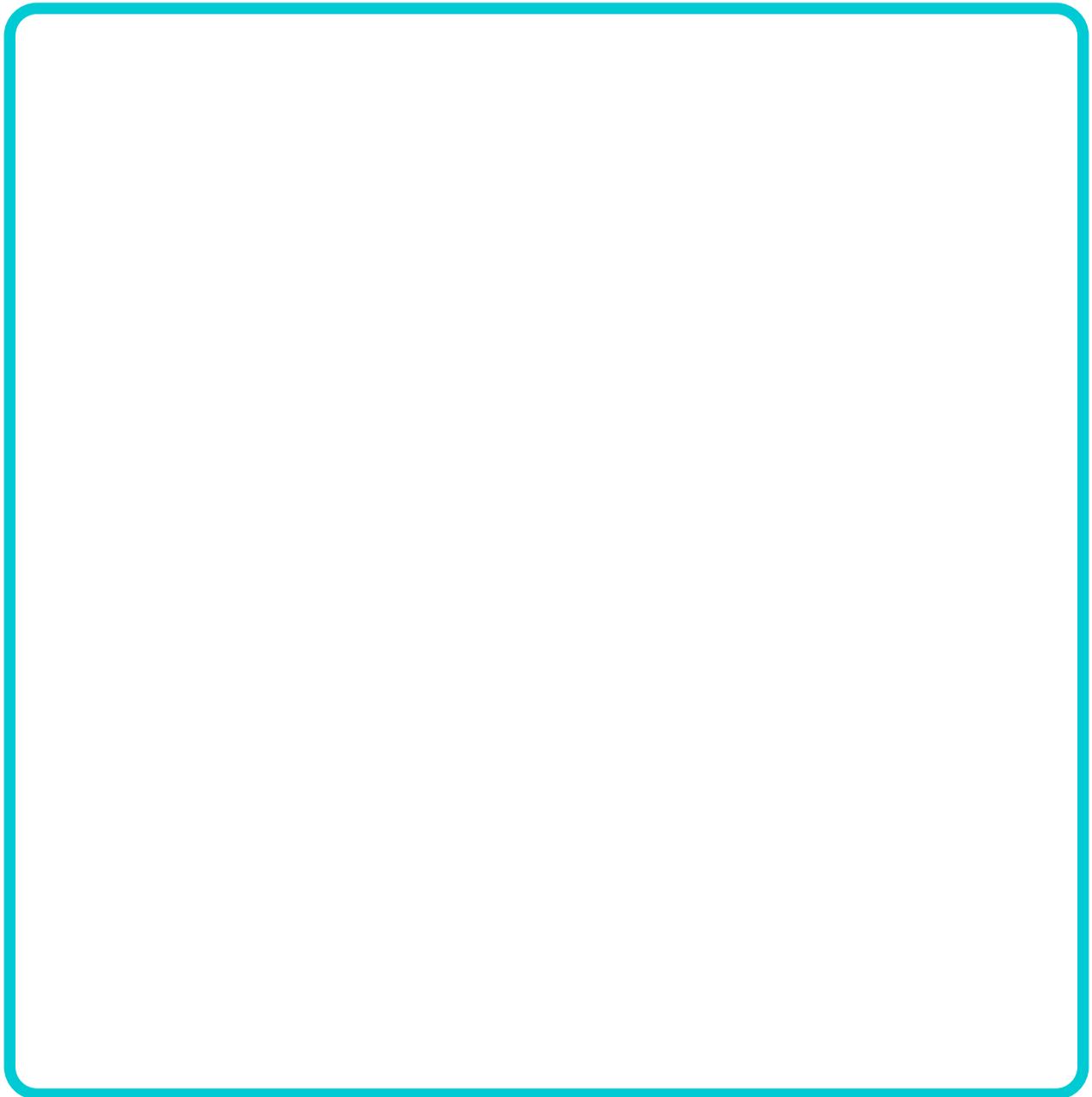
“Made alive”- when the Holy Spirit takes a heart that is dead in sin and creates a new heart that loves and trusts Jesus

“Grace”- to be given something good that you don't deserve

VERSE

“made us alive together with Christ— by
grace you have been saved”

Ephesians 2:5b



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:5b

Passage:

"made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved"

Hand Motions:

- "made us alive" – jump with arms up high
- "together with Christ" – sign language for Jesus
- "by grace you have been saved" – bend down and then scoop up arms, like rescuing someone out of danger

Teaching:

Last week, we learned that God showed His children mercy even when they were dead in their trespasses. To say that somebody is dead in their trespasses means they are disobeying God and living a life that is separate from Him.

The next part of this verse tells us what God did for His children: God made them alive!

In this passage, the Bible is using another picture to teach us something about God: the picture of being made alive. When a person is dead in their sin, it means that they're living a life separate from God and living in disobedience to Him. Being truly alive is the opposite. When a person is made alive, it means that they are living a life with God and want to obey Him. It doesn't mean that all people who trust God obey Him perfectly, but it does mean that people enjoy Him and want to do what He commands.

The other thing that is important for us to know from this passage is that it is with Christ that we can be made alive. Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us from our sins, but He didn't stay dead. When He was raised from the dead, He provided a way for us to be freed from our sins and be made alive with Him.

Salvation means that the Holy Spirit has turned a person's dead heart into a living heart! A person's heart doesn't change because of anything that they do on their own. The Bible tells us that it is grace that makes our dead hearts into



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:5b

living hearts. Grace is when God gives people what they don't deserve. Do we deserve to have our hearts made alive? No. We are sinners who constantly rebel against God and disobey Him. But because of His great love, God shows His children grace.

Summary:

- To be dead in sin is to be separate from God.
- God's children are made alive with Christ.
- The Holy Spirit takes hearts that are dead in sin and makes them alive!



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:5b

“made us alive together with Christ– by grace you have been saved”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 5b. Let's read it together.

1. What does this verse say God did for His children?

Made them alive together with Christ.

2. What does that mean?

The Holy Spirit gives them a new heart that is no longer dead in sin. Instead of wanting to disobey God and live separate from Him, they want to live with God and obey Him.

3. How does this verse say we can be “made alive”?

“With Christ.” Only because Christ was raised from the dead can we be raised from our spiritual death and receive a new heart. All you have to do is pray and ask God for forgiveness for your sins and ask Him to give you a new heart that wants to love and obey Him.

4. Once someone has been “made alive,” do they obey perfectly?

No, but the difference is that their heart wants to obey. The good news is that when God's children mess up and sin, God never runs out of love and forgiveness for them.

5. Paul says that by grace God's children have been saved. Do you remember what grace is?

Grace is an undeserved good gift. Paul is saying that salvation is a good gift from God that no one deserves.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find 2 Corinthians 5:17 and read it as a class. How does this verse relate to Ephesians 2? What does it mean to be a new creation?

Summary:

- To be dead in sin is to be separate from God.
- God's children are made alive with Christ.
- The Holy Spirit takes hearts that are dead in sin and makes them alive!





Week #7

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:6

“...and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...”

Opening Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

**Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).*

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their journals.

Memory Verse Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

**Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.*

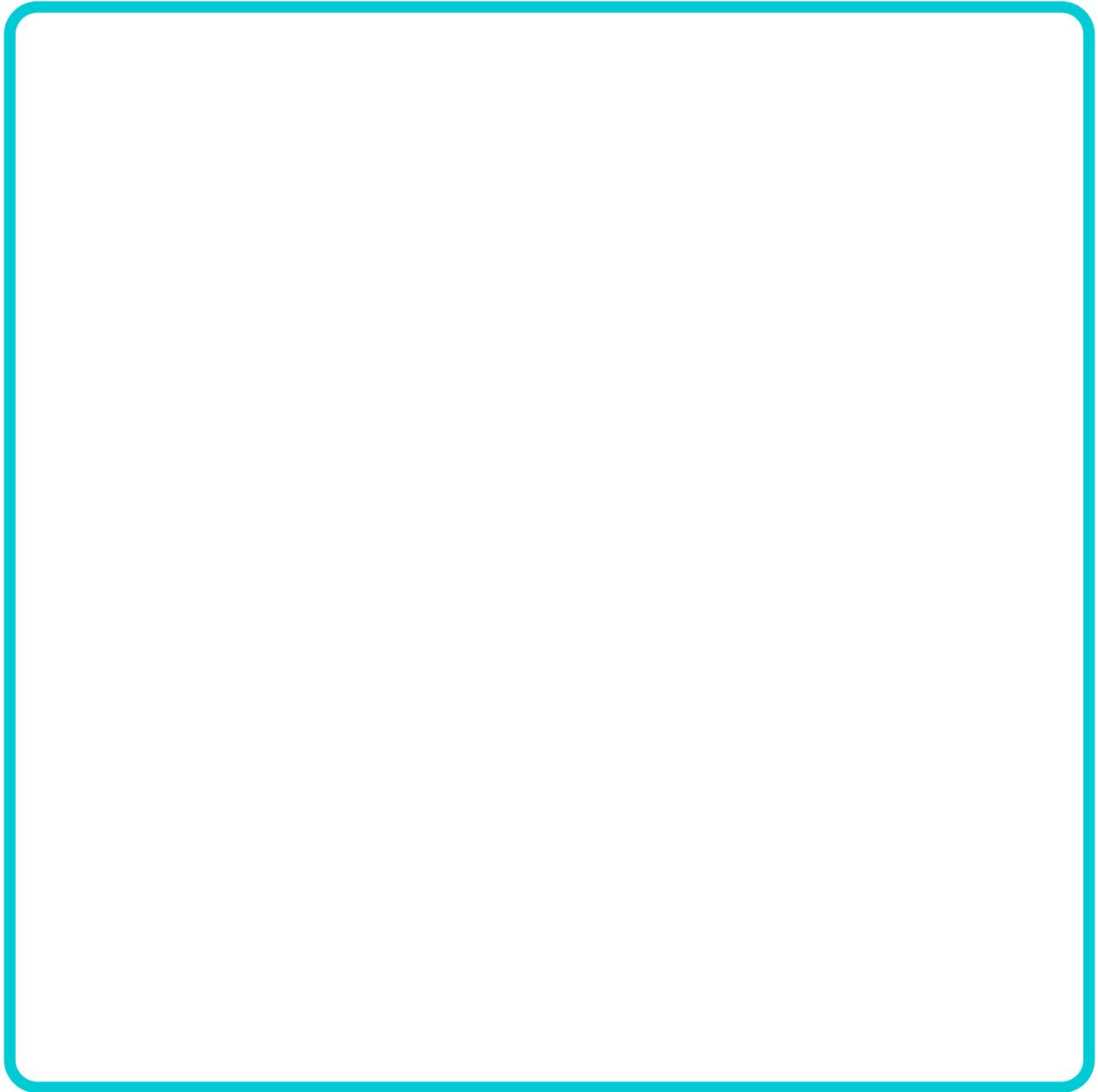
Helpful Definitions:

“Heavenly places”- the dwelling place of God

VERSE

"...and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."

Ephesians 2:6



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:6

Passage:

"...and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."

Hand Motions:

- "and raised us up with Him" – raise the roof motion
- "and seated us with Him" – pretend to sit in a chair
- "in the heavenly places" – lift arms up slowly
- "in Christ Jesus" – sign language for Jesus

Teaching:

The Bible tells us that heaven is the dwelling place of God. After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent time on earth preparing His disciples and followers for the work they were to do after He was gone. After 40 days, Jesus ascended, or rose, into heaven. The Bible tells us Jesus is in heaven, seated at the right hand of God.

This passage teaches us a promise God has made to those who love and trust Him. Just as Jesus ascended into heaven and is seated with God, God promises to raise all of His children into heaven to also be seated with Him. It is because Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins that anybody is able to be with God in heaven, which is why this verse says, "in Christ Jesus." Only those who love and trust Jesus can enter into heaven.

Is there anything that anybody can do to earn this? No, it is an act of grace: giving God's children something good they don't deserve.

Even though they're still living on the earth, God's children are already spiritually seated in heaven with Jesus. They get to enjoy unity with Him and confidence in their identity as God's children.

One day, all of God's children will get to be with Him physically, too! God promised that one day Jesus would return to earth. When Jesus returns to earth, there will be no more sickness, no more sadness, and no more death. But best

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:6

of all, God's children will get to be with God!

Summary:

- After Jesus resurrected, He rose into heaven where He is now.
- God's children are seated in heaven with Christ.
- Being seated with Christ means enjoying unity with Him and confidence as God's child!



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:6

“...and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 6. Let's read it together.

1. What did Jesus do after He rose from the dead?

After Jesus resurrected, He spent 40 days on earth, then rose into heaven.

2. Read this week's verse together. What promise is made for God's children?

That all of God's children have been raised with Him and seated in heaven.

3. Why does this verse say God's children get to enter heaven?

Because they are "in Christ Jesus." They are God's sons and daughters, so they get to be with God.

4. Can anyone earn their way into heaven? Can they do enough good to get in?

No. Only those who love and put their trust in Jesus can enter heaven. No one can do enough good to make up for their sin against God.

5. What will happen when Jesus comes back to earth?

There will be no more sickness, no more sadness, and no more death. But best of all, God's children will no longer be separated from God: they will get to be with God forever.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Romans 8:31-38. Where do these verses say Jesus is right now? What encouragement does this give God's children?

Summary:

- After Jesus resurrected, He rose into heaven where He is now.
- God's children are seated in heaven with Christ.
- Being seated with Christ means enjoying unity with Him and confidence as God's child!





Week #8

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:7

“...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus...”

Opening Activity: Hide-and-Seek

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their journals.

Memory Verse Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Helpful Definitions:

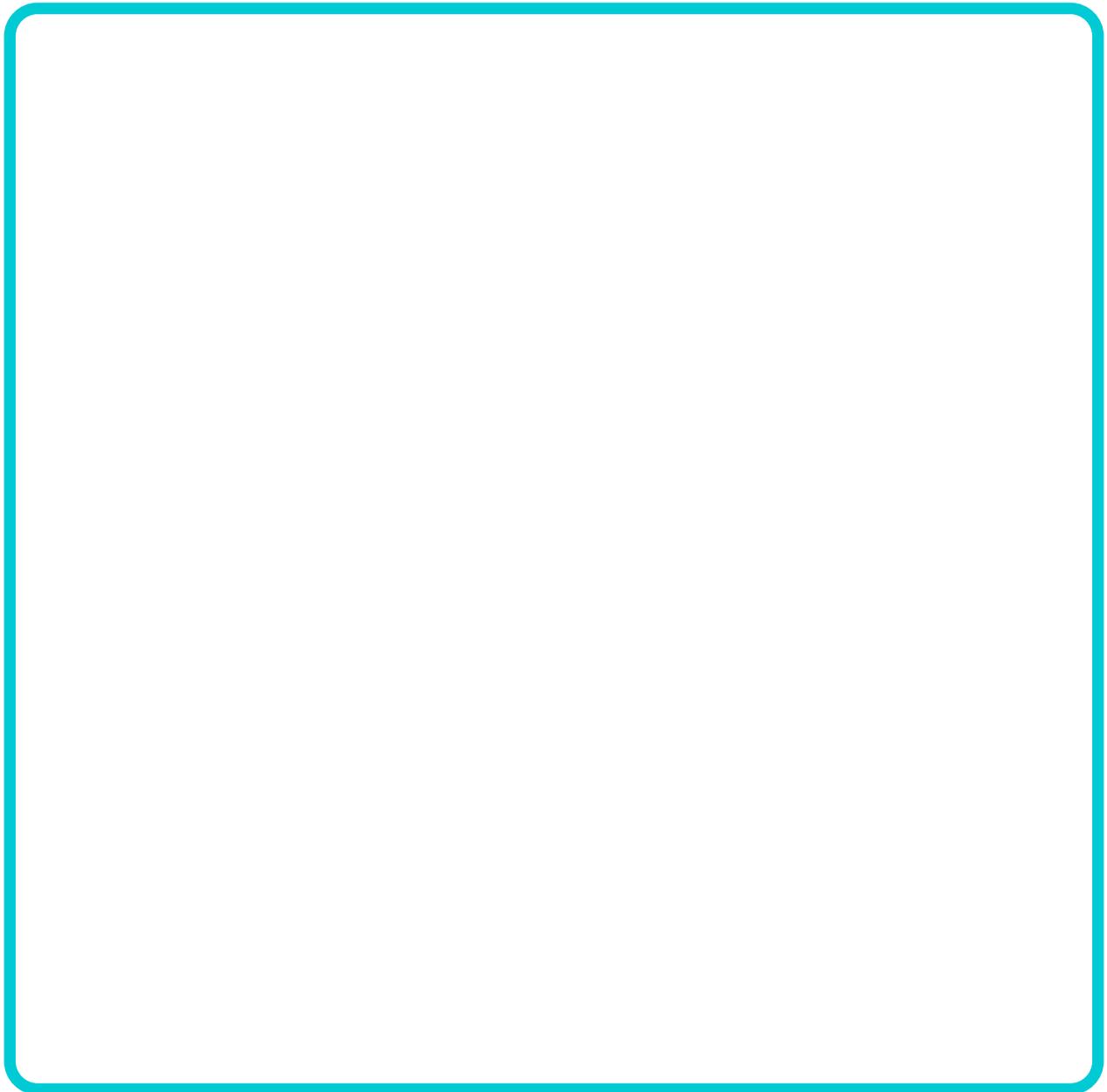
“Coming ages”– in the future, something that hasn't happened yet

“Immeasurable”– so big it can't be counted by people

VERSE

“...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus...”

Ephesians 2:7



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:7

Passage:

"...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus..."

Hand Motions:

- "so that in the coming ages" – make a spiral motion with one hand
- "He might show" – hands out like a presentation
- "the immeasurable riches" – cash/money motion
- "of His grace" – hands over heart
- "in kindness" – make a heart with your hands
- "toward us in Christ Jesus" – sign language for Jesus

Teaching:

What do you think will happen in the future? The future is what we call everything that hasn't happened yet, like tomorrow and all the days after. All of us have an idea of what we think it will look like, but God is the one who really knows.

The phrase in our verse "coming ages," is a really fancy way to talk about something that is going to happen in the future. Since everything that God says to us in the Bible is true, we know that this passage is a promise that God will do something in the future.

What exactly does this verse say God will do? The passage says that God will "show the immeasurable riches of his grace." When something is immeasurable, it means that it is so big that it can't be counted or measured.

Can you think of some things that can't be measured by a person? (The sand, the hairs on our heads.) God wants to show His children the immeasurable riches of His grace. Does this mean that God has a little bit of grace He wants to show His children? No! God has a LOT of grace He wants to show His children. He has so much grace, it can't even be measured.

A few weeks ago, we learned that grace is when God gives people something

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:7

good they don't deserve. God always gives His children what is best for them.

We also talked about how all of us are born with hearts that are dead in sin. Because of our sin, we deserve God's punishment. Do we deserve to have our dead hearts made into living hearts? No, we rebelled against God and disobeyed Him. But Jesus came to save sinners!! God the Father sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins because of His GREAT love for us. He gives this good gift of salvation to anybody who loves and trusts Him. He forgives them for their sins fully, freely, and forever and He turns their dead hearts into new, living hearts! God sent Jesus not because of anything that anybody was able to do, but because of His kindness!

This passage is a promise that God will continue to show His children how big His grace and kindness is towards them! God will never run out of grace for His children!

Summary:

- **Grace is receiving something good you didn't deserve or earn.**
- **God's grace can't even be measured.**
- **God will never run out of grace for His children!**



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:7

“..so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus...”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 7. Let's read it together.

1. What does “coming ages” mean?

Coming ages means something that will happen in the future.

2. What does this verse say God will do in the future?

He will show the immeasurable riches of His grace.

3. Does anybody remember what immeasurable means? (Younger classes: think of something too big to count or measure. What did you think of?)

Something is so big that it can't be measured or counted by people. Ex: Sand on the beach, hairs on your head, fish in the sea, leaves on a tree, etc.

4. Does God only have a little grace to give? Will He ever run out?

No, God will never run out of grace for His children.

5. Not only did God not punish those who love and trust Jesus, but He gave them forgiveness. He showed them mercy AND grace. Why does this verse say He did that?

“In kindness.” God saves and forgives sinners so they can experience what is best for them: God Himself. There is nothing better than to be with God!

Deeper discussion for older classes: We talked about how God will show His grace in “the coming ages.” When you think about the future, what normally comes to mind?

Summary:

- Grace is receiving something good you didn't deserve or earn.
- God's grace can't even be measured.
- God will never run out of grace for His children!





Week #9

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing...”

Opening Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Helpful Definitions:

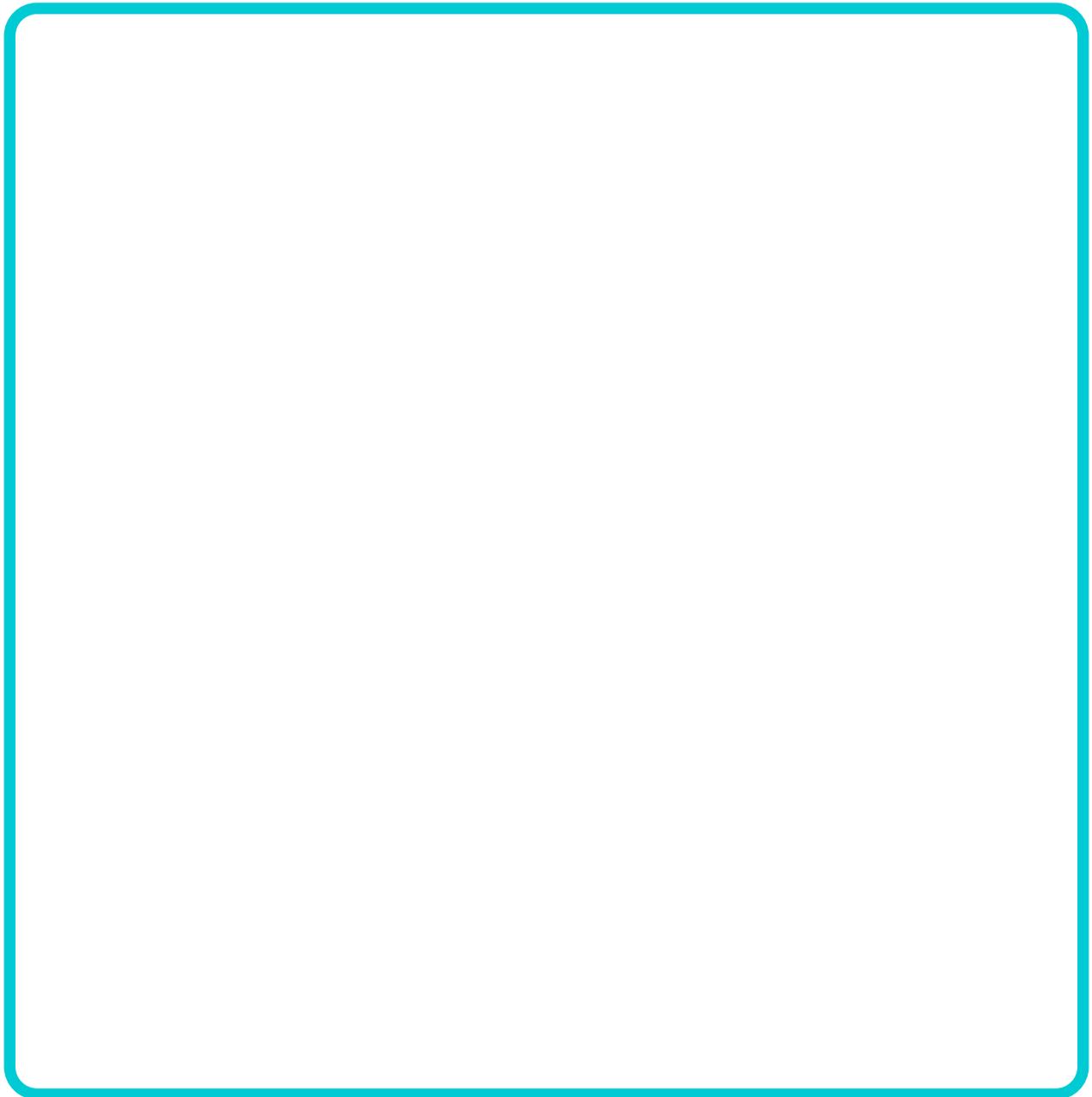
“Faith” – to believe that something is true and then commit your life to it



VERSE

“For by grace you have been saved through
faith, and this is not your own doing...”

Ephesians 2:8



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:8

Passage:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing..."

Hand Motions:

- "for by grace you have been saved" – bend down like you're rescuing someone
- "through faith" – prayer hands
- "and this is not your own doing" – shake head no

Teaching:

A few weeks ago, we learned what it means to say "by grace you have been saved." Remember, the word "saved" refers to salvation. Salvation means that a person's dead heart has been made into a new, living heart. A person's heart doesn't change because of anything that they do on their own.

The Bible tells us that it is grace that changes our hearts. Grace is when God gives people what they don't deserve. When a person loves and trusts Jesus, God forgives them of their sin because of what Jesus has done, not because of anything that they have done. Since there is nothing we have done to earn God's forgiveness, we can know the forgiveness of God is grace: an undeserved, good gift.

When the Bible says that somebody is "saved," it means that person has become a child of God by loving and trusting Jesus. They are fully and forever forgiven by God!

This verse also tells us that salvation comes through faith. Faith means believing that something is true and then committing your life to it.

When a person has faith in God, they believe that God loves them and sent His Son to save them from their sins. They trust that everything God says is true and commit to living their life in obedience to Him. When a person receives God's grace by loving and trusting in Jesus, it is through faith.

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:8

How can you know if a person has faith in God? First, when a person has faith in God, they believe (know with their head and heart) that God exists, that God loves them, and that God sent His Son to save them from their sins. Second, they confess their faith to God and tell someone about it! Sometimes people call this a “profession of faith.” By grace God has saved them and their faith, or belief, in that fact makes them want to share it. Third, they commit their life to Him. When a person has faith in God, do you think their life changes at all? Yes! Will they want to disobey God on purpose? No! They will want to obey God’s commands because they trust that God is best. Will they run away from God as soon as things get hard? No! They trust that God will keep His promises to care for them. They trust that God is good, even when it doesn’t make sense.

When God’s children have faith in God, they believe that God exists, that God loves them, and that God has sent His Son to save them from their sins. They commit their lives to their faith in God and want to obey God’s commands because they trust that God is best.

Summary:

- **God’s children are saved by grace through faith.**
- **Faith means believing that God sent Jesus to save you from your sin and then committing to following Him.**
- **God’s children want to obey God, even though they won’t do it perfectly.**

SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:8

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing...”

1. What does “faith” mean?

To believe something is true and commit your life to it.

2. What does it mean for someone to have faith in God?

They believe that God loves them and sent His Son to save them from their sins. They trust that everything God says is true and commit to living their life to obeying Him.

3. What does a person believe (know with their head and heart) when they have faith in God?

They believe that God exists, that God loves them, and that God sent His Son to save them from their sins.

4. What two things does a person do when they have faith in God?

They confess that faith (the things they believe to be true) to God in prayer and commit their life to loving and following Jesus. Then, they tell someone about it!

5. How will their life change?

They want to obey God’s commands, and they trust that God keeps His promises. They won’t do this perfectly, and they’ll admit when they need help, but they will desire to honor God with everything.

6. Does anyone have any questions about this lesson?

Deeper discussion for older classes: have you met someone who has faith in God? How did their life look different? How would you describe your relationship with God?

Summary:

- God’s children are saved by grace through faith.
- Faith means believing that God sent Jesus to save you from your sin and then committing to following Him.
- God’s children want to obey God, even though they won’t do it perfectly.





Week #10

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:8-9

“It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Opening Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

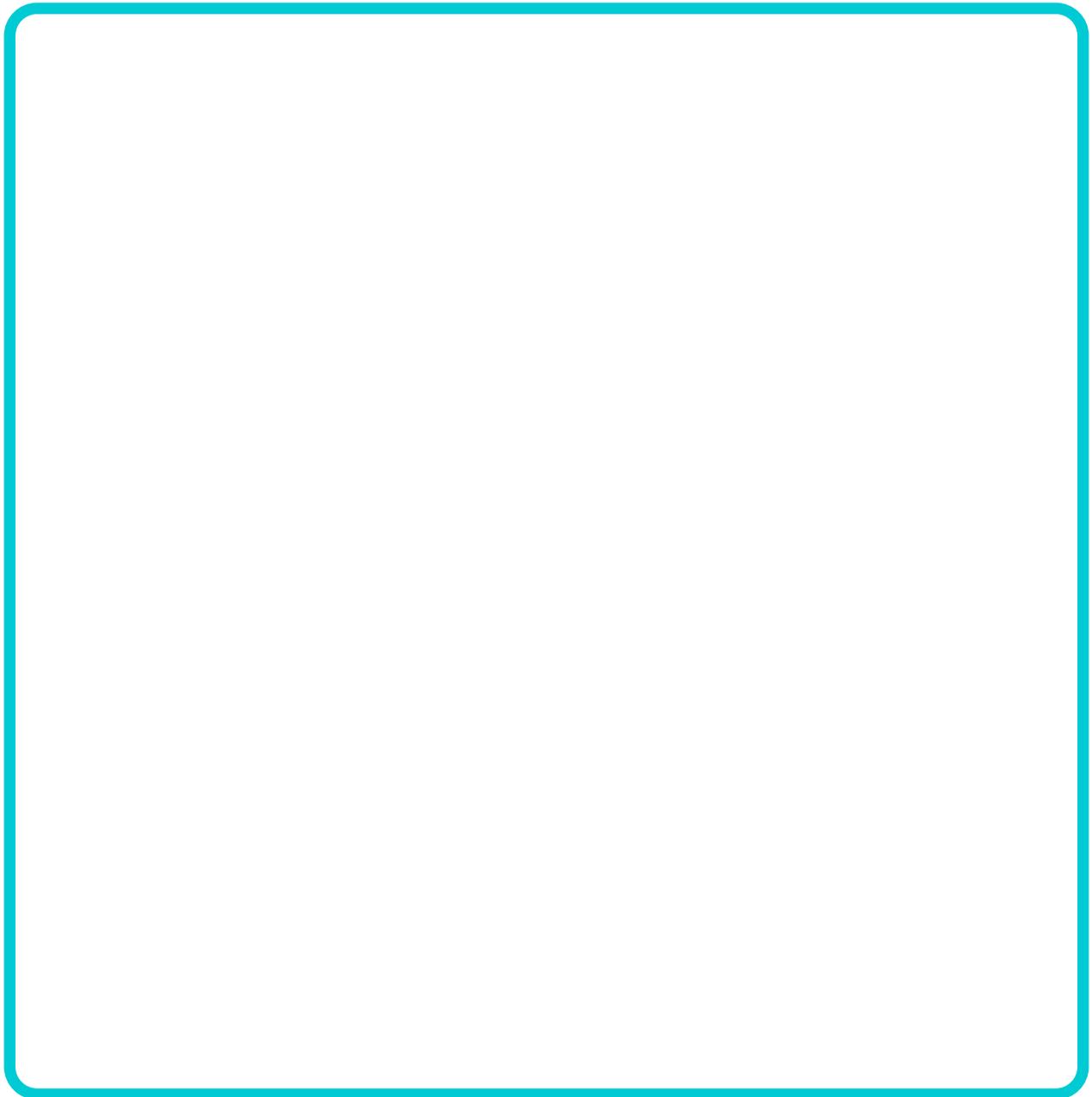
Helpful Definitions:

“Boast”- to take pride in something

VERSE

"It is the gift of God, not a result of works,
so that no one may boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:8-9

Passage:

"It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Hand Motions:

- "It is the gift" – place hands out like giving a present
- "of God" – point up
- "not a result" – shake head no
- "of works" – show muscles
- "so that no one may boast" – either flip hair or pose like a superhero (some way of demonstrating flaunting)

Teaching:

When we talked about grace last week, did we talk about what you have to do to earn God's grace? No, we didn't. You know why? Because there is NOTHING we can do to earn God's grace. Grace is a good gift that is undeserved, which means there is nothing that we can do to earn it.

The phrase "not a result of works" means that nobody gets God's grace from the work that they do.

Let's think about that for a second by playing a little game. I'm going to say something, and if you think you can earn God's grace and love by doing that thing, I'd like you to raise your hand. Ready? (Make sure you say "of course not!!" in a friendly tone if kids raise their hands)

- I try to always obey my parents.
- I try to never get in trouble.
- I always go to church.
- I bring my Bible with me when I go to church.
- I try to be nice to every single person that I meet.
- I help the poor and care for people who are sick.

Hopefully you're getting the pattern by now. There is nothing we can do to earn

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:8-9

God's grace and love, and that's good news!!

If we had to work to earn God's grace, we would never get it. You know why? Because Jesus is the only person who never failed to meet the standard that God gives us to live by in the Bible. Every other person sins or disobeys God. If we had to earn God's grace, we would never be able to earn it. Because God gives grace as a gift, any person who loves and trusts Jesus is able to receive it. No matter how much they mess up or sin against God, God won't take His grace away.

Why do you think there is nothing we can do to earn God's grace? In this next passage Paul writes, "So that no one may boast." The word boast means to take pride in something. God doesn't want us to take pride in our ability to work for His grace. God gets all of the glory and praise for the undeserved, good gift of forgiveness that He gives to His children!

Summary:

- **Grace is a good, undeserved gift.**
- **Nobody can earn or lose God's grace through their works.**
- **Because we can't earn God's grace, there is no reason to boast.**



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:8-9

“it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verses 8-9. Let's read it together.

1. Who remembers what grace is?

Grace is a good gift that is undeserved, which means there is nothing we can do to earn it.

2. This verse says that this gift of God is “not a result of works.” What does that mean?

Nobody can get God's grace because of the work they do.

3. Is it good news that we can't earn God's grace? Why or why not?

It is good news! We are sinners and we would never be able to earn God's grace on our own.

4. Will God take away His grace if His children sin?

No, because God's grace doesn't depend on their behavior. He will forgive His children when they sin.

5. Read the last part of this verse. Why is it important that God's grace is only dependent on Him?

So no one may boast or take credit for the gift.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Galatians 6:14. This letter is also from Paul, who wrote Ephesians. What does he boast in? What do you boast in? (Leaders: this is a good opportunity to lead with honesty and share your own struggle!)

Summary:

- Grace is a good, undeserved gift.
- Nobody can earn or lose God's grace through their works.
- Because we can't earn God's grace, there is no reason to boast.





Week #11

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Opening Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their folders.

Memory Verse Activity: Hopscotch

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Helpful Definitions:

“Workmanship” – God makes people with design and purpose

“Create” – to make or form

VERSE

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10



LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:10

Passage:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Hand Motions:

- "For we" – point to self
- "are His workmanship" – hammering motion
- "created in" – molding motion like forming clay
- "Christ Jesus" – sign language for Jesus
- "for good works" – thumbs up
- "which God" – point up
- "prepared beforehand" – point backwards, to represent the past
- "that we should walk in them" – walking in place

Teaching:

This verse starts with the phrase, "we are His workmanship." This is simply saying that God made people with skill and purpose!

This next phrase says "created in Christ Jesus." To create means to make or form. This is saying that when a person loves and trusts Jesus, they are made or formed to be more like Him!

How does God create, or form, a person when they love and trust Him? He makes their sick hearts into healthy hearts! This doesn't mean that they never sin again or they always obey God— it means that every day the Holy Spirit helps them become more and more like Jesus. God is the Creator. God made everything and He is forming believers to be more like Christ every day because He has a plan for them!

What is God's plan for believers? This passage is saying that God has made or formed His children to do good works. God has a plan for each of His children, and when a person loves and trusts Jesus, they want to follow Him! Let's look at one of the commands Jesus gave as an example of good work. After Jesus had risen from the dead and was going back to heaven to be

LARGE GROUP

Ephesians 2:10

seated at the right hand of the Father, He gave one last instruction. He told His friends to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." God commands His children to tell others about God and to share the good news that Jesus came to save sinners. God wants all His children to tell others about God's grace.

The phrase "that we should walk in them," is just saying that believers should obey and follow the work God has prepared for them to do. Does this mean that God's children have to figure out what God wants them to do all on their own? No! God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to help those who love and trust Jesus. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit helps God's children understand what God wants them to do and helps them obey Him. God's children can walk in the plans God has prepared them for with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Summary:

- **God forms believers to look more like Jesus.**
- **God creates His people for good works.**
- **God sends His Holy Spirit to help believers obey.**



SMALL GROUP

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Older classes: open your bibles to Ephesians 2 and find verse 10. Let's read it together.

1. What are God's children being made or formed into?

The image of Christ. When they love and trust Jesus, God makes them more like Him.

2. This verse says God's children should do the good works He has prepared. Do God's children have to figure those works out on their own?

No. God sends His children the Holy Spirit to help them understand what God wants them to do and then help them obey God.

3. Do God's children earn grace through works?

No, they already have it!

4. If they aren't earning God's grace, why do God's children do these good works?

Because they love God and see Him as most valuable.

5. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What is the most important good work God wants His children to do?

Make disciples. God wants His children to tell others about God's grace. He wants them to share the good news that Jesus came to save sinners.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Read Psalm 139:13-16. What does it mean to be God's workmanship in this verse? What does it mean that God has already written our days?

Summary:

- God forms believers to look more like Jesus.
- God creates His people for good works.
- God sends His Holy Spirit to help believers obey.





Week #12

COMPASS BOWL

You made it!

Event:

For the last week of Compass Kids, we host a competition called the Compass Bowl! We decorate the space with pennant banners, have pom-poms ready for the kids to cheer on their teammates, and host a cookie cake after-party for the winning team.

Preschool & Kinder:

For preschool and kinder, we keep the Compass Bowl fairly simple by setting up stations around the hallways.

Each station has an activity to do and a portion of the memory verse taped to the wall. When classes arrive at each station, they play a simplified version of a game from earlier in the semester (pogo-stick relay, hide-and-seek, etc.) or a fun new activity (crawling through a play tunnel, playing "the floor is lava, etc.). Once they complete the activity, they recite that piece of the verse together before they move on to the next one. We stagger the start-times so the classes aren't all at the same station. Once they finish all the stations, their last stop is a dance party where we play the full memory verse song, their class sings it together, and their teachers pop colorful confetti cannons!

1st-5th grades:

For older classes, the Compass Bowl is a competition! Feel free to pair up multiple grades or divide by gender to make more even team sizes.

Within each team, we divide the kids into two groups (green and blue) and mark them by putting on a color-coded bracelet. We recommend 4-6 rounds, alternating between the two green groups competing and the two blue groups competing. While one half of their team competes, the other half cheers for them with the pom-poms!

Because we only do 4-6 rounds, each game covers 2-3 weeks of the memory verse. We try to pick games that work well in a competition setting! Some of their favorites in the past have been the pogo stick relay, hide-and-seek, and the ping-pong relay.

COMPASS BOWL

Ephesians 2:1-10

After all the rounds are complete, we have each team recite the memory verse without any music or help from adults as the tie-breaker! If there's already a clear winner, you can skip this step. At the end of the night, everyone sings the memory verse as loud as they can with the music and we have their leaders pop colorful confetti cannons to celebrate!

