

LESSON PLAN

ETERNAL LIFE

Ephesians 2:1-10

Lesson Memory Verse: 1 John 5:12 - "He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son of God has not life."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children the meaning of eternal life and how they can have it.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Ponce de Leon was a Spanish explorer who came to this country hundreds of years ago (1512) in search of "the fountain of youth." He thought he could find a fountain of water that would make him live forever. But he never found it. In fact, a few years later when he was again exploring in Florida, he was wounded by an arrow and died. Ponce de Leon didn't find the way to live forever because he was looking in the wrong place. If we want to know how we can live forever, we must look in God's Word to find the answer.

HE: (for Authority): Our memory verse is one place in the Bible that tells how we can have eternal life. It is found in 1 John 5:12. We must have the Son to have eternal life. The Son is Jesus, the Son of God. He is God, the Son. But we must have the Son to have eternal life. So how is it possible to have the Son? We must turn away from our sins and ask Jesus to save us from our sins. When we receive Him as our Savior, we have the Son and He gives us eternal life and we will never perish (Jn 1:13; 10:28). We will live forever. On the other hand, if we do not have the Son, we do not have eternal life.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's lesson is about eternal life that God gives to all those that receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. No One Has Eternal Life at Birth – Eph 2:1-3.

A. All people are dead in sins - Eph 2:1; Isa 59:2

All people have inherited Adam's sin nature, so it is their nature to sin from the time of their birth. Their sins have separated them from God, who has eternal life. Without God's eternal life, they have eternal death. Therefore, they are dead in their sins.

B. All people live in sins - Eph 2:2-3

All people commit sins according to the ways of the world; according to the works of Satan and according to the desires of their hearts.

C. All people deserve God's wrath - Eph 2:3

All people are by nature children of sin against God and justly deserve His wrath.

WE: We are separated from God by our sins; God is holy and cannot allow any sin in His presence. Since we are separated from God and He has eternal life, we also are separated from eternal life. That means we are dead as a result of our sins.

ILLUSTRATION:

Let's pretend that a heavy lamp is attached to the ceiling by a chain. How many links in the chain would have to break before the lamp would be separated from the ceiling and come crashing down to the floor? Only one link in the chain would have to break and the lamp would be torn from the electric wires; it would be dead and not be able to give light to the room. So it is with us when we are separated from God by only one sin. We are dead and do not have eternal life.

II. God Offers Eternal Life by Grace – Eph 2:4-10.

A. Eternal life is given with His love – Eph 2:4.

Even though a person has sinned and is separated from God, there is good news. God loves him and has made a way to remove his sins so he can be united with Him and have eternal life.

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B. Eternal life is given through Jesus Christ – Eph 2:5-7.

When we were dead in our sins, God had Jesus die for our sins and then He raised His Son from the dead so He could share His life with us and allow us to be with Him in Heaven.

ILLUSTRATION:

What would you do if God said that you had to have five million dollars if you wanted to have eternal life? Even if you saved money all your life, you probably could never earn that much. But if a rich man came to you and gave you the five million dollars, then you could have eternal life. But that is not God's plan. You cannot buy eternal life. God said that you would have to keep all of His commandments without one sin in order to have eternal life. You say, "That is impossible." Yet Jesus, God's Son, kept every commandment perfectly. So how can we have eternal life? God is willing to let Jesus be our substitute. He will take our place and we will take His place. Wow, that is amazing! So God had His Son take your place and die for your sins. He could do that because Jesus did not have to die for any sins of His own. Then God lets you take His Son's place and all of Jesus' good deeds will be given to you (2 Cor 5:21).

C. Eternal life is given freely as a gift – Eph 2:8-9.

God does all of the work to give sinners eternal life. It is His gift. It is the most valuable gift that He could give to sinners, but it must be received to give a person eternal life. He will not force it on anyone.

WE: We must believe that God loves us so much that He had Jesus pay the penalty for our sins on the cross and all we have to do is turn from our sins and receive Jesus as our Savior. Then we will be united with Him and have eternal life as a free gift.

D. Eternal life will change the way a person lives – Eph 2:10.

When a person has received Jesus as His Savior and has eternal life, his way of living will be much different. Now he will do good works which will glorify His Father in Heaven (Mt 5:16).

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE:

BENJI'S PRAYER (adapted from "Tommy's Prayer," a long narrative poem)

Many years ago in London, England, there lived a little crippled boy. His name was Benji and he was eight years old. Benji lived with his mother who was a mean person and treated Benji badly. She was poor, and it made her angry that Benji was too sick and weak to help her. Benji spent almost all of his time in the corner of a dirty little room in an old cellar where he and his mother lived. He couldn't walk, and so he had to lie all day long on an old cot. He was very lonely. He often looked out the little window near the ceiling and watched the feet of people who were passing on the street.

One day Benji heard a wonderful sound outside the window. It was so wonderful that he wanted to hear more. It was the sound of someone singing a song he had never heard before. Benji wanted so badly to hear the song that he began to shout loudly, "Singer! Oh, Singer! Please stop and come in here to me! Singer...!" He called again and again until the singer heard his voice. It was a young working girl. She was also poor and had shabby clothing but on her face was a big smile. "You called me?" she asked. "What is it that you want? My name is Singing Jenny. What is your name, little boy?"

"My name is Benji and I want to hear you sing. Please sing a song for me." "Surely," said Jenny. "I'll sing you a song about Heaven."

Jenny sang many songs for Benji – not just one. And then she told Benji about Jesus. Benji had not known that Jesus came from Heaven and lived on earth and died for him. No one had ever told him that Jesus was God and that he could ask Jesus to save him from his sins. If he did, he could go and be with Jesus in Heaven when he died. He could live with Jesus forever and ever!

WE: We each need to ask Jesus to save us from our sins. Then we will live with Jesus forever and ever.

Benji had never known of Heaven, and he listened in wonder as Jenny told him about the golden streets and gates made of huge pearls. He could hardly believe his ears when he learned that there was no sickness or even tears in Heaven. Everyone in Heaven is happy all the time. Most of all, Benji was thrilled to hear that Jesus loved little children and wanted to save all of them.

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WE: We all are strong and healthy compared to Benji, aren't we? We all have nice bedrooms and friends, and we have good food to eat. We have parents that love us. We are happy here on earth. But someday we will have to die, and we will go either to Heaven or to Hell. Where will you go?

That afternoon little crippled Benji bowed his head. He asked Jesus to save him from his sins. (Benji knew he was a sinner. He was often grouchy. He felt sorry for himself many times.) That afternoon Benji received eternal life. Now he knew that no matter how sick he was, no matter how dreary his life on earth was, he could look forward to going to Heaven!

After Jenny left, Benji lay thinking about Jesus and about Heaven. How wonderful it would be to go there! As night came and Benji was still alone without any supper, he began to pray, "Lord Jesus," he said, "I am just a little crippled boy, but Jenny says you will listen so I want to ask You, Lord, if You will – for You know what is best – won't you take me home to Heaven to be with you tonight? I'm tired, Lord, and lonely and I'm always hungry, too. Please, dear Lord, please let me come home to You."

The next morning when the mother came to wake Benji, she found him resting very quietly. He had a happy smile on his face. She reached out and shook him roughly – but Benji did not move. His little body was cold. He had gone to be with Jesus in Heaven. Jesus had answered his prayer.

BE (for Action): If you have asked Jesus to be your Savior, what do you have? (Eternal life) Where will you go when you die? (To Heaven) Who will you be with? (With Jesus forever) If you are not saved, you will not be allowed in Heaven. Will you ask Jesus to save you and give you eternal life right now? (Have the children bow their heads and ask the last question again. Have them raise their hands if they want Jesus as their Savior. Invite them to stay after class if they want to be saved today and tell them that you will help them.)