

THE  
**GOSPEL**  
**PROJECT**  
FOR KIDS<sup>®</sup>

**All Things New**

*Kids Worship Guide*

VOLUME 12



# THE GOSPEL PROJECT<sup>®</sup> FOR KIDS

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Write the dates for each session here! —

*The Gospel Project for Kids:  
Kids Worship Guide*

## All Things New

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# Unit 34: Fight the Good Fight

## Unit Description:

Paul's ministry was difficult, and he suffered so that others would hear the gospel. Paul encouraged believers in the church to grow in their faith, seeking to know Jesus more and looking ahead to eternity with Him.

## Key Passage:

1 Timothy 6:12

## Big Picture Question:

What is sanctification? Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Session 1:

### Paul's Third Journey

*Acts 18–21*

### Story Point:

Paul used every opportunity to tell people about Jesus.

## Session 3:

### Together in Jesus

*Ephesians 2–3*

### Story Point:

The gospel brings together different people as the church.

## Session 2:

### Paul Was Arrested

*Acts 21–23*

### Story Point:

God protected Paul so he could preach about Jesus.

## Session 4:

### Running the Race

*Philippians 3*

### Story Point:

Following Jesus is like running a race for a wonderful prize.



## **Paul's Third Journey**

Paul used every opportunity to tell people about Jesus.

## **Paul Was Arrested**

God protected Paul so he could preach about Jesus.



## **Together in Jesus**

The gospel brings together different people as the church.

## **Running the Race**

Following Jesus is like running a race for a wonderful prize.





Use Week of:

## Unit 34 • Session 3

# Together in Jesus

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Ephesians 2–3

### STORY POINT:

The gospel brings together different people as the church.

### KEY PASSAGE:

1 Timothy 6:12

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is sanctification? Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Countdown
- Introduce the session (2 min.)
- Big picture question (1 min.)
- Giant timeline (1 min.)
- Tell the Bible story (10 min.)
- Christ connection
- Group demonstration (5 min.)
- Review (4 min.)
- Key passage (5 min.)
- Group game (5–10 min.)
- Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)
- Missions moment (6 min.)
- Announcements (2 min.)
- Prayer (2 min.)
- Additional idea

**Leaders, grow on the go!** Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or LifeWay's Digital Pass:  
[ministrygrid.com/gospelproject](http://ministrygrid.com/gospelproject) | [gospelproject.com/podcasts](http://gospelproject.com/podcasts)

## LEADER Bible Study

During Paul's second missionary journey, Paul stopped in Ephesus and preached in the synagogue. (See Acts 18:19.) Apollos, a Jewish believer, also taught in the synagogue there. Paul's third missionary journey took him back to Ephesus, where he spent two to three years speaking with crowds about Jesus. (See Acts 19:8-10.) As people believed in Jesus, the church was established and grew under local leadership.

Paul was in a Roman prison when he wrote his letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul's letter to the Ephesians—like other letters he wrote to churches when he was unable to meet with them in person—brought words of instruction and encouragement that are still helpful to believers today. The letter to the Ephesians focuses on the big idea of unity.

Paul wrote to teach Jewish and Gentile believers that they are one in Christ and that they should treat one another with the love of Christ. Focus on these three ways believers are united: united in sin, united in Christ, and united in one church.

First, we are united in sin. Paul's description applies to first-century believers, to believers today, and to everyone. We are spiritually dead. Our union with Adam as the representative of the whole human race unites us in sin. Apart from Christ, we live as the world lives—doing whatever we want. This is bad news.

Next, we are united in Christ. Jesus is the second Adam. All who trust in Him are united in Him. He makes us alive again. This is the good news of the Bible. Finally, we are united as the church. Jesus breaks down barriers between Jew and Gentile, and He unites forgiven sinners as one church.

As you teach kids, emphasize that God brings together different people as the church. People who might otherwise have nothing in common are part of the same family, adopted as brothers and sisters in Christ forever and ever.



# The BIBLE Story

## Together in Jesus

*Ephesians 2–3*

Paul wrote a letter to the church at Ephesus. He reminded them of the wonderful blessings people have when they belong to Jesus. **This is what Paul said.**

**“Before you knew Jesus, you were dead in your sins.**

**You used to live like the world, like those who choose to disobey God.** We all

lived like that, doing whatever felt right to us. **But God, who is full of mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made us alive with Christ!** We were spiritually dead, and He gave us life. You were saved by grace!”

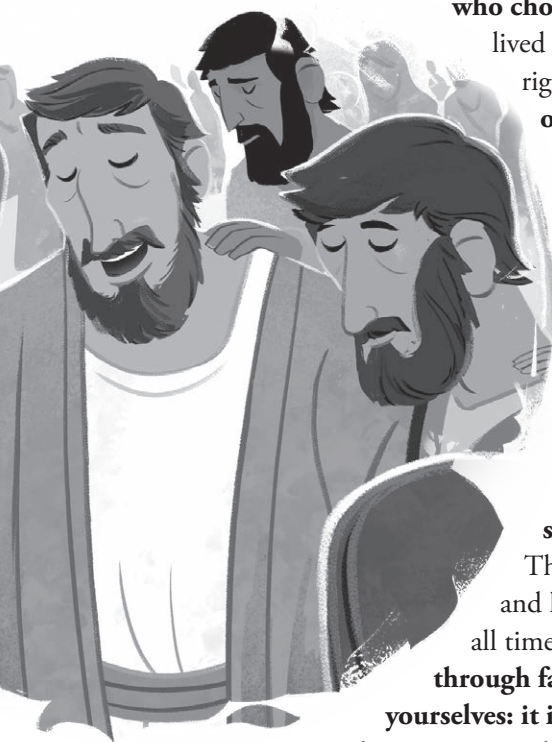
Then Paul explained what else God has done for everyone who trusts in Jesus. **“God raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with Him in the heavens.**

This way, He can show us grace and kindness—both now and for all time. **For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from**

**yourselves: it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.** We are God’s masterpiece,

created in Christ Jesus to do the good works God has prepared for us to do.”

**Paul reminded the Ephesians that they were Gentiles—not Jews.**



**“You were born outside of God’s chosen people. You were not part of Israel. You didn’t know God, and you had no hope,” he said. “But now, Jesus has brought you into God’s family by dying on the cross.”**

Before, Jews and Gentiles were separated by hate. Paul said, “Jesus is our peace, bringing together Jews and Gentiles as one group. You aren’t strangers anymore; you are all members of God’s household. And Jesus holds this house together.”

This was why **Paul** was a prisoner. He **dedicated his life to sharing the good news of Jesus with Gentiles. God called Paul to this work so all people—Jews and Gentiles—would know that they are members of the same body, partners in the promises of Jesus.**

*Christ Connection: The gospel brings together all people who have faith in Jesus. God’s salvation is a gift of grace, not something we can earn with good works. Forgiven sinners come together as the church to obey God and do His work in the world.*

### **Bible Storytelling Tips**

**Show division with words:** Write the word *Jews* on one side of a dry erase board and *Gentiles* on the other. Write the word *hate* vertically between them to show how hate separated the groups.

**Dramatic conversation:** Write out the story like a letter. Tell the story as if you are reading the letter from Paul to the church at Ephesus.



# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Together in Jesus

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Ephesians 2–3

**STORY POINT:** The gospel brings together different people as the church.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Timothy 6:12

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is sanctification? Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

## Introduce the session (2 min.)

• leader attire

*[Cam and Alex are both on stage.]*

**CAMERON** • Hello and welcome back to Critter

Conversations! We have a special treat in store for you today.

**ALEX** • That's right! Normally, our conversations just center on one critter. But today we just couldn't separate them out, so we're talking about an entire ecosystem of critters.

**CAMERON** • We hope you've blocked off the next 24 hours to join us.

**ALEX** • *[whispering loudly]* Uh, Cam, the network never approved the 24 hour pitch, we still have to stick to our normal time slot.

**CAMERON** • *[under his breath]* Rats, I really thought they were sold. *[normal volume]* In that case, we hope you've blocked off the same amount of your day that you normally would to join us as we head to...

**BOTH** • The rainforest!

**ALEX** • When we were looking at animals in the rainforest,

we couldn't just pick one without talking about their relationship to the rest of the rainforest.

**CAMERON** • All of the animals and the plants in the rainforest work together to make it what it is.

**ALEX** • For example, leaf cutter ants protect fungi and help it grow by feeding it with small pieces of leaves. The ants also keep their larvae in the fungi, which protects the larvae and keeps baby leaf cutter ants safe.

**CAMERON** • They each serve a different purpose and are both important for each other's well-being.

**ALEX** • Another example is Capuchin monkeys. They love to snack on flowers from trees and while they snack, their fur picks up the pollen from the tree. As the monkey travels, some pollen falls off and that helps trees to reproduce and grow.

**CAMERON** • The rainforest is a great example of what we're learning about today. In today's Bible story, we're going to see how the gospel brings people together and how those different people make up the church.

**ALEX** • Let's jump in!

## Big picture question (1 min.)

**CAMERON** • We have been asking the question: *what is sanctification?*

**ALEX** • *Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**CAMERON** • That's right, as Christians, we all have the same goal of becoming more like Jesus.

**ALEX** • How can we all become like Jesus if we are all different?

**CAM** • That's a great question, Alex! You're right, God did

• Big Picture Question  
Poster

make us all different, and He did that on purpose.

**ALEX** • The world would be boring if we were all exactly the same.

**CAMERON** • Exactly. But even though we are all different people, we can all have the goal of becoming more like Jesus. That is because we want to grow to be like Jesus in His character, the way He loved people, the way He praised God, and the way He walked in truth.

### Giant timeline (1 min.)

• Giant Timeline

**CAMERON** • We have been following Paul's travels for the last few weeks.

**ALEX** • Two weeks ago, we learned that **Paul used every opportunity to tell people about Jesus.**

**CAMERON** • Last week we learned that Paul went to Jerusalem and faced enemies who wanted to kill him. **God protected Paul so he could preach about Jesus.**

**ALEX** • Today, we get to read a letter that Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus. In it, Paul reminds the church that **the gospel brings together different people as the church.**

### Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

• Bibles, 1 per kid  
• "Together in Jesus" video (optional)  
• Bible Story Picture Poster  
• Story Point Poster

Open your Bible to Ephesians 2–3. Use the Bible storytelling tips provided with the Bible story script to help you tell the story, or watch the Bible story video "Together in Jesus."

**CAMERON** • Alex, have you ever written a letter?

**ALEX** • Absolutely! My pen pal and I exchange letters all the time. We talk about what's going on in our lives and

we ask each other questions.

**CAMERON** • Paul's letter had some of those elements too; he was sharing important information with the church at Ephesus. He talked about what their lives were like before they knew Jesus and then what their lives were like after they knew Jesus.

**ALEX** • He also helped them understand who they were and who God is.

**CAMERON** • Why was it so important to Paul that the Ephesians remembered they were Gentiles and not Jews?

**ALEX** • God makes it clear in the Old Testament that His chosen people were the Jews. God spoke to the Jews on many occasions and made Himself known to them. Sadly, many of them did not recognize Jesus as Savior. When Jesus died on the cross, He made the way for everyone to come to Him, not just a certain group of people.

**CAMERON** • Jesus died to bring people together. His death and resurrection provides salvation to everyone who believes, not just Jewish people.

**ALEX** • The whole church is part of God's family and Jesus holds us all together. He unites us. **The gospel brings together different people as the church.**

**CAMERON** • And this is why Paul was so passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus with Gentiles. He wanted them to know that they were still welcome in God's family.

## Christ Connection

**CAMERON** • Paul was teaching believers that God loves everyone. God doesn't care where people are from or

Tip: Consider using your Bible and the gospel poster provided to explain to kids how to become a Christian. Anytime you invite kids to respond in a large group setting, make sure you have counselors available to speak with kids individually to answer questions.

what their background is.

**ALEX** • The gospel brings together all people who have faith in Jesus. God's salvation is a gift of grace, and forgiven sinners come together as the church.

**CAMERON** • What Jesus did for us on the cross unites us, it brings us together.

**ALEX** • Even though we are all different—we have different skills, different gifts, and different backgrounds—salvation ties us together.

**CAMERON** • That is the beauty of a church, the gospel brings together different people and together, we form the church.

- jar with tightly sealing lid
- water
- food color
- vegetable oil
- dish soap

### **Group demonstration (5 min.)**

Fill a jar halfway with water and add a few drops of food coloring. Mix well before adding vegetable oil. Seal the jar tightly and invite a kid to come on stage and shake the jar as vigorously as she can to mix the oil and water. Ask the kids to make observations. Open the jar and add a bit of dish soap. Seal the jar again and allow the kid to shake it. The dish soap will create an emulsion between the oil and water, allowing them to mix.

**CAMERON** • At first, the oil and water weren't mixing at all. They were completely separate. Even when we shook the jar, they would immediately start to separate again.

**ALEX** • But something different happened when we added the dish soap. The oil and water came together and stayed together.

**CAMERON** • This reminds me of what Paul was teaching. The gospel takes different people and brings them all together.

**ALEX** • Without Jesus we are not united, we are like the oil and water before we added the soap. But the soap is like Jesus, and when we added it to the mixture, it brought the oil and water together.

**CAMERON** • Oil and water are very different, but the soap brought them together. **The gospel brings together different people as the church.**

## **Review (4 min.)**

**CAMERON** • Let's rewind and review what we've learned today.

Invite the kids to answer the following questions:

1. What does it mean to be 'saved by grace'? (*Jesus died on the cross for us and gave us life when we deserved death, this is a gift He has given us, not something we have earned or worked for; Eph. 2:8*)
2. Why was Paul reminding the readers that they were Gentiles, not Jews? (*In the Old Testament, we see that God's chosen people were the Jews and there was separation between the Jews and Gentiles, but the gospel brings everyone together, no matter what their background is; Eph. 2:11-18*)
3. What does this story teach me about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the gospel?
4. What does this story teach me about myself?
5. Are there any commands in this story to obey?  
How are they for God's glory and my good?
6. Are there any promises in this story to remember?  
How do they help me trust and love God?
7. How does this story help me live on mission better?



• Key Passage Poster  
• “The Good Fight  
(1 Timothy 6:12)” song

## Key passage (5 min.)

**CAMERON** • Did you know that Paul wrote 1 Timothy and he also wrote Ephesians, the part of the Bible where today’s story came from?

**ALEX** • 1 Timothy is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy, a young pastor who had traveled with Paul.

**CAMERON** • Paul was writing to encourage Timothy to guard against false teachings and lead the church well.

**ALEX** • Timothy knew that following God isn’t always easy, but it is always the best choice.

Read 1 Timothy 6:12 and encourage the kids to read along in their Bibles. Display the key passage poster. You may also sing “The Good Fight (1 Timothy 6:12).”

## Group game (5–10 min.)

### ALL TOGETHER

All the kids stand in a large circle. When you call out a characteristic that applies to them, those kids will run into the circle, link arms, then unlink and go back out. Choose several characteristics that would only apply to parts of the group (middle child, loves the color blue, plays soccer, speaks a second language, favorite school subject is math, has a dog, and so forth) and then do a few that would apply to all of the kids (is at church this morning, is a human, breaths oxygen, is loved by God, and so forth).

**CAMERON** • Sometimes it can be easy to think that we don’t have anything in common with other people, but even though we are all different, there are some important things that we all share.

**ALEX** • That’s true. Plus, the church would be boring if we were all exactly alike. There wouldn’t be any variety!

**CAMERON** • God created us all to be different, but we were all still created by Him. Everyone who believes the gospel is a child of God and Jesus brings us together.

**ALEX** • **The gospel brings together different people as the church.**

**CAMERON** • This game showed us that we have some things in common with some people and other things in common with other people. The one thing all Christians have in common is that we are loved by God; we are His children.

### **Sing and give offering (3–12 min.)**

**ALEX** • One of the special parts of the church is that we can all come together and worship God. His power and glory are unmatched. Let's sing to Him!

Sing "All Hail the Power," choose from the songs provided this quarter, or sing other songs as time allows.

• "All Hail the Power"  
song and other  
songs of your choice



### **Missions moment (6 min.)**

Display the photo and ask for three volunteers to read the story cards about missionary George Liele.

**ALEX** • God brings different people together as one in Jesus. George Liele understood that everyone could be united, no matter the color the skin or what country they lived in. God used him to show that all people have worth and that God wants all people to be a part of His kingdom.

• "George Liele Story  
Cards" printable

### **Announcements (2 min.)**

**CAMERON** • The rainforest is a great example of what unity looks like. All of the different animals and plants have their place in the ecosystem.

**ALEX** • But, the church is an even better example of that! We are all incredibly different, we look different, act different, have different likes and dislikes, different gifts and skills—but the gospel brings us all together.

**CAMERON** • That's right, Alex, only a God as powerful as our God could bring all of us together.  
Make any announcements from your kids' ministry.

### **Prayer (2 min.)**

**CAMERON** • God, thank You for making us all in Your image. Thank You for uniting us and giving us the same purpose. Help us to remember the saving message of the gospel this week.

### **Additional idea**

#### **COLLAGE LETTERS**

Provide the kids with old, kid-friendly magazines; scissors; tape or glue; and paper. Instruct the kids to search through the magazines to find words they can use to cut out and glue onto the blank paper to construct an encouraging message. Suggest that they give the encouraging collages to someone they love.

**CAMERON** • I love that Paul wrote letters and that we get to read them in the Bible. It is sort of like reading someone's conversation with their pen pal.

**ALEX** • And I love that we still write letters today! Who doesn't love seeing an envelope from a friend in their mailbox?

**CAMERON** • Let's think of creative ways to encourage people and remind them of God's love this week.

- old, kid-friendly magazines
- scissors
- tape or glue
- paper