

# **THE MYSTERY OF GOD**

**Children's Thru the Bible Lesson**

**Week 39**

**Colossians 1:18- 2:7**



Wee Can Know is a faith-based non-profit Christian organization. We exist to reach boys, girls, and families with the Gospel of Christ and to establish them in the Body of Christ and life.

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## Week 39: The Mystery of God (Colossians 1:27, NIV)

*<sup>27</sup>To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

**Song:** "Greater is He that is in Me" (Chorus only) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DylGqaXYJMg>

### Opening Activities

Play one or more of mystery games with the children:

1. **Mystery Words:** Create some mirrored words that are "mystery words." Give one to each child, harder ones to older children and simple ones to younger children. Give them time to figure out their mystery word, tell them you know a secret to decode the word. Children can discover the word by holding the word up to a mirror or turning the paper over to read from back side of paper.
  2. **Mystery Box:** Have a shoebox with a hole cut in lid, cover the hole with a piece of paper that has a slits forming a star shape, where a hand can reach through the hole. Place 1-3 mystery objects in the box for the children to feel and guess what's in the box. (You could just use a cloth bag or large container.)
  3. **Mystery Puzzles:** Plan a puzzle scavenger hunt. I located some old curriculum Bible pictures that were white on the back side (old cards or printed pictures will do). I used seven in all for my class. In order for the children to identify the different puzzles when scattered around the room, I colored the back of each picture (using a color sideways and flat) a different color. Then I cut the pictures into puzzle pieces, each picture into 5 pieces. I had eight children in Sunday school and I gave each child one piece of their specific puzzle & color. Needy and a younger girl worked together as a team. I scattered the rest of the puzzle pieces around the room and told the children to go find their "mystery" puzzle pieces. Each child would look for their specific color. Once they find the other four pieces, tell the children to put their "mystery" puzzle together, picture side up. Go to each child and let them explain their picture. (Gather the puzzles; play again later giving children a different color, if time permits.)
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### Lesson:

**Introduction:** Tell the children that the Bible is several books in one. It's a love story, it's a guidebook, it's a rule book, it's a prayer book, a song book, and it's also a mystery. It tells the mystery of God.

**Activity:** Summarize for the children Colossians 1: 18-2:7 (scroll down to page 5), print out, fold and place in an envelope for each child. Explain how Paul wrote a letter to the Church at

Colossae; he wanted to help them grow in their relationship with Christ. His letter is not only for the Church at Colossae but it's for us too.

Allow children to open the letter and read together as a class. (You can take turns or get volunteers, whichever works best for your class.)

**Colossians 1: 22:** explain how the wrong choices we make like lying, cheating, wanting our own way, separate us from God. Because God is Holy (perfect and without sin) our sin (the wrong choices we make) separates us from God. However, Jesus death on the cross made a way for us to come back to God and belong to His forever family.

**At Col. 1:23:** I explained that God wants us to grow in His family and continue to follow His way. How do we continue to grow in God's family and follow His way? Paul explains the mystery. Listen... read on to next verses.

**At Col. 1:26:** allow children to explain to you what they think "Christ in you" means. Many times they can explain biblical truth better than us! Explain that Paul wanted the church members to know that it's impossible to live the Christian life in their own strength, because Jesus died and rose again, we can ask Him to save us from the punishment of sin. We can ask Him to fill us with His Spirit and give us the power to live the Christian life. It's a mystery! Others will wonder how you can forgive, show kindness, or love your enemies... but it's because Christ lives in you! "Our hope of glory" means that when our life is over here on earth we can enter into God's glorious home called Heaven. Living the Christian life takes practice but as we choose to follow God's way, we will grow in our relationship with God.

**Chapter 2: 1-7:** explain that Jesus is a precious treasure; Col. 2:3 promises that we can find all wisdom and knowledge in Him. As the children go to church, read the Bible, pray, and follow God's way, they will grow in wisdom and knowledge. Just as trees grow roots into the ground to make them strong, their lives will grow roots into the truth of God's Word.

## **Closing**

**Activity:** At Col.2:7, create a thankful wave. I went around the room and allowed children to give thanks for one thing. Then, at the count of three, we all shouted out something we thanked God for that day.

## **Invitation**

Invite children who have not invited Christ into their lives to invite Him into their lives today! Help them understand that it's a commitment, just as Paul explained in Colossians 2:6. (To learn more on counseling children for salvation go to <https://online.cefcmi.com/course/view.php?id=248>)

**Review Game: Mystery Phrase**

Play a mystery word game, choose a word or phrase from the lesson, using a wipe board, draw lines for each letter. Ask children questions from the lesson, as they answer the question, allow them to call out a letter and guess the “mystery word/phrase.” I chose “Christ in you.” Only allow the child who answers the question to guess the word or phrase. When they figured out the phrase, at the count of three encourage children to shout the word/phrase. *Repeat as time permits with different words/phrases.*

**Color Page:**

*My Children love color sheets, I found a nice color sheet of Paul writing a letter on-line from Sermons4kids.com, I printed the picture on the back of the letter from Paul, and they colored the picture while we played the “mystery word” game. (Scroll down to page 6 for color page)*



Hi, I'm Debbie Smith, my husband and I founded Wee Can Know (WCK). WCK is a non-profit organization reaching children and families with the Gospel of Christ.

If you benefit from the lessons I create, please give a donation to help me to continue to create lessons for you and others to use with the children.

Your gift of \$5, \$10, \$15 or more helps Wee Can Know reach children in Greater New Orleans and the world with the Gospel of Christ. To learn more about WCK go here:

<http://weecanknow.com/about/>

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**Dear Boys and Girls at \_\_\_\_\_ Church,**

(Your church)

<sup>18</sup> Jesus is the head of the body, which is the church.

<sup>20</sup> God made peace through Christ's blood, through his death on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> At one time you were separated from God. You were enemies in your minds because of your evil ways.

<sup>22</sup> But because Christ died, God has brought you back to himself. Christ's death has made you holy in God's sight.

<sup>23</sup> But you must keep your faith steady and firm.

<sup>25</sup> I serve the church. God appointed me to bring all of his word to you.

<sup>26</sup> That word contains the **mystery ...**

And here is what it is. **Christ is in you. He is your hope of glory.**

<sup>28</sup> We preach about him. With all the wisdom we have, we warn and teach everyone.

**2** I want you to know how hard I am working for you.

I'm also concerned for everyone who has not met me in person.

**That they will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ.**

<sup>3</sup> All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.

<sup>6</sup> You received Christ Jesus as Lord. So keep on living in him.

<sup>7</sup> Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught.

Be more thankful than ever before.

**Your Servant in Christ Jesus,**

*Paul*

Colossians 1:18-2:7 (NIRV)

