

LIVING AT HOME & CHURCH

Children's Thru the Bible Lesson

Week 40

Colossians 3:18-4:18



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 Christian life.

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Week 40: How to live in our earth family and church family

Main Teaching: How to live our Christian Life on earth

Lesson Focus: (1) children will learn God's plan for the family and church
(2) Children will practice praying for their church and others.

Song: Prayer Song (CEF press) Little Kids Can Know God CD #19

<http://cefpress.com/Little-Kids-Can-Know-God-Songbook-and-CD.html>

Sung to the tune of "Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes."

Sometimes God answers "Yes" when I pray (clap 3x)

Sometimes God answers "Wait" when I pray (clap 3x)

Sometimes God answers "No," just because He loves me so;

But I know God always answers when I pray. (clap 3x)

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:20 NIVR; *Children, obey your parents in everything. That pleases the Lord.*

Teach the memory verse as children color picture.

(I include during the teaching that most parents love their children and would never ask them to do anything that breaks one of God's rules. God wants parents to follow his rules and love their children. My inner-city children live in difficult situations; I don't want them to think God approves of child abuse.)

For repetition: *Children can repeat verse several times during the lesson.*

Optional Memory Verse Repetition: Give the children a baby doll or Bible to carefully pass from one child to the next as they repeat the verse.

Introductory Activity: Use Commandment 5 color sheet (see page 9), allow children time to color and encourage them to write or draw ways they can obey parents on the back of the sheet. This is a good time to talk about their families and get to know the children better. *Ask about specific prayer request and write them down for later. Color sheets are therapeutic for my inner-city kids. They love to express themselves and it gives them something they can control.*

Teacher Tip: Getting better acquainted with your children helps you build relationships and gives you understanding of their lives when you prepare to teach. Recruit volunteers to assist at each table.

Colossians 3:18-4:18

New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Part 1: How to Live in Your Earth Family

Lesson Introduction: Did you know when you become a Christian you belong to two families? You belong to the family here on earth and you also belong to God's family.

Teacher Tip: Use caution when you speak about our earthly families. We cannot assume that children live with their birth family or that their family is consistent—sometimes children live between more than one home.

Paul wrote some advice for how to live with our earth family. Have children open Bibles and read along or print out the scripture passage for children to read.

¹⁸ **Wives**, follow the lead of your husbands. That's what the Lord wants you to do.

¹⁹ **Husbands**, love your wives. Don't be mean to them.

²⁰ **Children**, obey your parents in everything. That pleases the Lord.

²¹ **Fathers**, don't make your children bitter. If you do, they will lose hope.

²² **Slaves**, obey your earthly masters in everything. Don't do it just to please them when they are watching you. Obey them with an honest heart. Do it out of respect for the Lord.

Verses 18 – 22: Paul gave guidance for Moms, Dads, children, and slaves. We do not have legal slavery in the United States but we do have employees and this advice is good for everyone who has a job! Paul knew that for families to get along here on earth, Moms, Dads, Parents, and children all needed to show love and respect for each other. That's not always easy is it? Paul gives some important advice to help us get along.

You can include teaching about sin here: When we break God's rules for families the Bible calls it "sin". God loves you and your family, He wants us to love and respect each other. Our sin problem causes sadness and problems in our families. When you disobey our parent's rules they must punish you. God must punish sin too. His punishment is separation from God. The Good News is that Jesus took our punishment when he died on the

cross for you and me. He now lives in Heaven and He made the way for us to belong to God's forever family! We can call on Jesus and ask Him to save us from our sin problem.

Paul had advice for those who work. Do you ever work? Let's see what Paul says...

Read verses 23-25; 4:1

For Slaves and for Everyone:

²³ Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. ²⁴ Work because you know that you will finally receive as a reward what the Lord wants you to have. You are serving the Lord Christ.

²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be paid back for what he does. God treats everyone the same.

4 Masters, give your slaves what is right and fair. Do it because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Whether you are a mommy, daddy, child, or employee, or boss-- we can work with a good attitude. Remember that God sees you and He will reward you. God also sees those who are cheating or not doing their job. Sometimes we get resentful when we look at others and we become discouraged. Paul reminds us to work for Jesus and do a good job!

Pause and ask children about jobs they do at home.

Activity: Place different household jobs children can perform on cards. Allow children to randomly draw one of the cards and role play the job. Let other children guess the job. Suggested jobs: folding clothes, washing dishes, setting the table, picking up toys, dusting, sweeping, feeding a pet, and bringing in groceries.

Let's see what God's Word says about living in God's Forever Family or our Church Family:

Part 2: How to Live in God's Family

² Spend a lot of time in prayer. (Paul shares things to pray about.)

- Always be watchful and thankful. (Thank you prayers and events of the day prayers.)
- ³Pray for us too. (Church Leader prayers and missionaries)
- Pray that God will open a door for our message. Then we can preach the mystery of Christ. Because I preached it, I am being held by chains. (Prayer for the persecuted Christian. You can learn more at <http://opendoorsusa.org>)
- ⁴Pray that I will preach it clearly, as I should. (Prayer for pastors)

As time permits, the main emphasis for this section is to pray! This is an excellent opportunity to teach children to pray.

Create some prayer cards using index cards with a praying hand sticker on it, or any sticker will do. You can also make prayer cards with Word and clipart, I just used slips of paper!

On some cards write: Thank you God for...

On others write names of missionaries, pastors, and church leaders, the persecuted church (chose a specific country), and any current event. For my young children I just wrote one word and told them what their card said as I handed it to them. Example, I gave JC a card that said, "Pastor," and I said, "Your card says Pastor, you can pray, thank you God for my Pastor."

Distribute the cards to the children (allow them to pray for their specific request. Assist the children who are uncertain how to pray. If a child does not want to pray, that's okay, he can pray silently if he desires.)

Close the prayer time by praying for the children and any specific prayer they mentioned during the color activity.

Encourage the children to use their prayer card at home too.

Conclusion:

Paul reminds us to be wise in our actions and words. Read verses:

In Actions: ⁵Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity.

In Words ⁶Let the words you speak always be full of grace. Season them with salt. Then you will know how to answer everyone.

With God's help, we can live the Christian life in our homes and at our church. We can show God's love to those outside the church in our actions and in our words.

Invitation: If you are not a Christian, Jesus made the way for you to belong to God's family when he died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. Today He lives in heaven and you can confess your sin to God and call upon Him, asking Him to save you from the punishment of sin, committing to follow His way for your life.

For training on counseling go to: go to <https://online.cefcmi.com/course/view.php?id=248>

Teacher Tip: A good time to counsel children for salvation is while the other children participate in another activity; i.e., coloring, working puzzles, or play dough.

Different Age Groups: I teach this lesson to various age groups. For the younger children, I will only chose key verses from the Bible (two or three) to read and allow time for more activity. My older children love to read the passages and I allow them to read the verses. If I have a mixture of older and younger, I get the older to assist with the younger (help them find verses in the Bible, read the verses for them, team a younger child with an older child). My inner-city older children love the younger child activities like coloring, play dough, and puzzles just as much as the younger child! I try to add variety each week to prevent boredom. Sometimes the Gospel seems repetitive but my children never get tired of hearing the Gospel. Once they learn the Gospel, I allow them to teach those truths by asking them key questions.



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.

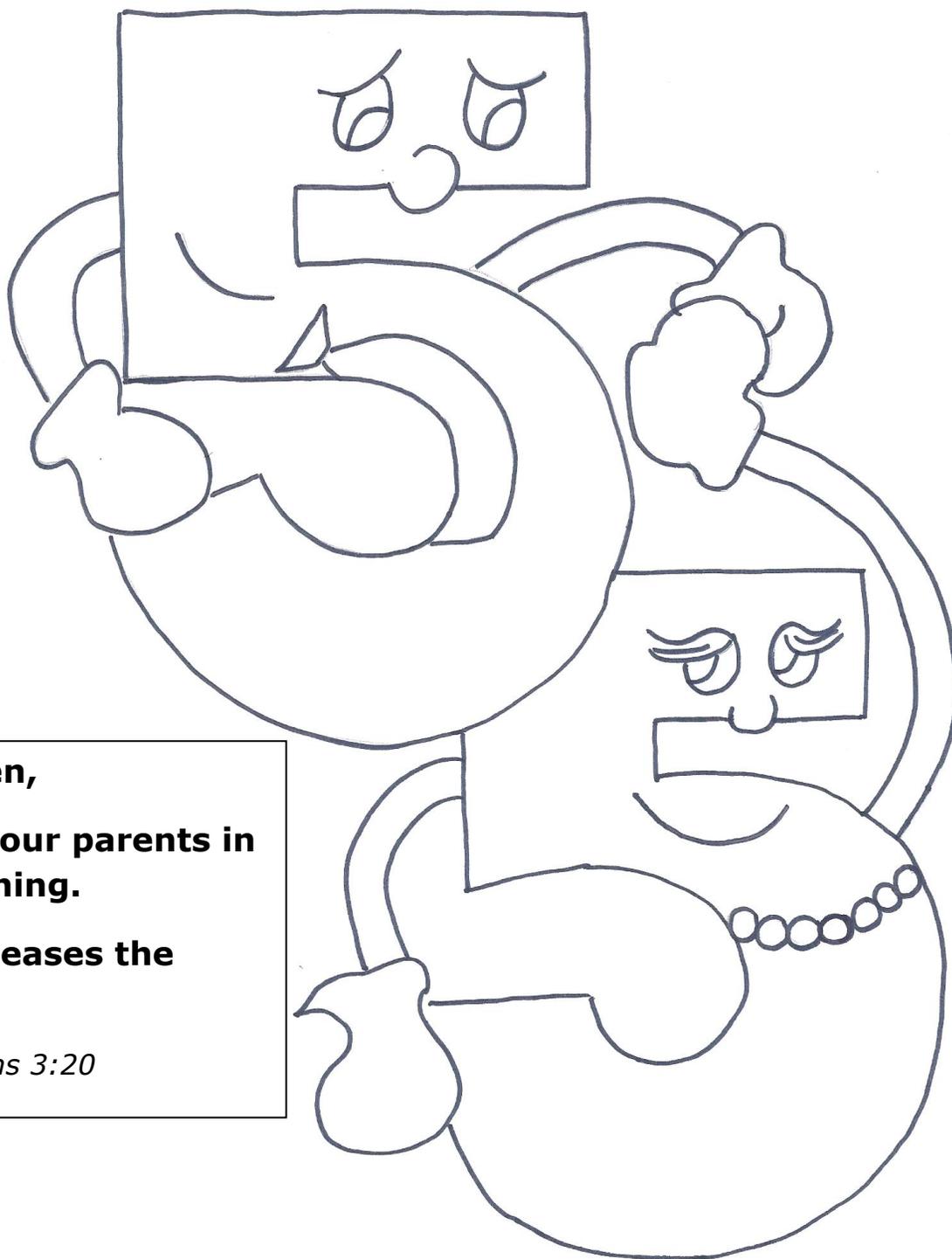
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<http://weecanknow.com/about/>

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Children,

**Obey your parents in
everything.**

**That pleases the
Lord.**

Colossians 3:20

A Mom and Dad number 5 remind us of Commandment 5:

Honor your Mother & Father.