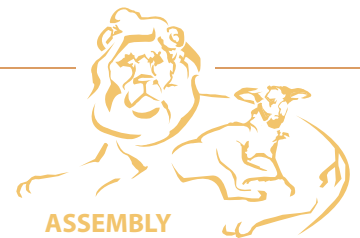


THE GIFT OF MEN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EPHESIANS 4:10-16



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Supplies

- a group of building blocks
- a pair of glasses
- a staff
- a Bible
- a net

Spread out the objects on a table. These objects represent the different roles that men in leadership in the church represent. Ask the children to guess which object represents Apostle, Pastor, etc. Use the following list to guide your description of each office. You can also tell the children there are often shared responsibilities; for example a teacher can also pastor or build local churches.

- Apostle – (building blocks) He is a builder of local churches. He is responsible to make sure that churches in his care do not drift away from the truth of God's word (sound doctrine). He helps churches with their problems and can help start new churches.

- Prophet – (eyeglasses) He encourages God's people from the Bible, to strengthen and comfort the church. He encourages, strengthens, and comforts the church and encourages others to use their prophetic gifting to do the same.

- Pastor – (staff) He is a shepherd of God's people helping to lead them to a better understanding of the Gospel and helping them as they look to grow up in Christ. He also corrects them when they stray from God's good path for their life. Pastors preach and teach from God's Word, the Bible.

- Teacher – (Bible) A teacher teaches the church from God's Word. This is a gift that is often paired with a pastor since pastors must be able to teach.

- Evangelist – (net) The evangelist is the fisher of men. He equips the people in the church to share the Gospel. Sometimes we can think that it is his job to share the Gospel. Though this is true, he helps people to see that God wants all of us to share the Gospel.

THE GIFT OF MEN

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TOSSED BY THE WAVES

Supplies

a bag to hold the following: a bag of candy, an empty ice cream box, an empty frozen broccoli bag, a can of green beans, a can of soda, a fresh carrot, and a pack of gum

Read Ephesians 4:14-15 again explaining that God gives the people of the church special men so that we are not tossed to and fro in the waves by all the other voices of the world.

Hold up the candy and ask the children what they think when they see the candy. They will likely answer in a way to give away their affections for sweets but not about the dangers of sweets. Then hold up the frozen broccoli bag. You should get a different reaction. Explain to the children that the sweet things of life call out to us. It is not that they are all bad but if we only ate candy, for instance, we would get sick.

Go through the items in the bag and then bring the following comparison to them. We need parents to help regulate, or lead us, in our diet. They help us to make wise choices and not be tossed by the waves and blown by every idea of something we would like to eat. Similarly God gave the church men to make sure that the people of the church don't just do what feels good but do what pleases the Lord. Pastors, apostles, teachers, evangelists and prophets all help us to keep our eyes focused on a balanced diet of the Gospel. We need to remind ourselves of the Gospel everyday. The Bible calls the Word of God real food and even Jesus is called the bread of life.

THE GOSPEL ANCHOR

Supplies

a boat anchor and rope

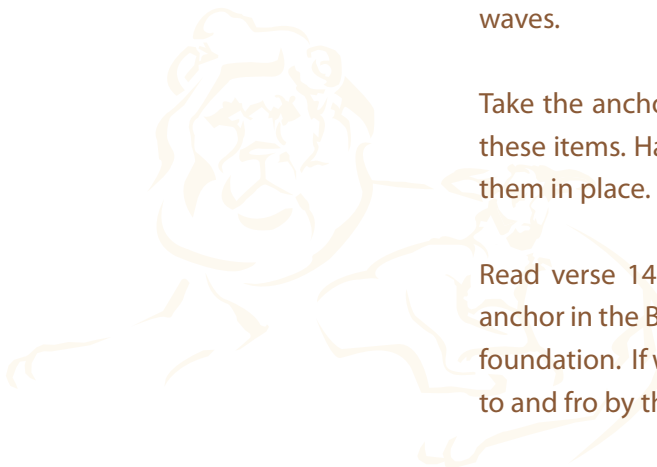
Ask the children if they know what the anchor is and what it is for. Explain to them that

an anchor holds a boat in place on the water by holding fast to the ground below the ship.

If a boat or ship does not have an anchor it will get tossed to and fro by the waves.

Take the anchor and hook it around a few chairs and a table so that it snags these items. Have the children pull on the anchor to see how it works to hold them in place.

Read verse 14 again and tell them that God and His covenant is called an anchor in the Bible (Hebrews 6:19) and that Jesus is our rock (Luke 6:48), or firm foundation. If we have an anchor and a rock to hold on to, we will not be tossed to and fro by the waves of life.



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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

The purpose behind giving these gift ministries to the church is outlined by Paul in verses 12 and 13. He tells us that they are given for the building up of the body of Christ until we attain unity and the knowledge of the Son of God.

The most important knowledge of the Son of God is what the Son accomplished at Calvary and what that means for our lives. Christians who recognize the amazing sacrifice of Christ to pay the penalty of our sins will not be fooled by the competing voices of the world. The only answer to our dilemma as sinners is the work of Christ. Other voices might sound comforting, but ultimately will not serve to remove our sin and guilt. Once we understand the Gospel, our humble opinion of ourselves, along with a thankful heart will ground us firmly on the Gospel and no manner of waves or wind will try to dislodge us. To help us, God equips men to teach and care for us along the way.

