

Teaching Text: Ephesians 1:7-12

Teacher Study Notes:

1. Paul starts out in verse 2 highlighting God's grace. This is an undeserved favor. Make sure that this concept is understood and connected to what Paul discusses in this book.
2. Look for the repeated words in the context of this passage. There are several key phrases that are repeated like *praise* and *in Him* or *in Christ*. These provide important connections that will help with your personal understanding and the development of your lesson.
3. Think about the connection that Paul had with this group of believers. The time that he spent with them allowed him to speak directly to them. Paul challenged them in order to help them stand firm in their faith and not waver. However, read Revelation 2:1-7 where God talks to the church of Ephesus about their faithful practice of standing for the truth. The problem that this church faced is that in the practice of their faith they lost their love for Christ. Think about this aspect of the Ephesian church as you develop your application. How can a person or a church keep their love for God fresh?

Presenting the Bible Lesson

1. **Attraction** of the audience to your Bible lesson with an illustration
Have you ever had to deal with a Pawn Shop? If you have then tell about your experience, if not then explain what happens at a Pawn Shop and why.

Transition by saying..."At a Pawn shop things are sold for one price and bought back at a higher price. Paul is telling the church in Ephesus that they have been bought back (redeemed) by Christ.
2. **Read the Bible passage**
Read the Bible passage out loud or ask someone else to read it out loud
Open in prayer
Make general important observations about the passage and the context
3. **Examination** of the Bible passage with the group
(These questions are to guide your thinking and development of your Bible lesson.)
Summarize the following verse groupings with one word. 7-8, 9-10, 11, 12
Look for the main idea
How do these four ideas develop the main idea of redemption?
Who is the main person doing the action in the whole passage?
Define and explain the concept of redemption.
How does redemption work spiritually?
Why is grace (vs. 7) tied to redemption?
What is the mystery in verse 9? Prove it.
Note the following repeated ideas. Why are they repeated?
Will (1:1, 11); Predestined (1:5, 7, 11); Chosen (1:4, 11)
Who are the first to hope in Christ in verse 12?
Praise is listed in verse 3, 6 and 12. What is the connection?
4. **Application** of the Bible lesson
Ask yourself... What is the connection between Pawn Shop items and the unbeliever?
Why is it humanly hard to accept or understand God's redemption?
How can you and I praise God this week for His work of redemption?