

Get a Life!

*Ephesians*

# Life Skills

Lesson Nineteen

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## *Ephesians*

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

### Life Skills

**Lesson Goal:** To allow students to see that God has prepared us for the new life He gives us.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:7-32

Ephesians now helps us see that when we “get a life” in Christ, we are assigned responsibilities for representing God on earth.\* We are told that Jesus, who is amazing and can do things that we can never do, gave humans tasks. Some He assigned the job of apostle. They were persons who had seen Jesus in person and had witnessed His resurrection. All of those died. Some were assigned the job of prophet. This job was one of wandering around from church to church delivering messages from God’s Holy Spirit. When churches began to assign the task of pastor, which included preaching, the job of the prophets was done. Some were assigned the job of evangelist. These were people who took the message of Jesus to the world. These days we would call them missionaries.

Some were assigned the job of pastor and teacher. This may be seen as two jobs, however it is most likely that Paul meant to identify one job. The pastor/teacher was first to be the shepherd of the church. Pastor means shepherd. The shepherd led his sheep to good places to eat, drink and rest safely. He protected his sheep against other animals. He went to find lost sheep when they wandered away. Pastors have the responsibility to care for the members of the church like that. Also these people were teachers. Since there were very few written accounts of Jesus’ life and ministry, the teachers had to memorize these stories and see that they were always told the right way. It was also true that almost all the people who came into the church at that time knew nothing about Jesus, and many of them knew very little about God, His Father. So, the teachers had a very important task; teaching them about Jesus and God.

These assigned responsibilities, life skills, were given by God for a very specific purpose. Paul says that the task of the church leader is to equip the church members for serving God and making the church stronger in its work. (Ephesians 4:12) The word equip was used in Paul’s day to describe mending nets, or even guiding a church member, who had done something wrong, until they were ready to become a good church member again. So, the job of equipping means that the church leader would teach so well that people who had problems would be “mended” and would become, themselves, skilled in Christian living.

He tells the church leaders that the goal is doing good things in Jesus’ name. The word service, used in verse twelve, means very common ordinary service. It is not about some kind of thing that only church leaders can do, it is about helping people...people who have problems...people who are lonely...people who need to know

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about God and Jesus. The final goal of pastoring and teaching is that the Christians become just like Jesus.

Then, in verses 17-24, the Ephesians were reminded that in their old life they had become numb to sin and really didn't care who saw them doing bad things. They were told that as they give those things up, they should, like putting on new clothes, begin behaving, as our memory verse today says, in ways that are righteous and holy. That means that they always try to be right and always try to be different, just like Jesus was different. (Verse 24)

In verses 25-32, Paul spells out what it means to be righteous and holy. He writes of things that should be totally gone from the life of every Christian. First, there can be no more falsehoods, lying. Always tell the truth in words, and also in what you do. Second, there can be no bad anger. The wrong kind of anger is selfish and is concerned only about you. The right kind of anger is against sinfulness and mistreatment of people who are not able to defend themselves. Jesus was angry (John 2:13-17) in the right way, but remember, He forgave those who crucified Him. Paul continues and warns us that letting our anger go on and on means that Satan wins. Third, there can be no stealing. Now, to Paul, stealing isn't just taking something that doesn't belong to you. Paul is saying that we must earn everything necessary to keep us going, and have some left over to help those less fortunate. Fourth, there can be no unwholesome talk, bad language. We are to only speak words that help people. Fifth, there must be no grieving of the Holy Spirit. We know that God's Spirit leads us in the right way. When we go the wrong way, do the wrong thing and ignore His lead, we grieve Him and also God the Father. Sixth, Paul summarizes; just in case he has not been clear enough. There is to be no bitterness (grudges), no rage (long-term, habitual anger), no brawling (loud, meaningless talking and threats), no slander (insulting words) and no malice (mean talk to hurt someone).

But, there is to be kindness. That is kind talk and kind behavior. We must want others to be happy and healthy. We must want others to have the best that they can have. Kindness means that we will be sorry when someone else is in pain or has any problems. Kindness looks out, not in.

**Memory Verse:** "...be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.." Ephesians 4:23, 24

\*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

# Student Worksheet

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>They always try to be right and always try to be \_\_\_\_\_, just like Jesus was different.

>Things that should be totally \_\_\_\_\_ from the life of the Christian:

First, there can be no more \_\_\_\_\_, lying. Always tell the truth in words, and also in what you do.

Second, there can be no \_\_\_\_\_. The wrong kind of anger is selfish and is concerned only about you. The right kind of anger is against sinfulness and mistreatment of people who are not able to defend themselves. Jesus was angry (John 2:13-17) in the right way, but remember, He forgave those who crucified Him. Paul continues and warns us that letting our anger go on and on means that Satan wins.

Third, no \_\_\_\_\_. Stealing isn't just taking something that doesn't belong to you. Paul is saying that we must earn everything necessary to keep us going, and have some left over to help those less fortunate.

Fourth, there can be no unwholesome talk, \_\_\_\_\_. We are to only speak words that help people.

Fifth, there must be no \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit leads us in the right way. When we go the wrong way, do the wrong thing and ignore His lead, we grieve Him and also \_\_\_\_\_ the Father.

Sixth, Paul summarizes; just in case he has not been clear enough. There is to be no \_\_\_\_\_ (grudges), no \_\_\_\_\_ (long-term, habitual anger), no \_\_\_\_\_ (loud, meaningless talking and threats), no \_\_\_\_\_ (insulting words) and no \_\_\_\_\_ (mean talk to hurt someone).

>But, there is to be \_\_\_\_\_.. That is kind \_\_\_\_\_ and kind \_\_\_\_\_.

### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.