

Teaching Text: Ephesians 1:3-6

Teacher Study Notes:

1. Ephesians 1:3-14 forms one continuous sentence in Greek. It is important to understand this because it highlights the importance and struggle of making an accurate but clear Bible translation.
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
Tell the group about a time you had to make a decision and how you made it.
Transition by saying... "God made an important choice that involved you."
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.)

Who is the main person doing the action?
How does time fit into these verses and why is it important?
Define and explain the word predestined.
Explain how believers are holy and blameless.
Does this mean that believers are sinless?
Define and explain the word adopted.
Why is adoption important in this passage?
Praise is listed in verse 3 and 6. What is the connection?
4. **Application** of the Bible lesson
Ask yourself... What is the connection between praise and being holy and blameless?
Why is it hard to accept God choosing us?
How can you and I praise God this week?