



Brown Bible Merit

Ephesians

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Version 06/2010

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FOCUS
Doctrine

TITLE
Dead Man Walking

REFERENCE
Ephesians 2:1-5

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 1

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

Because of sin, we all are spiritually dead and separated from God. The only way to receive forgiveness, salvation, and real life is through Jesus Christ.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- What does it mean to be “dead in your transgressions and sins”?
- What is God’s plan to give us life?
- Have I allowed Jesus to forgive my sins and give me life?



PREP

- rolls of toilet paper (one per team)
- stopwatch or clock to time 60 seconds

• Notes •

- Refer to the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual* (2010 Edition), chapter 7, Meetings, for more information on teaching Bible Merits.

FOCUS
Doctrine

TITLE
Dead Man Walking

REFERENCE
Ephesians 2:1–5

• brown merit •

Ephesians

...LESSON 1

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:1–5

If you had to choose your favorite movie monster of all time, who would it be? Dracula? Frankenstein? Maybe you would vote more on the hairy side with the Wolfman. Maybe you would cry for your Mummy, that mysterious creature from the past, buried in a pyramid, who has returned from the grave and now stalks the shadowy streets. With a little theatrical makeup, a lot of toilet paper, and a dash of special effects, Hollywood brings new life to this dead man walking.

As fictional and entertaining as the monsters of Hollywood may be, there is a grave reality to this notion of the walking dead. In Ephesians, Paul likened our condition before salvation to

death. He explained that we were dead in our wrongdoings and sins. Obviously since we still have a pulse and are breathing, we assume he didn't mean physically dead. So, what kind of death was he talking about? It is a spiritual death—death from the inside out.

When we have sin in our life, it brings separation between us and God. It acts as a wedge, pushing us farther away from God. This separation causes spiritual death. It would be like unplugging a TV from the electrical outlet. At that point, the TV is dead. Ultimately, if separation from God is not recognized and corrected, it will lead to a much more permanent arrangement—separation from God for all eternity.

So what is the solution to wake the dead? “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” Forgiveness and a relationship with Jesus is the only solution. Jesus helps us to recognize our desperate situation and offers salvation and new life. There is nothing we can do to earn it, no magical words we can speak. All we can do is trust in His grace (unearned favor). When we confess Jesus as our Lord and believe in His death and resurrection, Jesus restores our connection with God and gives us new life. Jesus plugs us back in and removes the sin separating us from God!

No matter our background or where we were born, there is a wedge of sin that separates

us from God. Only through a relationship with Jesus can we receive new life and remove that wedge.

Have you allowed God to give you new life through Jesus or is He still waiting to wake the dead? All it takes is you asking Jesus to plug you in and you will receive that new life!

PRAYER: God, I know that I am a sinner, and without You and Your forgiveness I am nothing more than a dead man walking. I want to be alive in You. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins, I confess Him as my Lord and Savior, and I ask for Your forgiveness for the things I've done wrong in my life. Help me to live in a way that pleases You. Thank You for Your forgiveness and new life. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



REFLECT

Split into teams of two or three people. Each team needs a roll of toilet paper. One person will be the "mummy" and the other person(s) will be the wrappers. When someone says "go," each team has sixty seconds to wrap their mummy. The mummy can neither move nor help. The team with the best wrap at the end of sixty seconds is the winner. For some extra fun, use a couple of rolls of toilet paper for each mummy and see who can get out of the wrapped toilet paper fastest.



RESPOND

Over the next week, think about what it means to be made alive in Christ. Then, enjoy an activity that illustrates what that means. Take a photo, paint a picture, make a sculpture, write in a journal, or build something that you associate with what Christ has done in your life.

7-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN Sunday ·
Monday ·
Tuesday ·
Wednesday ·
Thursday ·
Friday ·
Saturday ·

The *Fire Bible: Student Edition* provides a reading plan that follows a two-year design for reading the entire Bible. Follow that reading plan in order to earn the green Bible Reading merit.

FOCUS
Sexuality

TITLE
Just a Hint

REFERENCE
Ephesians 5:3

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 2

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

A godly man will choose to live a sexually pure life in the face of any temptation. God has given us the tools necessary for our success in overcoming temptation.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- How does the world's view on sex differ from God's view?
- Is the minor or occasional sexual sin safe for a Christian man?
- How can we combat the war of sexually immorality that Satan is waging against the men of God?



PREP

- Bible
- index cards (one per boy)
- markers (one per boy)

• Notes •

- We strongly recommend that this lesson be taught by an adult leader, not a junior leader.

FOCUS
Sexuality

TITLE
Just a Hint

REFERENCE
Ephesians 5:3

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 2

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Ephesians 5:3

How many types of snakes can you name? Which ones are venomous and which are not? How can you tell the difference? What is the most toxic land snake in the world and where is it found?

Hidden in the dry plains and grasslands of central Australia is a snake, brown to olive in color. Its head is either black or it has black markings, and it carries faint banding which is sometimes visible, especially towards the tail. This rarely seen creature, known as the Fierce Snake or Inland Taipan, is recognized as the most toxic land snake in the world. It's said that the venom of a single bite can kill over a hundred human adults.

How much venom is injected in a single bite? Though exact amounts are dependent on the size of snake, a bite usually discharges only drops. Without immediate attention and treatment, a single bite can lead to paralysis and death. When it comes to the venom of the Inland Taipan, a little goes a long way!

In the Book of Ephesians, Paul recorded a very strong warning from God concerning sexual

sin and immorality. He explained that in the life of Christians, "there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity."

Think about that for a minute. What does he mean by not having even a hint of sexual immorality or impurity in our life? Why do you think Paul communicated so strong on this issue?

Much like the venom of the Inland Taipan, even the smallest amount of sin that is allowed to remain in our life will lead to damage and can eventually cause death for our spiritual life. A drop is too much! As men of God, when it comes to sin, especially sexual sin, a little goes a long way!

So, what is proper first aid for the bite of sexual sin? To begin, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In other words, it is a lot smarter to avoid the snake and its bite in the first place than to need first aid after you've been bitten. When it comes to men and sexual sin, avoidance begins with the mind.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 6 to put on the helmet of salvation. We need to ask God daily to help us focus on pure and righteous things. Often, the things we think about become things that we act on. To be successful as men of God, we need to focus our thoughts on things that please God and defend against thoughts that would tempt us to do wrong.

What things do you need to do to defend against temptation? Turn off the TV? Put down the video game? Get rid of the magazine? Stop a friend as he's mid joke? Control what you look at? Allow God to direct you on how to bring your thought life under control.

You may be thinking, *What if I have already been bitten by sexual sin? Is there an antivenom available?* Yes! The Bible makes it clear that we are made clean through prayer and the Word of God. Begin through prayer by asking for God's forgiveness and help to get rid of the sin in your life. Then ask that the Holy Spirit will give you guidance and direction away from sin and temptation. Jesus told us to do that in the Lord's Prayer. Finally, begin to fill your life and mind with God's Word so you have a weapon to fight off the enemy the next time he tempts you to sin. With God's help we can live free from sexual immorality and sin.

PRAYER: Father, I want to be a man of God and live free from sexual sin. Help me to keep guard over what I think, look at, and listen to. With Your help, I choose to put on the helmet of salvation to protect my thought life from the enemy. Thank you for victory over every sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.



REFLECT

As a patrol, read Psalm 119:9–11 together. Discuss the following questions:

- What advice does the writer give on living a pure life?
- How important do you think it is to memorize God's Word?
- Why is it so important?



RESPOND

Get an index card and a marker. On your index card, write out Psalm 119:9. Take this card and put it in a place where you'll see it every day (mirror, dresser, refrigerator door). Use it to remind yourself to spend time in God's Word for help in protecting you from sexual sin.

7-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

Sunday ·
Monday ·
Tuesday ·
Wednesday ·
Thursday ·
Friday ·
Saturday ·

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FOCUS
Godly Manhood

TITLE
Stand Firm

REFERENCE
Ephesians 6:10–17

• brown merit •

Ephesians

...LESSON 3

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

Young men often face opposition to their Christian walk. There is a real enemy fighting for their souls. Young men who want to be successful must properly equip themselves with the full armor of God and determine in their hearts to never quit no matter the opposition.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- What are some of the battles and enemies young men face today?
- How can a young man properly equip himself for the daily battles he faces?
- How can men of God commit and prepare for lifelong success?



PREP

None

• *Notes* •

FOCUS
Godly Manhood

TITLE
Stand Firm

REFERENCE
Ephesians 6:10–17

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 3

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:10–17

Do you like football? What's your favorite professional football team? Who is your favorite quarterback? Is it Drew Brees? What about Peyton or Eli Manning? Is your favorite Tony Romo, Tom Brady, or Donovan McNabb?

How effective would any quarterback be if he

showed up to play in a swimsuit and flip-flops? How long do you think he would last? Better yet, how soon do you think he would be headed to the hospital? A quarterback playing without pads is like Roger Federer showing up without his tennis racquet, or LeBron James leaving his shoes at home—simply ridiculous. Even the greatest athletes cannot defeat their opponents without the right equipment.

As men of God, we are locked in a confrontation much bigger than any football game. Daily we take the field for God's team against Satan and his forces. They may not be flesh and blood opponents, but the conflict could not be any more real. Just like any athlete has to properly suit up to face the opponent on the field, men of God have to properly suit up to face their enemy. Your first step toward victory begins with putting on the right uniform, the armor of God.

The helmet of salvation helps us guard our thought life. Most of the battles you will ever face start in your mind. Living a life of truth will keep us from getting tripped up. Righteousness, or right living, will help to guard our heart and keep it pure. A determination to tell other about Jesus will keep us moving in the right direction. Our faith in God will shield us from the devil's lies and attacks. With God's Word, our greatest weapon, we have the ability to take out any demon that would stand in our way. God has

given us everything we need to be successfully armored for battle with the devil.

After preparing for battle, you may ask yourself, *What good is the best equipment if you never take the field?* We have to go out and take our stand against the enemy to put this armor to good use.

God is looking for men who are fully dressed in their armor and ready to take on the enemy. He is looking for men who will fight for their families. God is looking for men who will fight for their friends. He is looking for men who will stand up for what is right even when it is not easy or popular. He is looking for men who will never give up, never give in, and never surrender. When the going gets tough, God wants men on His side who refuse to quit. God is looking for men who want to be His champions and are prepared to take on the devil. Will you be one of those men?

PRAYER: God, please give me the strength to overcome my enemies. I want to be fully equipped with Your armor so that I will be ready no matter what Satan may throw at me. Guard my heart and mind. Help me to be a man of truth. Let me carry the good news everywhere I go. Give me the faith to stand in every battle and help me to know and use Your Word. I want to be a champion for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.



REFLECT

As a group, talk about the different ways God wants us to fight the enemy.



RESPOND

Go to your local school or neighborhood library (or with parental permission, go online) and read about medieval knights. Read specifically about the pieces of armor knights used and what they were used for. Then, talk with another member of your patrol about how each piece of armor represents God's protection in your spiritual life.

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FOCUS

Biblical Worldview

TITLE

Ambassadors in Chains

REFERENCE

Ephesians 6:19,20

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 4

• FOR THE LEADER



• PREP

**FOR THE LEADER****WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:**

In many locations throughout our world, Christians are imprisoned, beaten, and even killed for their faith. We have a responsibility to fight for them in prayer, asking God to give them strength in their persecution.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- Does persecution of the church still exist today?
- What is our responsibility as men of God to Christians around the world facing persecution for their faith?

**PREP**

None

• Notes •

- The following are answers to the puzzle at the end of the lesson.

Across:

1. John
5. Matthias
6. Simon
7. Stephen
10. Luke
11. James

Down:

1. James
2. Thomas
3. Matthew
4. Paul
8. Andrew
9. Peter

Ephesians

... LESSON 4

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:19,20

What sacrifices have you made because of your faith in Jesus Christ? Have you encountered opposition for reading or carrying your Bible? On August 5, 2008, eight high school students from a small African country were imprisoned in a metal shipping container after they objected to authorities confiscating and burning 1,500 Bibles. That same month, in a prominent Middle Eastern country, a young woman had her tongue cut out and she was then burned to death by her own father because of her conversion to Christianity.

These are just a couple of countless stories from around the globe about the persecution Christians face today. While we regularly enjoy the freedom to worship God openly without fear of death or imprisonment, millions of our brothers and sisters through the world face unimaginable persecution for their faith.

This type of treatment is nothing new to the followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself warned His followers that they would face persecution

for following Him, even going so far to say that “Men will hate you because of me.” (Matthew 10:22) Throughout church history, Christians have been imprisoned, beaten, stoned, thrown to the lions, burned at the stake, and much more because of their faith in Jesus. And in the verses you read earlier, Paul referred to his chains, or imprisonment, because of the gospel.

Can you recall any other individuals from the Bible or history who faced opposition because of their faith?

As men of God, we have a responsibility to our fellow believers around the world who regularly face persecution because of their faith. We need to support them in any way possible. In Ephesians and throughout his writings, Paul asked the believers to pray for him that he would have boldness to continue to preach the gospel even while he was locked in chains.

Prayer is a very powerful weapon in your arsenal. With prayer, a man of God can literally be a part of delivering strength, speaking encouragement, and doing battle all without leaving his room. Through prayer, you can stand beside a missionary as he preaches to the people of South America. Through prayer, you can be part of delivering peace to the Asian pastor locked in prison because of his faith.

How is that possible? It's possible because your prayers have direct access to God. The most

effective strategy to combat persecution of God’s Church is prayer. Your brothers and sisters in Christ need you!

PRAYER: God, I pray for the Christians around the world facing opposition and persecution because of their faith. Please give them boldness and strength to preach the truth and proclaim their faith. Protect them from those who would destroy Your Church. I also pray for the missionaries and their families who are fighting on the front lines, proclaiming the gospel. Please equip them to face whatever challenges come their way. Help me to take seriously my duty to pray for my fellow Christians around the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



REFLECT

Complete the crossword on the next page about the first martyrs of the Church.

For help, look at *Jesus Freaks* by dc Talk and The Voice of the Martyrs.



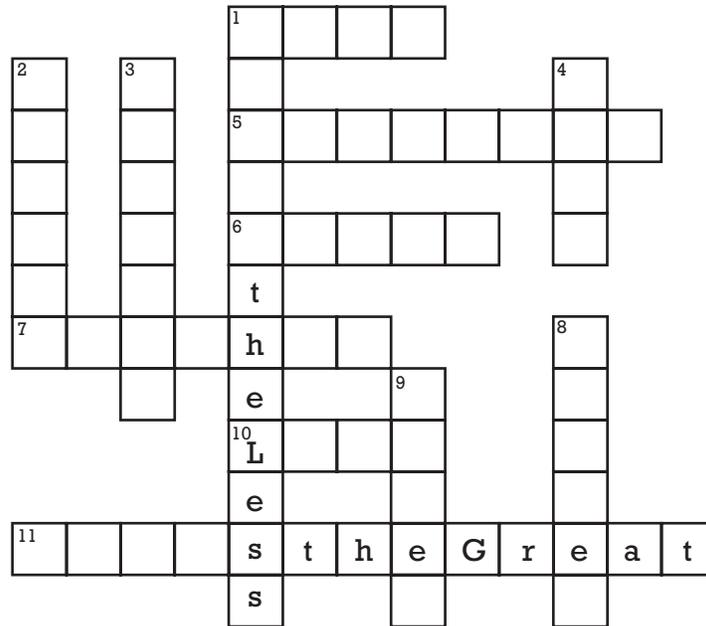
RESPOND

Learn and say Ephesians 6:19,20 for a parent, guardian, or group leader.

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EARLY MARTYRS



ACROSS

- 1. He survived an execution attempt and was exiled to the island of Patmos.
- 5. He replaced Judas and was stoned and beheaded.
- 6. He was known as “the Zealot” and crucified.
- 7. He was the first Christian martyr.
- 10. This doctor and author of Acts was hanged.
- 11. He was John’s older brother and was beheaded.

DOWN

- 1. This leader of the Jerusalem church was killed by having rocks thrown at him.
- 2. Doubting no more, this disciple was killed by a spear.
- 3. This former tax collector was beheaded.
- 4. This apostle was beheaded by order of Emperor Nero.
- 8. The brother of Peter was crucified on an X-shaped cross.
- 9. He requested to be crucified upside down because he didn’t feel worthy to die like Jesus.

FOCUS
Cultural Issue

TITLE
Tongue-Tied

REFERENCE
Ephesians 4:29

• brown merit •

Ephesians

... LESSON 5

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

As men of God, we must be careful to guard what we say and use our speech to build up others rather than to tear them down.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- Does what we say really matter?
- What does freedom of speech really mean?
- As a man of God, how can I use my words to build up others and bring glory to God?



PREP

- index cards (one per boy)
- pens or pencils (one per boy)

• *Notes* •

Blank area for taking notes.

Ephesians

... LESSON 5

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Have you ever heard the old rhyme, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”? Do you think that saying is really true? At some point, you have probably found out that words can be very damaging. Have you ever been hurt by someone else’s words? Have you ever hurt someone with your words?

Many people today lean too heavily on freedom of speech. They feel they have the right to say whatever they want, whenever they want regardless of who they may hurt in the process. Sticks and stones may bruise the body, but words have a way of bruising your feelings.

Paul reminded us in Ephesians that we should be careful when we open our mouth because what we say is important to God. He cautioned us not to let any “unwholesome talk come out of our mouths.” What do you think he meant by unwholesome talk? Cursing and swearing? Teasing? Dirty joking? Hurtful sarcasm? Unwholesome talk can probably be summarized as speech that Jesus wouldn’t use.

Would Jesus be pleased with or caught repeating what you are saying? It can be so hard not to just join in when we are surrounded by unwholesome talk. But a man of God is responsible in his choice of words. Paul told us that our words should be helpful to build up others and benefit those who listen. That is exactly the kind of speech a man of God should participate in.

We should be encouragers, self-esteem builders, and supporters of those around us. When was the last time you encouraged someone who was having a bad day? How often do you speak a kind word to your brother or sister? Do people usually feel better or worse after talking to you? Can people recognize Jesus in you after you talk to them? As men of God we are called to use our freedom of speech to be a blessing to the world around us.

Just because you can say something doesn’t mean you should. Some people make comments like, “It’s a free country” or “It’s my first amendment rights,” to excuse hateful, rude, or degrading speech. However, being a Christian means that even though you may have a right to say something, that doesn’t mean it’s the right thing to say. Remember, truth without love is abrasive. In everything you say, love as Christ loves us.

PRAYER: God, help me today to put a guard over what I say. Let my speech be clean and my words encouraging. Give me the courage to be a man of God and to refuse to listen to or participate in any conversation that does not bring You glory. When I open my mouth, let others see Jesus in me. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



REFLECT

With your group sitting around a table, take an index card and write your name at the top. Pass the cards one person to the left. Write a positive or encouraging comment about the person whose card you now hold.

Try to make it a more meaningful compliment than just complimenting his shoes. When everyone has written, pass the cards to the left again. Keep going until everyone has their own encouragement card back. Take these cards home and read the comments so you can be encouraged by your fellow Royal Rangers every day.



RESPOND

This week, write a letter or note of encouragement to the people you live with. Let them know something specific you appreciate about them. Encourage them if they are having a bad day or week. You can even share a favorite Bible verse. Use your words to make your home a better place. Next week be sure to tell your leader how it went.

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