

Letters from Paul

Lesson 7. Colossians

OBJECTIVES:

- To explain that the book of Colossians was written as a letter from Paul to the church at Colosse while he was in prison in Rome
- To show that Colossians and Ephesians, the twin epistles, are similar yet different

BEFORE CLASS:

Copy the activities. The game will need to be copied on card stock or heavy paper, but the other activities should be printed on copy paper. Read the instructions for the shoe race and decide whether or not you will need to bring a grocery sack to class. Read through the lesson and determine if you will teach all or just part of the lesson.

LESSON:

Today we are going to talk about the book of Colossians. Colossians has a whole lot of the same thoughts and words as the book of Ephesians. We talked about Ephesians two weeks ago. Paul wrote both Ephesians and Colossians while he was in prison in Rome. All together there are four New Testament books written by Paul while he was in prison in Rome. He wrote them just a short time apart. Do you remember that we said Ephesians was written to the Christians in Ephesus because false teachers had come in and were teaching things that were not right? Well, the same thing had happened in the church at Colosse. A man from the church in Colosse, named Epaphras, had come to visit Paul. He told Paul about the problems that the church in Colosse was having. Paul wrote the Colossian letter and asked that it also be read to the Christians in Laodicea. Laodicea was a place close to Colosse and Paul wanted the Christians there to hear the same things. Tychicus was the man that delivered the Ephesian letter, and he also delivered the Colossian letter.

Because the letters of Ephesians and Colossians are so much alike, we call them the twin epistles. The word “epistle” means letter, remember? What about the word “twin”? Do you know any twins? They can be two brothers, two sisters or even a boy and a girl born at the same time to the same parents. BUT, are they exactly alike? Not exactly are they? Even if they look the same on the outside, they will have some differences about them. Ephesians and Colossians are not exactly alike but they are very similar. Even though they have some differences, they do not say ANYTHING that doesn’t match the truth. Let me explain: The Bible never contradicts itself. That means that it never tells us to do one thing in one book and then tells us not to do that same thing in another book. You remember that even though the writers of the Bible were men like Paul, the author of the Bible is God. Remember the word we used? Inspired. Paul told us not to believe anyone who told us anything differently than he did, because he taught Jesus’ words. The false teachers who had come into Ephesus and Colosse were teaching words that were different than Paul’s words. That is why Paul wrote both letters. To help them remember the truth and to tell them not to do things differently than what God wanted.

There is a verse in Colossians that tells us to set our minds on things above and not on things on the earth (Col 3:2). Paul wanted to remind us that the things we do on earth will only last a little while, but heaven is forever. We need to have heaven as our goal. Remember, it is like a finish line. We should live like we are running toward heaven.

I will say the thirteen books that we are learning about and then you can try to say them with me. Romans, 1st Corinthians, 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1st Thessalonians, 2nd Thessalonians, 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy, Titus, Philemon.

ACTIVITIES:

Circle the answer: The questions for this activity are easy ones.

Harder activity: This is harder and is provided for the older students that can read and write some.

Color: The children should color the picture from each pair that illustrates Col 3:2. Talk about these choices while the children color.

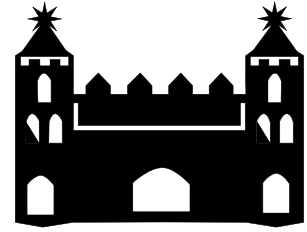
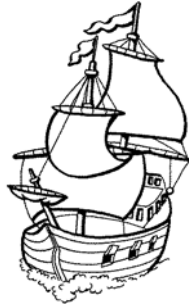
Match Card Game: This is a game of similar matches. This can be played several different ways. An easy way to play would be to print cards in two different colors. Pass all the cards out of one color and put the cards of the second color, face up, on the table. Let the children find their similar matches and show them to the class at the end of the game. Another method would be to have the second set of cards placed upside down and let the children take turns choosing a card to see if they can find one to match the cards they have in front of them. The hardest way to play would be to print all of the cards on one color and lay them all face down. This would be for older children. You will have to decide how difficult you need the game to be.

Shoe match: Have the students remove their shoes. Point out that the shoes match and even though they are a matching pair, they are not exactly alike. There is a right shoe and a left shoe. Show the children how the shoes are the same and different. Put all the shoes into a pile and tell the students that you are going to play a game. Set a timer and see if everyone can go to the pile of shoes, find their pair and put them on. Set the timer for two minutes. See if anyone is done. Don't make the game into a win or lose situation. Make sure everyone has fun. To make it easier and not competitive at all, you could have everyone put one of their shoes in a big brown bag. Each student should take turns pulling a shoe out of the bag and matching it to one of the shoes that is being worn by a student.

SONGS AND PRAYER:

Thank God for the Bible. Specifically mention the book of Colossians and the writer Paul. Ask God to help us all to have a good attitude. Sing the books of the New Testament. Sing "Be Careful Little Mouth," and "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy."

Where was Paul when he wrote his letter called Colossians?



Who delivered the Colossian letter?



A mailman

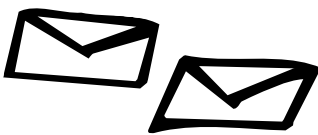


His friend Phebe



His friend Tychicus

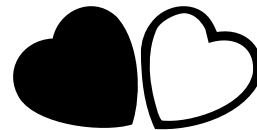
Ephesians and Colossians are called:



The twin epistles



The light letters



The books of love

Colossians 3:2 tells us to set our mind on:



Who wrote Ephesians and Colossians?

Twins are:

exactly alike similar opposites

Ephesians and Colossians are called twins because:

they are a lot alike every word is the same

Was Paul in prison because he was bad?

Was Paul in prison for preaching the truth?

Color the thing in each pair that is more important for us to set our minds on. (Col 3:2)

