



A G E L E S S

Touching all Generations with God's Good News

YOUTH Lesson - Remodeled through the Gospel

**MISSION
GEORGIA**

Season of Prayer and Offering
for State Missions

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⁷ I was made a servant of this Gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of His power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of the Messiah, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. ¹⁰ This is so God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. ¹¹ This is according to His eternal purpose accomplished in the Messiah, Jesus our Lord. ¹² In Him we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. ¹³ So then I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory. ¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father. ²¹ To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:7-14; 21 HCSB)

HEADS-UP PREPARATION

- You will need an example of a remodeling project.
- You might want to enlist a remodeling contractor.
- You might want to bring in hammers, saws, and other remodeling tools.
- You might want to find some before and after pictures of a remodeling project.
- You might want to contact church leadership about a remodeling project the students could do.

Large group or introduction

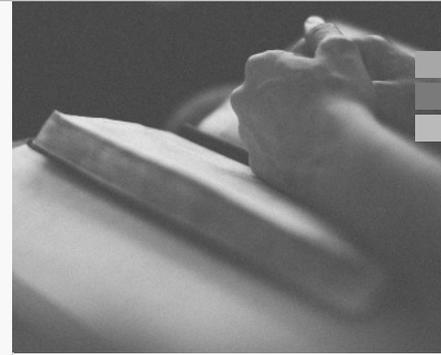
INTRODUCTION

Ask the students if they ever watch shows like *This Old House*, *Flip This House*, or one of those shows on HGTV that shows an old rundown house. Experts or novices take the house and give it much more value by remodeling it. The results can be pretty amazing. The before and after views of the remodeled house show what money, work, and talent can accomplish. An old rundown house isn't worth much, but a clean, freshly painted and updated house is a valuable asset. Remodeling can be hard work, but can produce a wonderful result.

Perhaps in your city or state there has been an old district of downtown that has been rejuvenated. In Oklahoma City an old nearly abandoned warehouse district has been converted into a restaurant and entertainment destination. The “Bricktown” area has a canal with tour boats, museums, sports areas, new hotels, and upscale shopping. Before, it was an old dilapidated and almost unusable part of the inner city. Now it is a busy, bright, and attractive location that serves as the entertainment hub of the city. An entire inner city has been transformed.

Ask the students if they have been involved in any remodeling projects. There might be an example at your own church! ((Can you provide pictures of part of your church facility before it was remodeled?) Discuss why people would want to remodel an existing space.

If you have a remodeling contractor or someone of similar background in your church, ask if he or she could provide some pictures and come and talk about his or her experience.



Teaching Goal

Through the study of this passage we will show how God's gift of grace can transform lives.

Teaching Plan

Welcome and

Announcements

5–7 minutes

Large Group or Introduction

10–15 minutes

Discussion Outline

20–30 minutes

Probing Question

1. God's graciousness is the beginning point. (verse 7)
2. God's graciousness is beyond limits. (verses 8–9)
3. The unusable becomes usable. (verse 8)
4. The unknowable becomes knowable. (verse 9)
5. God's graciousness is broadcasted by the church (verse 10–11)

Wrap-Up and Closing

Prayer 5–7 minutes



Application

A house or building doesn't decide one day to remodel itself. Instead someone sees the possibilities for the remodeling project. A house may have a lot of potential and a great location. But a house has never remodeled itself. Paul looked at his life with the idea that God had chosen to remodel him. And like a rundown house with a lot of potential, Paul was part of God's reclamation.

Discussion Questions

- How gracious (kind, forgiving, finding favor) was God toward Paul?
- Often when there is a remodeling project before and after are shown pictures. How was Paul different after he met Christ than he was before he met Christ?
- Why was it important to Paul to give all the credit to God for calling him into the ministry?

2. God's graciousness is beyond limits.

When we encounter God's grace there are always changes. Paul describes two remarkable changes. One was personal and the other was practical.

a. The unusable becomes usable.

Paul's life was counterproductive to God's people. But Paul's unusable life, one that persecuted the church, became very usable. Paul would proclaim the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles. He conducted missionary journeys that would result in millions coming to know Christ, including believers today. Paul didn't consider his life before Christ as having much value, even though he was quite accomplished in the non-Christian world. Paul considered it a mission to preach the Gospel. He was willing and glad to be used by God for His Kingdom purpose.

b. The unknowable becomes knowable.

Paul was gifted by God to make the Gospel clear. The Good News of Christ was never a secret. But for those who haven't heard, it was a mystery. It is very important to communicate to students that the Gospel is not a secret.

NOTES

Discussion Questions

- What about the world does God want to see remodeled?
- What can the church do better than an individual might do alone?
- What are some of the best “remodeling tools” our church has?
- Are you involved in God’s eternal purpose?

Wrap-up and Closing Prayer

We began by using a remodeling analogy to talk about how God worked in the life of the Apostle Paul. Remodeling was a way for us to talk about how the grace of God can change our lives. We also looked at how God is interested in making His “remodeling plan” known to everyone through the life of the church. Challenge the students to consider areas of their personal lives. Perhaps God still needs to do some remodeling work. Just as the Apostle Paul’s life was greatly altered by his encounter with Christ, so are our lives. If there is no remodeling, change, altering, or transformation then there is no real relationship with Christ. God’s grace is a gift that changes our lives, our church, and our world.

NOTES



Gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia and the Cooperative Program enable us to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission.