



AT THE BEACH

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to grow and mature in our faith.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of going deeper in their faith.

KEY PASSAGE:

Ephesians 4:1-16, One Body in Christ

INTRO

How many of you are heading to the beach this summer? If you're not going to make it to an actual beach, I hope you at least get to enjoy some time at the pool or better yet, a water park. There's no better way to cool off in the summer time than to play in the water, whether it's the beach, the pool, the water park, or even a sprinkler in the back yard.

For many people there's no substitute for the beach. They love the sand, they love the quiet, but most of all, they love the waves. If the wind's blowing, you can get some pretty big waves, even in the shallow end of the beach. It's fun to play in the waves, but waves can be a bit tricky. It can be a real challenge to stand your ground in those waves when you're little, and sometimes you find yourself getting knocked around by the big ones.

But what happens when you grow bigger? You get stronger. You're able to stand your ground. You're not as easily knocked around by the waves.

Today as we start our Beach series, we want to challenge you to go deeper with Jesus. We want you to grow in Christ, and we want you to strengthen your faith. As we will read in today's scripture, God has a very good reason for wanting us to grow in our faith and become strong believers.

READ EPHESIANS 4:1-16

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT

This isn't the only time Paul describes the church as the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians, Paul describes us as one body with many parts, saying we all have a role to play in the church. Here in Ephesians, Paul takes that a step further. We need to grow strong in our faith so that we can do that work.

Sadly, many people think that accepting Jesus as their Savior is enough. They ask Jesus into their hearts, but they don't do anything more. They are, as Paul might say, Christian babies who can't stand up to the waves that knock us around. They are unable to fill the part that God wants them to play in the body of Christ.

There are many roles to play in God's church, including evangelists, pastors, and teachers. It's important that the people who fill those roles know what they believe and how to defend it. We need to build our relationship with God, and grow stronger in our faith!

DRIVE IT HOME

How many of you have seen a little baby? Babies are cute, but they start out completely helpless. They have to be fed, dressed, rocked, and held. They can't even hold a bottle to feed themselves at the start.

As babies grow, their muscles grow stronger. They learn to sit up and roll over. They are able to grasp things, and then they learn how to manipulate them. They go from helpless babes to being able to feed themselves. They learn how to crawl, and then how to walk. The more they grow and mature, the more things they are able to do.

All of you are still in that growing process. You're all doing things now that you couldn't do a year or two ago. Two years from now, you'll be doing even more, trying new things and taking on new responsibilities. It's part of growing up.

God needs us to grow up as believers as well. He wants us to get to know him by reading the Bible and spending time with him in prayer. He wants us involved in our church, where we can worship together and serve the Lord together.

God also wants to strengthen us so that we can stand up to temptation. He wants us to stand up for what's right and speak the truth in love. Christian babies can't do that, but strong, mature Christians can!

This summer, commit yourself to growing up in Jesus. Set aside time to pray, to read the Bible, and go to church. Get involved serving, and look for opportunities to show God's love to others.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Then we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves. We will stand strong and do our part in the body of Christ.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us to go deeper with you this summer, to grow in our faith, and to be more like you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen