

**Big Idea Template  
(worksheet)**

Passage: Ephesians 1:1-11 NLT		Development	
		Step 1. Exegesis. Exact words from your translation.	Step 2. Hermeneutics. Restate as timeless truths.
<b>Discovery</b>	The Big Idea...	All praise to God...who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing...	God deserves our adoration because of the enormity of what He's done for us. (vs. 3)
	1. ...supporting idea...	...He loved us and chose us...	1. He cherished us and selected us. (Vs. 4a)
	a. ...defining idea.	...before He made the world.	a. Before he even created the universe.
	b. ...defining idea.	...to be holy.	b. So we could fellowship with Him.
	c. ...defining idea.	...without fault in his eyes.	c. To make us blameless.
	2. ...supporting idea...	...adopt[ed] us...	2. He made us His. (Vs. 4b)
	a...defining idea.	...in advance.	a. Before we existed.
	b...defining idea.	...into his own family.	b. By making us His children.
	c...defining idea.	...through Jesus Christ.	c. Because of our faith in Jesus Christ.
	d. ...defining idea.	...it gave Him great pleasure.	d. Because it so delighted him.
	3. ...supporting idea.	...purchased our freedom...	3. He paid the price for our release. (vs. 7)
	a. ...defining idea.	...rich kindness and grace.	a. Because He so wanted to give us what we needed most but could not obtain.
	b. ...defining idea.	...with the blood of His Son.	b. Through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ
	c. ...defining idea.	...and forgave our sins.	c. So we could be released guilt and shame.

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	4. ...Supporting idea...	...revealed His plan regarding Christ...	4. Shared his strategy for humanity with us. (Vs.8-10)
	a. ...defining idea.	...a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure...	a. Because it delights Him to do so.
	b. ...defining idea.	...to bring everything together under the authority of Christ.	b. That Christ will return, rule and reign as our glorious King.
	c. ...defining idea.	...at the right time.	d. That can occur at any moment.
	5. ...supporting idea...	...received an inheritance from God...	5. He's provided us guaranteed spiritual riches. Vs. 11
	a. ...defining idea.	...because we are united with Christ.	a. Simply because we trusted Jesus Christ and are therefore joined with Him.
	b. ...defining idea.	...he makes everything work out according to his plan.	b. Because he has authority to make it happen.

**Notes.**

1. There is no set number of Supporting or Defining Ideas. Don't fret if you had less, don't gloat if you had more. Having this many Supporting and Defining Ideas requires culling some of them if you're going to teach this passage as one lesson. There is simply too much information here to present at one time.

**Step 3. Homiletics.** Combine Steps 1 and 2. See next Lesson.