

Paul's Hello to the Romans

Scripture: [Romans 1:1-7](#)

Big Idea:

God calls us to belong to Jesus, and when we believe in Him, we are His saints!

Call to Action:

Everyone who believes in Jesus has a job to do- to follow Him and share His love.

Family Action:

This week, remember that your family belongs to Christ and represents a KING in Heaven.
How can you share his love this week with those around you?

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Review
- Prayer
- Opening question
- Guide students to [Romans 1:1-7](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Read aloud - Ask kids to start their pointer finger on V1 and follow along

Opening Question

“Have you ever written a letter to someone? Maybe to a friend or family member? Paul wrote letters, too, and one of his most famous letters is the book of Romans. Let's see how he begins his letter!”

[ROMANS 1:1-7 NLT](#)

1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. **2** God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. **3** The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, **4** and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. **5** Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

6 And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. **7** I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

- V1 Author: Paul. Paul says he belongs to Jesus.
 - Paul calls himself a *servant of Christ Jesus*.
 - In those days, a servant could choose to stay with a kind master forever.
 - Paul is saying, “I want to and will belong to Jesus forever!”
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[ROMANS 1:2-4](#) God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. [3](#) The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, [4](#) and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.

- V2-4 The Good News was God’s plan
 - Paul says the *gospel* (good news) was promised long ago.
 - God promised through the prophets that He would send His Son.
 - Jesus was born from King David’s family, died, and rose from the dead to show He is God’s Son.
 - Kid Point: God always keeps His promises, and Jesus is the proof.
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[ROMANS 1:5-6](#) Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.
[6](#) And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.

- V5-6 We are called too!
 - Paul says Jesus gave him grace and a special job- to tell people everywhere about Jesus.
 - But then Paul says, “And you are called too!”
 - That means everyone who believes in Jesus has a job to do- to follow Him and share His love.
 - Kid Point: The good news isn’t just for Paul, it’s for us too!
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[ROMANS 1:7](#) I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people.
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

- V7 Saints are God’s people!

- Paul calls the believers in Rome “saints.”
- A saint isn’t just a super-holy person. A saint is anyone who belongs to Jesus.
- That means if you believe in Jesus, *you are a saint too!*
- Kid Point: God calls us His holy people- His saints.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. Who wrote the letter we read today? (*Paul v.1*)
2. Who did God promise long ago that He would send? (*His Son, Jesus v.1*)
3. How do we know Jesus is God’s Son? (*He rose from the dead v.4*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What do you think it means to “belong to Jesus”? (*To be His child, believe in Jesus*)
2. If Paul says we are all “called,” what do you think our job is as Christians? (*Open for answers*)
3. What does it mean to be a “saint”? (*Not just super-holy people, but everyone who believes in Jesus!*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. If God always keeps His promises, how can that help you trust Him more?
2. How does it make you feel to know you are a saint – God’s special person?
3. What’s one way you can live like a saint at home, school, or with friends?

Activities

1: Map Time

Show them where Rome is on a globe or map.

Point to your city and say, “The same good news Paul sent to Rome is the same good news we believe today!”

2: Coloring

Give each child their coloring sheet and have them write: “Saint [Name].”

Remind them: “If you belong to Jesus, you are one of His saints!”

3: Discussion

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death.

Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin – death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Paul belonged to Jesus and followed Him forever.
- God promised long ago to send Jesus, and He kept that promise.
- Jesus is God's Son, proven by His resurrection.
- Everyone who believes is called to share the good news.
- All believers are saints – God's special, holy people.

Paul's Longing & God's Power to Save

Scripture: [Romans 1:8-17](#)

Big Idea:

The gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, so we should live by faith and never be ashamed of it!

Call to Action:

How can you show your family Jesus this week?

Family Action:

Pray together as a family each night this week. Make it special, and parents - be transparent and ask for help from God where it's needed.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures:

- Guide the children to [Romans 1:8-17](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the people of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer finger on V8 and follow along)

Opening Question

"Have you ever wanted to visit a friend really badly, but you couldn't go yet? That's how Paul felt about the church in Rome. Let's see what he writes to them."

[ROMANS 1:8-17 NLT](#)

8 Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world.

9 God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.

10 One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. 11 For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord.

12 When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

13 I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other

Gentiles. [14](#) For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. [15](#) So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

[16](#) For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. [17](#) This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

- V8-10 Paul is thanking God for Others

- Paul thanked God for the faith in Jesus that the people in Rome had. (V8)
- Their faith was so strong that people everywhere were talking about it! (V8)
- Paul prayed for them all the time and wanted to visit them. (vv.9-10)
- **Kid Point:** We should thank God for other Christians and pray for them, even if they live far away.

[ROMANS 1:11-12](#) For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. [12](#) When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.

- V11-12 Encouraging Each Other

- Paul wanted to visit to give them strength and to be encouraged by their faith, too. (V11)
- Faith grows when we share it with one another. (V12)
- **Kid Point:** We help each other love Jesus more when we share our faith.

[ROMANS 1:13-15](#) I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. [14](#) For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. [15](#) So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

- V13-15 God’s Plans Come First

- Paul tried to visit Rome many times, but God had other plans. (V13)
- God wanted Paul to first preach to other nations, even people who didn’t seem important to the Romans. (V14)
- Sometimes God says “wait” because He has a better plan. (V15)

- **Kid Point:** God's plan is always best, even when it's not our plan or we don't understand.

Key God Terms (Theological terms):

Jew/ Jews: God's Chosen people

Gentile: ANYONE who is not a Jew. All of us are Gentiles.

[ROMANS 1:16-17](#) For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

- V16-17 The Power of the Gospel
 - Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” (V16)
 - The gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes- Jews and Gentiles. (V16)
 - The gospel shows us God's righteousness (God's goodness and holiness). (V17a)
 - We can't be right with God on our own- we need Jesus. (V17b)
 - The Bible says, “The righteous will live by faith.” ([Gal. 3:11](#); [Heb. 10:38](#); [Habakkuk 2:4](#))
 - **Kid Point:** The gospel is the best news ever – it shows us how to be right with God, not by what we do, but by trusting in Jesus.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What did Paul say was being talked about all over the world? (Their faith v.8)
2. Why did Paul want to visit them? (To encourage them and be encouraged too. vv. 10-11)
3. Who did Paul say the gospel is for? (Everyone- Jews and Gentiles v.16)
4. What did Paul call the gospel? (The power of God at work, to save v.16)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does it mean to “encourage each other in faith”? (Open for discussion)
2. What does the word “gospel” mean & what is the Gospel? (Good News = Jesus' life, death & resurrection)
3. What does “righteous” or being made right mean? (Being right with God. Jesus' death paid for our sinful nature. We are Heaven-bound!)
4. Jew vs Gentile? (Jews are God's chosen people; Gentiles are people who are not Jews)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you encourage someone else in their faith?

2. What should you do when God's plan is different from yours?
 3. What does it look like to live by faith in Jesus every day (at home, at school, with friends)?
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Activities

1: Hot Gospel

Use a soft ball or beanbag.

Play music while the ball is tossed around the group.

When the music stops, whoever has the ball must answer a question from lesson 1 or 2 (vv 1:1-17)

Bonus: If they get it right, they can toss the ball to the teacher and ask the teacher a question back!

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves)

[Romans 1:16](#) For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

3: Discussion

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Thank God for the faith of others.
- Encourage each other in faith.
- Trust God's plans, even when they're different from ours.
- The gospel is God's power to save – and we live by faith in Jesus.

Trading God's Truth for Lie #1 - Worship Creation

Scripture: [Romans 1:18-32](#)

Big Idea:

When people trade God's truth for lies, sin grows-
But creation shows He is real, and only Jesus can save us.

Call to Action:

Is there something in your life that gets more attention than God?

Family Action:

This week, set aside distractions and fix your attention on God.
Look at His creation and see Him in it. The stars, the huge trees, the tiny bugs, the sunsets.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-15 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 1:18-32](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the people of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V18 and follow along)

Review:

vv.1-15 Paul's Introduction of the letter

vv. 16-17 How we are made right with God (main point of letter)

vv. 18-32 How you're NOT made right; Issue #1 Worship of the Creation (Idolatry/ Paganism)

Opening Question

"Have you ever traded something good for something not-so-good? Like trading a toy you love for one that breaks easily? Paul says people have done that with God- they traded the truth about Him for lies. Let's see what happened."

[ROMANS 1:18-32 NLT](#)

18 But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no

excuse for not knowing God.

21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. 29 Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. 30 They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. 31 They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. 32 They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

- V18 People Hide the Truth

- Paul says people try to hide the truth about God by living in sin. v18b
- But God sees everything, and His anger at sin is real. v18a
- **Kid Point:** We can't hide the truth from God.

Romans 1:19-20 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

- V19-20 God makes Himself known in the beautiful world around us.
 - God shows Himself in creation: stars, animals, mountains, even our hearts. v19-20
 - Nobody can say, “I didn’t know God was real.” v20
 - **Kid Point:** Creation points to the Creator.

[Romans 1:21-25](#) Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. [22](#) Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. [23](#) And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. [24](#) So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. [25](#) They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

- V21-25 People Traded God for Idols
 - Instead of worshiping God, people worshiped statues, animals, and even bugs. v23
 - They traded the truth for a lie. v23 & 25
 - God let them follow their sinful choices. v24
 - **Kid Point:** Worship the Creator, not the creation.

Key God Terms (Theological terms):

Idols/Idolatry: Worship of something other than God.

If we give more attention to something, over God, we must ask ourselves- Is this an idol in my life?

[Romans 1:26-27](#) That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. [27](#) And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

- V26-27 Sin Gets Worse When People Reject God
 - Paul says that when people ignore God, they begin to do shameful things. v26
 - God lets them go their own way, and sin grows worse. v27
 - This shows how much we need Jesus to save us.

- **Kid Point:** Turning away from God makes life broken- only Jesus can fix our sin problem.

[Romans 1:28-32](#) Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. [29](#) Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. [30](#) They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. [31](#) They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. [32](#) They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

- V28-32 A World Full of Sin that Continues to Grow
 - Paul lists many sins: greed, envy, lying, disobedience to parents, hate, gossip, and more. v29-31
 - People not only do these things, but they also cheer others on when they sin. v32
 - God says all of this deserves death- separation from Him forever. v32
 - **Kid Point:** Sin is serious, but Jesus came to save us from sin.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul say God's wrath is revealed against? (*Ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who hide the truth. v18*)
2. How has God made Himself known to everyone? (*Through creation and what He made. v20*)
3. What did people do instead of worshiping God? (*They worshiped created things like people, animals, and idols. v23*)
4. What did Paul say people "exchanged" or traded? (*The truth of God for a lie. v25*)
5. What kinds of sins did Paul say filled the world? (*Greed, envy, gossip, disobedience, arrogance, hate, etc. vv28-32*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does it mean to "suppress the truth"? (*To hide or ignore what we know about God. v18*)
2. Why does Paul say people are "without excuse"? (*Because creation makes it clear God is real. v20*)
3. What happens when people keep rejecting God and His truth? (*God gives them over to their sin- They fall deeper into sin and their hearts grow darker. v28-29a*)
4. Why is approving of sin just as dangerous as doing it? (*v32 They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. What are some ways kids might “trade God’s truth for a lie” today? (Examples: thinking toys, friends, or sports are more important than God)
 2. When you see God’s creation (stars, animals, mountains), how can you respond in worship?
 3. What should you do if you feel tempted to gossip, lie, or disobey your parents?
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Activity #1: Truth vs. Lies Matching Game

Print tiles and cut out

Mix them up and put them in a basket/bag.

Kids take turns drawing a card, reading it aloud, and deciding: TRUTH (from God) & LIE (from people’s sin)

Write a section on the whiteboard for truth/lies

Tape the card under the correct heading on the board.

Activity #2: Memory Verse:

Come up with moves:

[Romans 1:16](#) *For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- We can’t hide the truth about God. (Ignore God)
- Creation shows us God is real. (No excuse)
- People traded God’s truth for lies and began worshiping created things. (Idolatry)
- When we turn away from God, sin only grows worse. (Hearts grow dark)
- The good news: Jesus saves us from sin and makes us right with God. (God’s wrath/judgement)

Trading God's Truth for Lie #2 (Being Good) & #3 (Laws)

Scripture: [Romans 2:1-16](#)

Big Idea:

We can't judge others or rely on rules to save us-
only God is the fair Judge, and only Jesus can make us right with Him."

Call to Action:

Because Jesus is patient with you, we must show patience to others.

Family Action:

This week, come together as a family and admit where you fall short,
ask for forgiveness & pray together.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-15 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 2:1-16](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the people of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv.1-15 Paul's Introduction of the letter

vv. 16-17 How we are made right with God (main point of letter)

vv. 18-32 How you're NOT made right; Lie #1 Worship of the Creation (Idolatry/ Paganism)

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (vv1-11) & beginning of Lie #3 Moralism/
Laws (vv12-16)

Opening Question

"Have you ever pointed your finger at someone for doing wrong, but later realized you've done wrong things too? Paul says we must be careful, because only God is the true Judge."

We cannot reach heaven by doing "good things," so Paul addresses this issue because many people believe that's how you get to Heaven.

[ROMANS 2:1-16 NLT](#)

1 You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge

others do these very same things. ² And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. ³ Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? ⁴ Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

⁵ But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will judge everyone according to what they have done. ⁷ He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. ⁸ But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. ⁹ There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. ¹⁰ But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

¹² When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. ¹³ For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. ¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

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- V1-3 We weren't "good enough" to save— So Don't Judge Others!
 - Paul says when we judge others, we also condemn ourselves because we do wrong things too. v1
 - When we judge the people in the world, we are putting ourselves above them. v2-3
 - God's judgment is perfect and fair- ours is not. v2
 - **Kid Point:** Only God can judge, because he is Perfect! (We are not)

[ROMANS 2:4-6](#) Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. **6** He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

- V4-6 God's Kindness Leads Us to Repentance
 - God is patient, giving people time to turn back to Him. v4
 - But if people refuse God, they're storing up God's judgment. V5
 - God sees every deed and will judge fairly. Concerning salvation & of those saved. v6
 - **Kid Point:** Don't take God's patience lightly- repent while you can!

Key God Terms (Theological terms):

Repentance (concerning being saved)- To recognize you are a sinner (confess) and believe what Jesus did for you (Died on a cross for your sin).

Repentance (concerning day-to-day sin)- To recognize you have sinned (confess) and turn away from sin. Choose God instead of sin.

Romans 2:7-11 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. **8** But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. **9** There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. **10** But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good, for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. **11** For God does not show favoritism.

- V7-11 God Judges Fairly
 - People who live for God will receive eternal life. v7
 - Those who live selfishly and reject truth face God's anger or wrath. vv. 8-9
 - God shows no favoritism- Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, everyone is judged by the same standard for salvation.
 - You're either 100% Righteous (like God) or not. That's the standard of Heaven. vv. 10-11
 - **Kid Point:** God's judgment is always fair.

Following strict rules can't save us! (Nomianism)

RELIGIOUS LIE #3

Romans 2:12-16 When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have

God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. ¹³ For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. ¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

- V12-16 Following Strict Rules Can't Save Anyone! A Heart Change (doing the Law)
 - People who had the Law (like the Jews, Catholics & Mormons, etc.) will be judged by it. v12
 - People without the Law (Gentiles) show heart change- God wrote His law on their hearts. vv13-15
 - On judgment day, even our secrets (our hearts) will be judged through Jesus. v16
 - **Kid Point:** Rules don't save. God sees our hearts— only Jesus can save us.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What happens when we judge others, according to Paul? (*We condemn ourselves, because we do the same things. v1*)
2. Whose judgment is always fair and based on truth? (*God's. v2*)
3. What is God's kindness meant to lead us to? (*Repentance. v4*)
4. What does God give to those who seek Him? (*Eternal life. vv14-15*)
5. Where did Paul say God's law is written for everyone? (*On their hearts, in their conscience. v15*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is it wrong to judge others for sin when we sin too? (*We are not a perfect judge & we were the same before God saved us. vv1-3*)
2. What does it mean that God is patient with us? (*We lived apart from Him at one time, and we aren't judged immediately for our sin. vv4-5*)
3. How does your conscience help you know right from wrong? (*Because God's word is written on our hearts when we believe. We do good because we LOVE Jesus. v15*)
4. Why do we need Jesus even if we try to do good things? (*Because we are 100% sinful if we are not God, so we needed Jesus' perfect life, death & resurrection to take our place to be payment for sin. v16*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. Instead of judging others, what should we do when we see someone sinning? (*Pray, help them, remember we also need God's grace*)
2. How can remembering God's patience help you when you mess up?

3. What's one way you can keep your heart soft toward God instead of being stubborn?
 4. Are you right with God? Do you believe you're a sinner? Do you believe in the work Jesus did for you on the cross?
-

Activities

1: Craft

Conscience Compass

Supplies Needed:

Paper plates (1 per child)
Brass fasteners (1 per child)
Construction paper (for arrows & hearts - can make ahead of time)
Markers/crayons
Scissors
Glue or tape

Instructions:

1) Draw the Compass Base

Give each child a paper plate, or circle of card.

Have them write "God's Law in My Heart" at the top.

[Rom. 2:15](#) on the back.

Divide the plate into 4 sections like a compass.

2) Add the Directions

Instead of North, South, East, West, label the directions with:

LOVE GOD (North)

LOVE OTHERS (East)

OBEY (West)

REPENT (South)

3) Decorate the Heart

Cut out a heart and glue it in the middle of the plate.

4) Make the Arrow

Cut out an arrow from construction paper.

Use a brass fastener to attach it to the center of the heart so it spins.

Explain: Our conscience is like a compass- it points us to God's truth written on our hearts.

5) Spin & Apply

Kids spin the arrow and share one way they can live out that direction.

Example: Arrow lands on OBEY → "I can obey by listening to my parents the first time."

**Teaching Connection:**

Paul said God wrote His law on our hearts.

Our conscience can guide us, but we need Jesus to truly forgive our sin and keep us on the right path. Like a compass points North, God's truth points us back to Him.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 1:16](#) *For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- We shouldn't judge those who aren't saved. We are just as sinful, if not worse.
- God is patient, giving us time to repent.
- God judges everyone fairly- no favorites.
- Our heart shows us right and wrong, but only Jesus can save us. Not any Law.
- The good news: Jesus saves us from sin and makes us right with God.

Trading God's Truth for Lie #3 (Following Laws/Rules) Continued...

Scripture: [Romans 2:17-29](#)

Big Idea:

God doesn't just see what's on the outside- He looks at our hearts.

Call to Action:

Ask yourself? Do I see the Bible as a bunch of rules or laws?

Family Action:

What is one way this week I can show my children that I belong to God- not just by what I say, but by how I live?

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 2:17-29](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the people of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on v17 and follow along)

Review:

vv.1-15 Paul's Introduction of the letter

vv. 16-17 How we are made right with God (main point of letter)

vv. 18-32 How you're NOT made right; Lie #1 Worship of the Creation (Idolatry/ Paganism).

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (vv.1-11) & beginning of Lie #3 Moralism/ Laws (vv.12-16)

vv. 2:17-29 Continuing Lie #3 Following Laws/Rules doesn't make us right with God. (Laws/ Nomianism)

Opening Question

"Have you ever thought, 'I know all the rules, so I'm doing great,' but then realized your heart wasn't right? Paul says having the rules isn't enough- God cares about our hearts."

We cannot reach heaven by following "Laws or Rules," so Paul addresses this issue because many people believe that's how you get to Heaven. Can we keep all the laws/rules? (Think about the laws in your country or at your school.)

[ROMANS 2:17-29 NLT - THE JEWS AND THE LAW](#)

17 You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, and you boast about your special relationship with him. 18 You know what he wants;

you know what is right because you have been taught his law. **19** You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. **20** You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth.

21 Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? **22** You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? **23** You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. **24** No wonder the Scriptures say, "The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."

25 The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. **26** And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? **27** In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it.

28 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision.

29 No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

- V17-20 Knowing the Law Isn't Enough

- The Jews had God's Law and thought it made them special. v17
- They believed this made them teachers and guides for others. vv18-19
- By knowing the Law or rules doesn't mean you're living by them. v20
- **Kid Point:** God wants us to follow Him from the heart, not just know the rules.

ROMANS 2:21-24 Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? **22** You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? **23** You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. **24** No wonder the Scriptures say, "The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."

- V21-24 Hypocrisy Dishonors God

- Paul points out that some Jews taught others but didn't obey themselves. vv21-23
- Saying one thing and doing another is hypocrisy.
- Hypocrisy makes people think poorly of God. v24
- Example of hypocrisy: If a teacher says, "Always tell the truth," but then they tell a lie, that's hypocrisy. Or if a kid says, "Sharing is important," but never shares their toys, that's hypocrisy too.
- **Kid Point:** I need to live what I say I believe.

Key Theological Term:

blasphemed- to speak against God or slander towards God

[ROMANS 2:25-27](#) The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. [26](#) And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? [27](#) In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it.

- V25-27 Outward Signs Don't Save Us
 - The Jews had circumcision as a special sign of belonging to God. v25a
 - But Paul says the sign means nothing if you disobey God's Law. v25b
 - Even someone without the sign but who obeys God is honoring Him more. vv26-27
 - **Kid Point:** What's on the outside doesn't save me- God looks at my heart.

[ROMANS 2:28-29](#) For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. [29](#) No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

- V28-29 True Faith Is in the Heart
 - Being a real follower of God isn't about outward appearances. (Jews, Catholics & Mormons, etc.) v28
 - God's Spirit must change our hearts, not just our outside. v29a
 - Real praise comes from God, not people. v29b
 - **Kid Point:** Only God can change my heart to follow Him.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What did Paul say the Jewish people were proud of having? (*The Law of God* v.17-18)

2. What did Paul ask them about teaching others but not keeping the law themselves? (*Do you dishonor God by breaking the law v.21–22*)
3. What did Paul say about what really makes someone a Jew? (*A true “Jew” is one who has a heart change, by the work of the Spirit v.28–29*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is it a problem to boast about God’s law but not actually obey it? (*You dishonor God*)
2. What does Paul mean when he says “circumcision of the heart”? (*A new heart. The old heart is cut off and a new heart that loves God is given. This takes time and the word of God to change us.*)
3. Why does God care more about our hearts than the rules we try to follow on the outside? (*We can't “make” ourselves more like Jesus by doing rules or law (that's work). A heart shift is triggered by a love for God, which then produces a Jesus-like life.*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. Am I tempted to act “good” on the outside but hide sin on the inside?
 2. How can I let God change my heart instead of just trying harder to keep rules?
 3. What is one way this week I can show that I belong to God- not just by what I say, but by how I live?
-

ACTIVITIES

Activity #1: Heart Change

Supplies Needed:

Construction paper

Scissors

Markers

Directions:

Give each child a heart-shaped paper.

On one side write “Outside,” on the other “Inside.”

Have them list or draw ways God changes the inside (love, honesty, kindness).

On the outside, have them list or draw practical ways they can show God’s love (write a thank you card for a teacher, help cook dinner, mow a neighbor’s lawn)

Activity #2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 1:16](#) *For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Knowing God's rules is not enough—our hearts must obey Him.
- Hypocrisy dishonors God.
- Labels and outward signs can't save us.
- True followers are changed by the Holy Spirit on the inside.

Trading God's Truth for Lie #4 (Jewish) & All People are Sinful

Scripture: [Romans 3:1-20](#)

Big Idea:

No One Is Righteous, No Not One! Only Jesus Can Save!

Call to Action:

This week, choose one thing you can do that will help you grow closer to God.

Family Action:

This week, choose one thing you can do with your children that will help you grow closer to God.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-15 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 3:1-20](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the people of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv.1-15 Paul's Introduction of the letter

vv. 16-17 How we are made right with God (main point of letter)

vv. 18-32 How you're NOT made right; Lie #1 Worship of the Creation (Idolatry/ Paganism)

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (vv.1-11) & beginning of Lie #3 Moralism/ Laws (vv.12-16)

vv. 2:17-29 Continuing Lie #3 Following Laws/Rules doesn't make us right with God. (Laws/ Nomianism)

vv. 3:1-20 Lie #4 Being born a Jew gets you into Heaven. (Judaism)

Opening Question

"Have you ever thought you were 'good enough' to make God happy just by being nice, following rules, or being part of the right family? Paul teaches us that no one is good enough; only Jesus can save us."

We cannot reach Heaven by following rules, laws, or even by the family we are born into, for God looks at the heart. Paul addresses this truth because many believed they could be saved by being good, keeping the law, or relying on being Jewish (God's chosen people).

From last lesson: [Romans 2:28](#) teaches that being one of God's people isn't about what's on the outside, but what's in your heart. Circumcision was just a sign of belonging to God, but the sign only mattered if the person's heart truly loved and followed Him. It's like baptism today- going into the water doesn't save you unless your heart really trusts in Jesus.

Kid Point: What matters most to God is your heart, not just an outside sign.

[ROMANS 3:1-20 NLT - GOD REMAINS FAITHFUL](#)

1 Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision? 2 Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were entrusted with the whole revelation of God.

3 True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? 4 Of course not!

Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him,

"You will be proved right in what you say,
and you will win your case in court."

5 "But," some might say, "our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn't it unfair, then, for him to punish us?" (This is merely a human point of view.) 6 Of course not! If God were not entirely fair, how would he be qualified to judge the world? 7 "But," someone might still argue, "how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him more glory?" 8 And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, "The more we sin, the better it is!" Those who say such things deserve to be condemned.

9 Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. 10 As the Scriptures say,

"No one is righteous—
not even one.

11 No one is truly wise;
no one is seeking God.

12 All have turned away;
all have become useless.

No one does good,
not a single one."

13 "Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave.
Their tongues are filled with lies."

"Snake venom drips from their lips."

14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "They rush to commit murder.

16 Destruction and misery always follow them.

17 They don't know where to find peace."

18 "They have no fear of God at all."

19 Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the

entire world is guilty before God. 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Paul addresses the lie of trusting in Jewish identity by asking and answering five questions.

Question #1: What advantage was there to being a Jew?

- V1-2 Being Jewish is a blessing BUT it's not what saves
 - Paul asks: Is there any benefit to being Jewish? Yes- they received God's Word.
 - Having the Bible is a great blessing- it shows us who God is.
 - But having God's Word doesn't automatically save anyone.
 - **Kid Point:** Having the Bible is a gift- but we must believe and obey what's in it.
-

[Romans 3:3-4](#) True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? 4 Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him,
"You will be proved right in what you say,
and you will win your case in court."

Question #2: What makes someone right with God?

It's not being born into a certain family or group. What makes someone right with God is having faith in Him. God looks at the heart, and everyone must trust Him to be made right with Him.

- V3-4 God is Faithful Despite our Sin
 - Even when people are unfaithful to God, God is always faithful to His word.
 - Example: A Jew- King David even admitted his sin and said God's judgment was fair ([Psalm 51:2-4](#)).
 - God never lies- His words always prove true.
 - **Kid Point:** God is fair and judges everyone the same, no matter who they are.
-

[ROMANS 3:5-8](#) "But," some might say, "our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn't it unfair, then, for him to punish us?" (This is merely a human point of view.) 6 Of course not! If God were not entirely fair, how would he be qualified to judge the world? 7 "But," someone might still argue, "how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him more glory?" 8 And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, "The more we sin, the better it is!" Those who say such things deserve to be condemned.

Question #3: Is it okay to sin if we think it might make God look better?

No. Some people wrongly thought their sin made God look better—like saying, “I broke the law to help the police!” But that’s not true. Sin is always wrong. God doesn’t ignore sin for anyone, because He is a perfect and fair Judge. He treats everyone equally and judges what is right and wrong the right way. vv. 5-6

Question #4 asks, If sin shows God’s goodness, then isn’t sin a good thing?

Some even thought God should thank people for sinning! Paul answers with a silly idea: if that were true, then we should do bad things all the time so good would come. But that’s not true—sin is always wrong, and God never wants us to do evil. vv. 7-8

- V5-8 Paul Argues Against the Idea that Sin Glorifies God
 - Some people thought, “If my sin shows how good God is, then sinning is good!”
 - That’s wrong- sin is never good.
 - God is always fair in judging sin.
 - **Kid Point:** We shouldn’t do bad things just so God can forgive us.

[ROMANS 3:9-12](#) Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. [10](#) As the Scriptures say,
 “No one is righteous—
 not even one.
[11](#) No one is truly wise;
 no one is seeking God.
[12](#) All have turned away;
 all have become useless.
 No one does good,
 not a single one.”

Question #5 So what do we conclude then concerning Jews vs. Gentiles? Are we better than they?

- V9-12 Paul teaches that being Jewish offers no advantage over any other type of person, including himself as a Jew.
 - Paul says: Jews and Gentiles- everyone- are sinners.
 - No one is perfectly good before God.
 - All have turned away from God, and we are useless to Him without Jesus.
 - V10 is one of the most important truths in the Bible. It shows why humans need Jesus. Paul says in [Romans 3:10](#), “There is no one righteous, not even one.” That means no person is good enough to stand before God on their own. It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’re from, or what you’ve done- everyone is born with sin because of Adam. EVERYONE
 - [Psalm 51:5](#) King David proclaims that everyone inherits a sin nature from their parents.
 - This is often referred to as the “original sin,” meaning where sin came from, and why we are sinful.

- V12 no one seeks God on their own. This is called “total depravity,” meaning there's not a good bone in any of us. We are all 100% sinful.
- **Kid Point:** No one is good enough for God on their own.

ROMANS 3:13-18

“Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave.

Their tongues are filled with lies.”

“Snake venom drips from their lips.”

14 “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

15 “They rush to commit murder.

16 Destruction and misery always follow them.

17 They don't know where to find peace.”

18 “They have no fear of God at all.”

- V13-18 Our sin nature causes our mouth, feet, and hands to sin.
 - Sin affects every aspect of a person. Proof we are all lost without God.
 - Sin shows up in our words (lying, talking mean).
 - Sin shows up in our actions (hurting others, fighting).
 - Without God, people do not fear Him or follow His ways.
 - **Kid Point:** Sin affects everything we say and do- we need Jesus to change us.

ROMANS 3:19-20 “Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.”

- V19-20 God's Law shows us our sin, like looking in a mirror.
 - God's Law shows us His perfect standard. You must be 100% perfect to go to Heaven.
 - The Law doesn't save us- it shows us our sin.
 - We cannot work to be “good enough” and earn heaven.
 - The Law's purpose was to show God's standard for Heaven- but no one can keep it perfectly.
 - **Kid Point:** The Law is like a mirror; it shows us our sin.

Paul showed that all the ways people think they can get to Heaven on their own are wrong—worshiping idols, trying to be good, following rules, or just being born a Jew. In the first three chapters of Romans, he proves none of these can save us.

So, how do we get to Heaven? Paul will answer that as we keep studying Romans.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What special gift did the Jews have from God? (v.1-2 The word of God)
2. Even when people fail, who always stays faithful? (v.3-4 God is always faithful)
3. What did Paul say about all people, Jews and Gentiles? (v.9-12 All are sinful & seen fairly by God.)
4. What does God's Law show us about ourselves? (v.19-20 Sin.)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why isn't having God's Word or keeping rules enough to save us? (Laws & rules don't address the sin nature we inherited from Adam)
2. Why does Paul say "no one is righteous, not even one"? (Not one person born of Adam is good on their own)
3. What does it mean that the Law shows us our sin but can't save us? (Law is like a mirror; we cannot keep all the laws (613). By having the Laws, it shows us we are not good.)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. Do I ever think I'm "good enough" without Jesus?
2. How can I remember that God is faithful even when people fail?
3. What does it look like to have a heart change towards God? This week, choose one thing you can do that will help you grow closer to God.

Activities

1: Game

The “Good Enough” Challenge

Materials: A list of fun, simple challenges (e.g., stand on one foot for 1 minute, toss a ball into a basket from far away, say the alphabet backward, balance a book on your head, hop across the room without touching the floor).

A Bible for reading [Romans 3:10](#) (“There is none righteous, not even one”).

Directions:

Set the Scene- Tell the kids: “Today we’re going to see if anyone is good enough to complete every challenge.”

Play the Game- Have kids take turns attempting different challenges. Some may succeed at one or two, but nobody will complete them all perfectly.

Make the Connection- Afterward, gather the group and say: “Was anyone perfect in all the challenges?” (No!)

“That’s what Paul says in Romans 3. No one is perfect, not even one. We all fail in some way.”

“The good news is that Jesus is perfect for us. He kept God’s law fully, and when we trust Him, God counts us righteous.”

Kid Point: We can’t be “good enough” on our own, only Jesus makes us right with God.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 3:10](#) *As the Scriptures say,*

*“No one is righteous—
not even one.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Having God’s Word is a gift- but we must believe it.

- People may fail, but God never fails.
- All people are sinners- no one is good enough on their own.
- The Law shows our sin, but only Jesus can save us.

Only Jesus Can Make Us Right with God

Scripture: [Romans 3:21-31](#)

Big Idea:

God provided the only way to Heaven through Jesus!

Call to Action:

This week, think about how Jesus took your place for the punishment of your sin.

Family Action:

Talk with your kids about these hard topics throughout the week. Let them ask you questions

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 3:21-31](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the people of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to place their pointer fingers on V21 and follow along)

Review:

vv.1-15 Paul's Introduction of the letter

vv. 16-17 How we are made right with God (main point of letter)

vv. 18-32 How you're NOT made right; Lie #1 Worship of the Creation (Idolatry/ Paganism)

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (1-11) & beginning of Lie #3 Moralism/ Laws (vv12-16)

vv. 2:17-29 Cont. Lie #3 Following Laws/Rules doesn't make us right with God. (Laws/ Nomianism)

vv. 3:1-20 Lie #4 Being born a Jew gets you into Heaven. (Judaism)

vv. 3:21-31 The Righteousness of God, freely given to those who believe.

Opening Question

"Have you ever tried your hardest to be 'good enough'- only to mess up anyway? Paul says that no matter how hard we try, we can't make ourselves right with God. But God made a way- through Jesus!"

We cannot reach Heaven by following rules, laws, or even by the family we are born into; God looks at the heart. Because Paul has addressed all the ways you cannot get to Heaven (be 100% perfect) he will now address how God made it possible.

[ROMANS 3:21-31 NLT - CHRIST TOOK OUR PUNISHMENT](#)

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him

without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

²⁹ After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. ³⁰ There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. ³¹ Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

Paul has shot down all four lies people in Rome believed got you to Heaven, by exposing the flaws:

- Worship of Creation, not the Creator
- Being "good enough," however, ignores the obvious sin
- Following a set of rules/laws (even God's law) only exposes how imperfect we really are
- Leaning on being Jewish exposes an unfair God, showing favoritism

The problem to be solved: **Sin nature**

- We all descend from a common ancestor who passed along his sinful nature through reproduction
- We were born with a spiritual birth defect, and this defect must be corrected before we may enjoy fellowship with God
- It's our sinful nature that bars us from heaven, and we cannot change that ourselves.

Because we couldn't solve this problem in our own strength, **God made a way available to us:**

[ROMANS 3:21-22](#) But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. [22](#) We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

In verses 21-26, Paul explains God's amazing plan to bring people to Heaven, even though we all have a sinful nature.

- V21-22 I can't earn it by rules or even God's law- God must make us right.
 - God revealed His plan- we didn't discover it. (v.21a)
 - Being "right with God" doesn't come from rule-keeping or trying harder. (v.21b)
 - God's plan removes our guilt and gives us His righteousness (perfection). (v.21)
 - Moses (the Law) and the Prophets told us ahead of time that God would give His people a new covenant in Jesus and forgive sins. He would make us right with Himself one day. (v.21)
 - God gives us His righteousness; we know we have been made-right with God through the faith we have. (trusting Jesus).
 - This is how ANYONE, for all time has been born-again, or made-right. It's not a new way.
 - **Kid Point:** God showed us His plan of making us right, and it's ALL His work! We must trust in that for salvation.

Big Theology Words

Righteous/ Righteousness- Perfection, made-right with a perfect God

Old & New Covenant:

The Old Covenant was God's promise to Israel that He would bless them if they obeyed His laws. They offered animal sacrifices for their sins, but those couldn't last forever.

The New Covenant came through Jesus, who became the final sacrifice so we can be forgiven forever

[ROMANS 3:23-24](#) For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. [24](#) Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

If all men are in the same predicament (sinful), then all men need the same solution.

- V23-24 We must have the nature of God. So, how does God give us His nature?
 - Everyone sins and falls short of God's perfect standard. (v.23)
 - Our sin deserves punishment by God. Jesus' perfect life and His death was the punishment for sin. (v.23)
 - Jesus didn't deserve punishment. Therefore, His death was free to give away. (v.24)

- He made us right with God. (Justified or Justification) (v.24)
- Making us right with God (Justification) is the gift God gives to all who believe.
- **Kid Point:** God's plan of salvation treats everyone equally: all have sinned, and all are offered the same free gift of forgiveness through Jesus.

Big Theology Word:

Justified- means God declares us "not guilty." Made-right.

The punishment for sin (disobeying God's word) is death or separation from a Holy God.

- ([Genesis 2:16-17](#) But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden — 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.)
- The death of an innocent was required (blood) to pay for the sin ([Genesis 3:21](#) And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.)
- This is the first death in the Bible.

[ROMANS 3:25-26](#) For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, [26](#) for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

The only way to Heaven. Paul clarifies all man-made notions of how to be made right with God boldly here: God demonstrated His perfect fairness and love by sending Jesus to take our place. Through His death, the price for sin was fully paid, and anyone who believes in Him is made right with God forever.

- V25-26 Jesus took my punishment so I could be right with God!
 - God provided his son as His sacrifice (giving Himself in our place), showing that God is both fair (He punished sin) and loving (He provided the substitute). (v.25)
 - God required a perfect payment for sin- Jesus' death satisfied that fair payment for sin. (v.25)
 - Sinners are made right with God when they believe in Jesus.
 - God waited patiently to send Jesus at just the right time, showing God held back due penalty for sin (delayed judgment). (v.25b)
 - Jesus' sacrifice proves that God is both just (sin must be punished) and fair (He provided the payment Himself). (v.26)
 - This is called the Great Exchange- Jesus took our penalty, and God credited us with His righteousness when we believe.
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus' death on the cross was the payment that satisfied God's justice so that sinners could be forgiven and made right with Him.

Big Theology Word:

Sacrifice- Took the punishment for sin himself in our place. To take the place of someone to protect/ love them.

[ROMANS 3:27-31](#) Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. [28](#) So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

[29](#) After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. [30](#) There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. [31](#) Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

- V27-31 God's plan of salvation is based on God's Work (grace), not our works!
 - We can't brag about earning our way to God; salvation is a gift, made known through faith, not something we achieve.
 - God is the same for everyone- He saves all people the same way, by His grace through faith in Jesus.
 - Faith doesn't cancel God's Law- it fulfills it, because Jesus perfectly kept the Law for us.
 - Trusting Jesus means we depend on what He did, not what we do.
 - **Kid Point:** I can't brag about being good enough- Jesus did it all for everyone who believes!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul say is different about how we become right with God now? (*v.21 Without keeping the law*)
2. Who has sinned and fallen short of God's glory? (*v.23 All*)
3. How does God make people right with Him? (*v.24-25 let kids explain*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does "righteousness of God" mean? (*Being made right in God's eyes.*)
2. What did Jesus' death on the cross do for us? (*Paid for the penalty for sin, He didn't deserve it, so He freely gives what He did to me. God sees Jesus' sacrifices in my place.*)
3. How does Jesus' sacrifice show that God is fair and loving at the same time? (*His death paid for sin, because it had to be punished, but He also took the punishment willingly for me and instead of me.*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. When you make mistakes or sin, how can you remember what Jesus has already done for you?

2. Is there something in your life that makes you feel like you have to “earn” God’s love? How can you let go of that?
 3. Who can you tell this week about the “Great Exchange” - that Jesus took our punishment and gave us His perfection?
-

Activity #1: “The Great Exchange”

Supplies Needed: Sticky Notes, Marker, White sheet or blanket

Instructions:

1. Ask for one volunteer to come to the front.
2. Have the other kids think of sins people might do (like lying, being unkind, or disobeying) and write them on sticky notes.
3. Stick all the “sins” onto the volunteer to show how sin covers us.
4. Once the child is covered in sticky notes, gently place a clean white sheet or blanket over them.

Talk About It:

Explain that the white sheet represents Jesus covering our sins. When we believe in Him, our sins are no longer seen—God sees Jesus’ righteousness instead.

“This is the Great Exchange! Jesus took our sin on Himself when He died on the cross, and He gave us His perfect righteousness instead.”

End by reading [Romans 3:23-24](#) out loud together:

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”

Key Point: We can’t earn God’s love- it’s a gift given through faith in Jesus!

Activity #2 : Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 3:23-24](#) *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”*

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.

- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Everyone sins- We all do wrong things. ([Romans 3:23](#))
- God made a way- Jesus took our punishment. ([Romans 3:24-25](#))
- We can't earn it- We're saved by believing, not by being "good enough." ([Romans 3:27-28](#))
- Jesus kept the Law for us- When we trust Him, God sees us as perfect. ([Romans 3:31](#))

Old Testament Proof for Being Saved through Faith (Abraham)

Scripture: [Romans 4:1-12](#)

Big Idea:

We are made right with God by faith, not by what we do. Proof through Abe

Call to Action:

What does believing in God's promises look like in your life?

Family Action:

Focus on the promises in God's word. Write a few on sticky notes and post them throughout your house.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 4:1-12](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to place their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (1-11) & beginning of Lie #3 Moralism/ Laws (vv12-16)

vv. 2:17-29 Cont. Lie #3 Following Laws/Rules doesn't make us right with God. (Laws/ Nomianism)

vv. 3:1-20 Lie #4 Being born a Jew gets you into Heaven. (Judaism)

vv. 3:21-31 The Righteousness of God, freely given to those who believe.

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith

Opening Question

"Can you think of someone who trusted God even when it didn't make sense? Today we'll learn about a man named Abraham, who believed God's promise- and that's why God called him righteous!"

Notes:

1. Remember last week, Paul told us in v21 that God's solution for salvation is "apart from the Law."
2. Paul says the righteousness we need to enter Heaven is not our own- it's God's righteousness given to us.
3. This plan of salvation isn't new- Paul reminds us it was promised in the Old Testament.
4. Paul explains that God's righteousness comes to us through faith in Jesus Christ.

5. Salvation is available to both Jews and Gentiles.
6. Through faith, we are justified- declared innocent in God's courtroom.
7. God didn't ignore sin- He dealt with it through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.
8. Paul finishes Chapter 3 by showing that salvation by faith leaves no room for boasting.

ROMANS 4:1-12 NLT

1 Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? 2 If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. 3 For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

4 When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. 5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

6 David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

7 "Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sins are put out of sight.

8 Yes, what joy for those
whose record the Lord has cleared of sin."

9 Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. 10 But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!

11 Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. 12 And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.

Paul will now break down each section of this work that God does in the next few chapters of Romans. Paul began by saying that the salvation we have was witnessed by the Law and the Prophets; therefore, this is what Paul will show in Chapter 4. Proof in the Old Hebrew writings. (Old Testament)

[ROM. 3:21](#) But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

Starting with THE classic example of salvation by faith; Abraham.

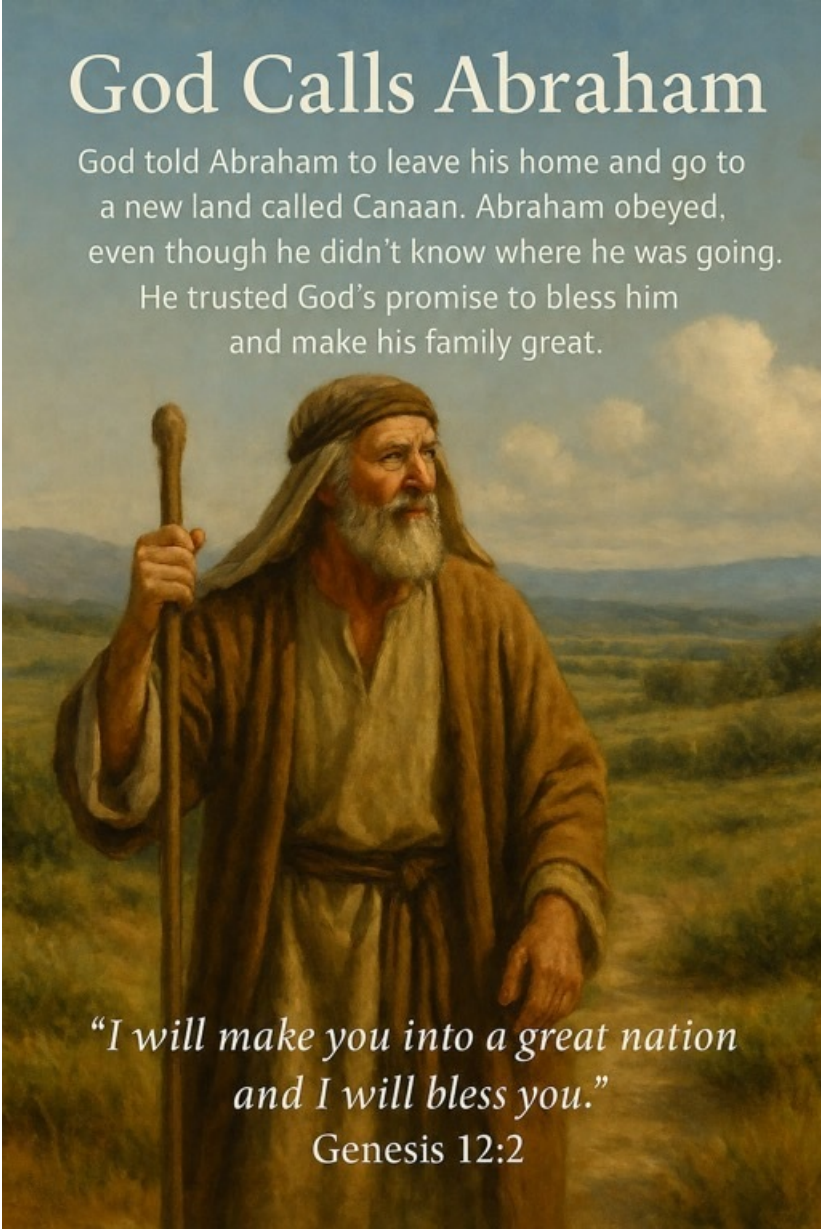
[ROMANS 4:1-3](#) Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? [2](#) If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. [3](#) For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith."

Who is Abraham? Four Stages in Abraham's Life

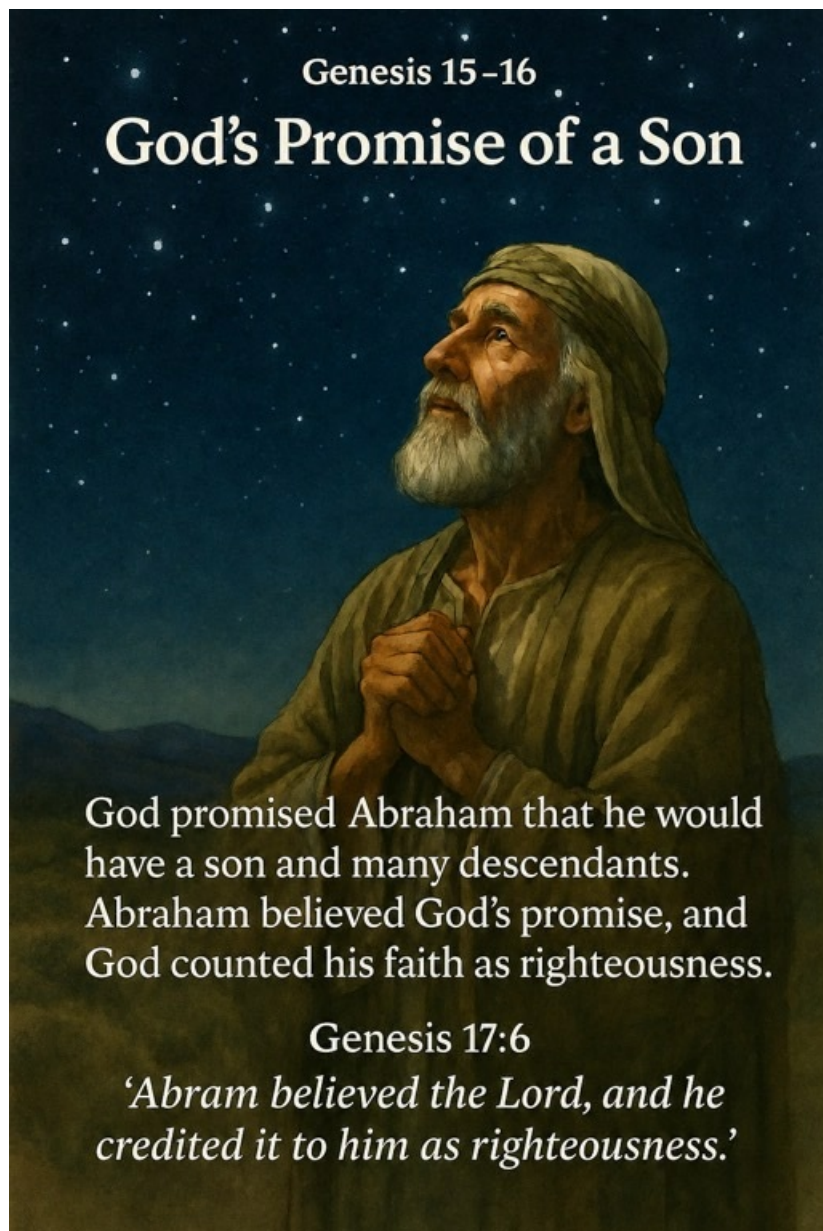
Show images to kids so they can grasp who Abraham is & what God did through him.

God Calls Abraham

God told Abraham to leave his home and go to a new land called Canaan. Abraham obeyed, even though he didn't know where he was going. He trusted God's promise to bless him and make his family great.



*"I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you."*
Genesis 12:2



The Covenant and a New Name

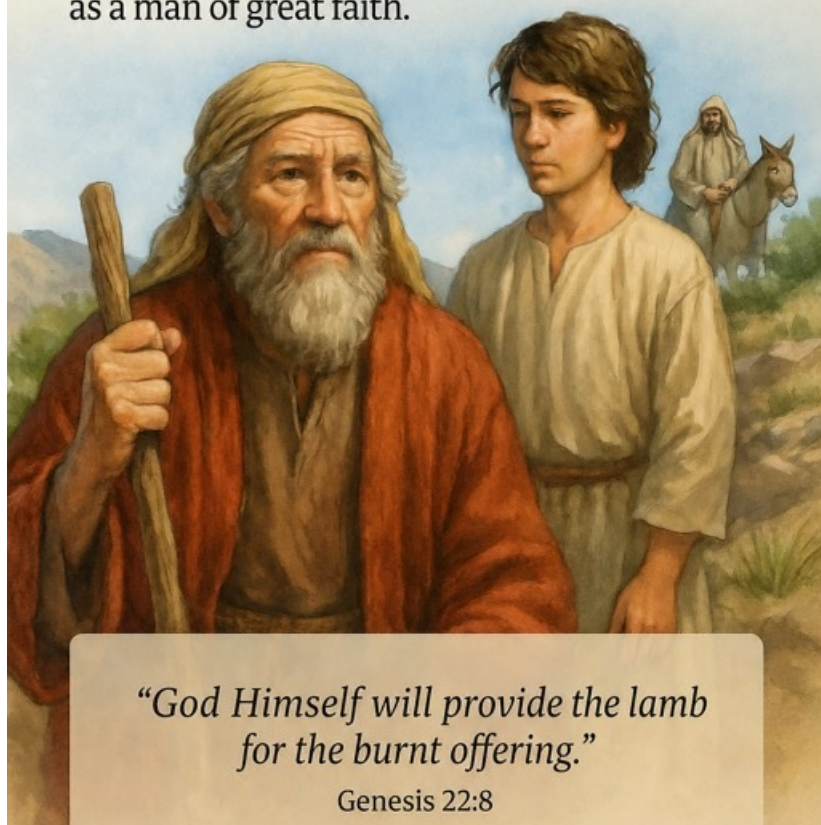


God made a special covenant (promise) with Abram and gave him a new name—changing Abram to Abraham, which means “father of many.” God also promised that Sarah would have a son named Isaac, and God’s promise would continue through him.

Genesis 17:5—*“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham.”*

Genesis 22–25 – Testing and Faithfulness

God tested Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham obeyed, trusting that God would provide—and He did! Later, Abraham lived to an old age and was known as a man of great faith.



*“God Himself will provide the lamb
for the burnt offering.”*

Genesis 22:8

God Calls Abraham (Genesis 12–14)

God told Abraham to leave his home and go to a new land called Canaan. Abraham obeyed, even though he didn't know where he was going. He trusted God's promise to bless him and make his family great.

[Genesis 12:2](#) *“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you.”*

God's Promise of a Son (Genesis 15–16)

God promised Abraham that he would have a son and many descendants, even though he and Sarah were very old. Abraham believed God's promise, and God counted his faith as righteousness.

[Genesis 15:6](#) *“Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness.”*

The Covenant and a New Name (Genesis 17–21)

God made a special covenant (promise) with Abraham and gave him a new name—changing Abram to Abraham, which means “father of many.” God also told him that Sarah would have a son named Isaac, and God’s promise would continue through him.

[Genesis 17:5](#) *“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham.”*

Testing and Faithfulness (Genesis 22–25)

God tested Abraham by asking him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham obeyed, trusting that God would provide—and He did! Later, Abraham lived to an old age and was known as a man of great faith.

[Genesis 22:8](#) *“God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.”*

- V1-3 Abraham Was Made Right by Faith, Not Works
 - Abraham was the man chosen by God to be the first Jewish man, to make a chosen people of God. (v.1)
 - Abraham wasn’t saved because he did good things. Because then he could boast. (v.2)
 - God said Abraham was righteous because he believed God’s promise. (Faith) (v.3)
 - “Believing” means trusting God even when you don’t understand everything.
 - Abraham trusted that God would do what He said- and God counted his faith as righteousness. (v.3)
- **Kid Point:** God makes us right with Him when we *believe*, not because we’re perfect.

Big Theology Word:

Faith- Believing in something even when you can’t see it. The subject of Christian faith is Jesus (believing in the man Jesus)

[ROMANS 4:4-5](#) When people work, their wages are not a gift, but something they have earned. **5** But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

If all men are in the same predicament (sinful), then all men need the same solution.

- V4-5 We Can’t Earn God’s Gift
 - When we do chores, we earn money- that’s payment for work. (v.4)
 - But God’s forgiveness isn’t something we can earn; it’s a gift. (v.4)
 - God forgives sinners and gives us His righteousness because we believe in Him. (v.5)
- **Kid Point:** You can’t work your way to Heaven- you believe your way there!

Paul uses another great Old Testament character, King David/ David & Goliath, to prove that salvation is by faith not works, law, or heritage.

[ROMANS 4:6-8](#) David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it:

7 “Oh, what joy for those
whose disobedience is forgiven,
whose sins are put out of sight.

8 Yes, what joy for those
whose record the Lord has cleared of sin.”

- V6-8 David said the Same Thing (Saved through our faith in God’s promise)
 - King David lived long after Abraham and said the same thing: God forgives disobedient people of sins! (v.6)
 - Being forgiven makes us right with God- that should truly give us joy that we are free from sin's punishment. (v.7&8)
 - God covers our sin so it’s no longer counted against us. (v.8)
 - We don’t have to live in guilt- we can live in joy! (v.7&8)
 - **Kid Point:** When God forgives us, He did the work to make us right. He doesn’t save us because of anything we do or don’t do. This should give us JOY!

[ROMANS 4:9-12](#) Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God because of his faith. 10 But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or was it before he was circumcised? Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised!

11 Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous— even before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are counted as righteous because of their faith. 12 And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the same kind of faith Abraham had before he was circumcised.

- V9-12 Abraham Is the Father of Everyone Who Believes
 - Paul addresses a common question AGAIN: is salvation ONLY for Jews? Or for everyone? (v.9)
 - Abraham was made right with God before he was circumcised- before he became “officially Jewish.”(v.10)
 - That means God’s promise wasn’t just for one group of people- it’s for everyone who believes. (v.11-12)
 - Circumcision was just a sign that showed Abraham already trusted God. (v.11)

- Today, we show our faith through baptism- a sign that we already belong to Jesus!
- **Kid Point:** God's family is made up of everyone who believes in Jesus!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What did Abraham believe that made God count him as righteous? (In God's Promise to use His family to bring forgiveness of sin to all nations)
2. Did Abraham earn God's approval by his good works or by faith? (No)
3. When did Abraham receive the sign of circumcision- before or after he believed? (After)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why do you think God chose faith (not good deeds) as the way to make us right with Him? (All of us sin)
2. How does Abraham's story show that anyone (Jew or Gentile) can be saved by faith? (He was saved before God chose him to be the Father of the Jews)
3. What does it mean when the Bible says God "credited" Abraham's faith as righteousness? (He didn't work for it, it was just given to him freely)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. What are some ways you can show faith in God like Abraham did?
2. When is it hardest for you to trust God's promises- and what can you do in those times?
3. How can you remind others that faith in Jesus, not good works, makes us right with God?

Activities

1: Worksheet

The Promises of God

Supplies:

Print out enough worksheets for each child to have.

Instructions:

Have the children read the verse reference of each promise.

Guide kids to look up each verse and write it down.

Give the kids time to reflect on which promise they connect with the most.

Kid Point: Believing in the promises of God shows the work God has done inside our hearts to save us.
Proof of God saving us!

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 3:23-24](#) *“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Faith came before works- Abraham believed first, then obeyed.
- God’s plan never changed- people have always been saved by faith.
- Signs don’t save us- they show the work God has done inside of us.
- Faith makes us family- everyone who believes in Jesus is part of Abraham’s family too!

I can trust God's promises, even when they seem impossible!

Scripture: [Romans 4:13-25](#)

Big Idea:

God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.

Call to Action:

What is one promise from God that you want to trust in, even if it seems hard?

Family Action:

Focus on God's promises in His Word.

Choose one promise to memorize and practice it with your child throughout the week.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 4:13-25](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to place their pointer fingers on V13 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (1-11) & beginning of Lie #3 Moralism/Laws (vv12-16)

vv. 2:17-29 Cont. Lie #3 Following Laws/Rules doesn't make us right with God. (Laws/ Nomianism)

vv. 3:1-20 Lie #4 Being born a Jew gets you into Heaven. (Judaism)

vv. 3:21-31 The Righteousness of God, freely given to those who believe.

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)

vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.

Opening Question

"What's something that feels too big or hard for you? — How can you trust God with it?"

Notes:

1. Paul said in the last chapter (3), verse 21 that God's way of salvation is apart from the Law.
2. The righteousness we need for Heaven isn't our own—it's God's righteousness given to us.
3. This plan of salvation isn't new; it was promised in the Old Testament.
4. Faith in Jesus Christ is how we receive God's righteousness.

5. Salvation is for everyone—Jews and Gentiles alike.
6. Through faith, we are made right before God.
7. God didn't ignore sin—He dealt with it through Jesus' death.
8. Paul ends Chapter 3, showing there's no room for boasting in salvation.
9. In Chapter 4, Paul uses Abraham's life to prove that salvation is apart from both the Law and circumcision. We will continue to look at Abraham's faith.

[ROMANS 4:13-25 NLT](#)

13 Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. **14** If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. **15** For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

16 So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. **17** That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

18 Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" **19** And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb.

20 Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. **21** He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. **22** And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. **23** And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded **24** for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25** He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Paul wanted to show that being right with God (righteousness) has always come through faith, not through works or following rules.

- 1. Abraham's Example – Faith, Not Works
 - Abraham believed God's promise about having a son.
 - Because Abraham believed, God counted him as righteous.
 - Abraham's good deeds didn't earn it—his faith did.
 - This shows salvation by faith isn't something new; it's always been God's plan.
- 2. David's Example – Forgiveness, Not Law
 - David lived after God gave Israel the Law.
 - In the Psalms, David said the blessed man is the one whose sins are forgiven.
 - This means righteousness comes from God's mercy, not from keeping rules.
 - So even after the Law, salvation still came through faith and forgiveness.
- 3. Abraham's Circumcision – Faith for Everyone
 - Circumcision was a sign of being part of God's covenant family.
 - Abraham believed before he was circumcised, God called him righteous first!
 - That means salvation isn't just for Jews—it's for everyone who believes like Abraham.
 - Abraham became the "father" of all who trust God by faith—Jews and Gentiles alike.

Anyone who believes God's promises, just like Abraham did, will be made right with God through faith alone.

[ROMANS 4:13-15](#) Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith. [14](#) If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. [15](#) For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)

- V13-15 God's Promise Comes by Faith
 - God promised to bless all nations through Abraham's family — not by rule-keeping. (v.13)
 - Abraham believed God's promise — that's faith. (v.13)
 - If blessings came from obeying rules, faith wouldn't matter. (v.14)
 - Then God's promise would be a reward, not a gift. (v.14)
 - The law shows us our sin and brings consequences. (v.15)
 - But Jesus kept the law perfectly, so we're not judged by it. (v.15)
 - **Kid Point:** The law shows us our sin, but faith in the work of Jesus takes away our sin.

Big Theology Word:

Faith- Believing in something even when you can't see it. The subject of Christian faith is Jesus (believing in the man Jesus)

[ROMANS 4:16-17](#) So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe. ¹⁷ That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, "I have made you the father of many nations." This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.

- V4-5 We Can't Earn God's Gift
 - Salvation is received by faith, not by earning it or keeping rules. (v.16)
 - It's for everyone who believes, not just one group. (v.16)
 - Abraham is the father of all believers, because we're saved the same way—by faith. (v.16b)
 - God promised Abraham he'd be the father of many nations, even when it seemed impossible. (v.17)
 - Abraham believed God could bring life from nothing, shown when God gave him Isaac. (v.17)
 - Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac because he trusted God could raise the dead. (v.17)
 - God also gives spiritual life to those who trust Him, growing faith in hearts that once didn't believe. (v.17)
 - **Kid Point:** God gives life to what seems impossible; He makes faith grow in hearts that trust Him.

[ROMANS 4:18](#) Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"

- V18 Abraham believed God, he had Hope that God would keep His Promise
 - Abraham believed God even when it seemed impossible.
 - He had no reason to hope, but he trusted what God had promised. (v.18)
 - God told Abraham he would have a huge family, and Abraham believed it would happen. (v.18b)
 - **Kid Point:** Faith means trusting God even when it looks impossible.

[ROMANS 4:19-21](#) And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb.

20 Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. 21 He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

- V19-21 Abraham Believed God gave Life

- Abraham knew he and Sarah were too old to have kids—but he still believed God could do it. (v.19)
 - He didn't focus on the problem; he focused on God's power. (v.20)
 - His faith gave glory to God, showing that he trusted God's word completely. (v.21)
 - **Kid Point:** God always keeps His promises—our job is to keep believing.
-

[ROMANS 4:22-25](#) And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous. 23 And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn't just for Abraham's benefit. It was recorded 24 for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

- V22-25 God Gives us Life

- God saw Abraham's faith and called him right with Him—not because Abraham was perfect, but because he believed. (v.22)
- We believe in the same God Abraham trusted—the God who brings life from the dead. (v.23-24)
- Jesus died for our sins and rose again so we could be made right with God forever. (v.24-25)
- Just like Abraham's story, our faith brings new life!
- **Kid Point:** Jesus died and rose again so we can be made right with God when we believe in Him.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What promise did God give to Abraham and his family? *(God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that his family would be blessed through faith.)*
2. Did Abraham believe God's promise even when it seemed impossible? *(Yes! Even though he and Sarah were very old, Abraham still believed God would keep His promise.)*
3. What did God do for Abraham because of his faith? *(God counted Abraham as righteous — that means God saw him as right and clean in His eyes because Abraham believed.)*

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why do you think God wanted Abraham to believe instead of trying to earn the promise by doing good works? *(Because no one can earn God's love — it's a gift that comes through faith. God wanted Abraham (and us!) to trust Him, not ourselves.)*

2. What does Abraham's story teach us about how faith works? (*Faith means believing God can do what seems impossible and trusting His promises even when we don't see how it will happen.*)
3. How does Abraham's faith point to what Jesus did for us? (*Just like Abraham trusted God to bring life from a "dead" situation, we trust God who brought Jesus back to life to save us from sin, giving us NEW LIFE!*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. What is one promise from God that you want to trust in, even if it seems hard?
 2. How can you show faith in God when something feels impossible?
 3. How can your faith help others see how great and powerful God is?
-

Activity #1: Faith Stepping Stones – Trusting God's Promises

Supplies:

Flat rock for each child

Markers

Bible

Directions:

Give each child a rock.

Write one of God's promises on the rock (examples: "God loves me," "God keeps His promises," "Jesus gives me new life," "God forgives my sins," "God is always with me.") Decorate the rock while discussing God promises.

End by saying: "When we walk by faith, God keeps His promises just like He did for Abraham!"

Key Point: Abraham kept believing God's promise even when it seemed impossible. Walking by faith means trusting God's Word and moving forward one step at a time.

Activity #2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 3:23-24](#) *"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."*

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God always keeps His promises.
- Faith means believing before seeing.
- God makes us right through faith, not works.
- God brings life from what is dead.
- Faith gives glory to God.

Peace With God, through Jesus

Scripture: [Romans 5:1-11](#)

Big Idea:

Jesus died for me when I was His enemy; now I'm His friend forever!

Call to Action:

Trials bring spiritual growth. Try looking at your trials as a joyful experience because you know God is growing you.

Family Action:

Talk about various trials.

Be open and honest about the hard times you or your family have faced or are facing.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 5:1-11](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to place their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv.1-15 Paul's Introduction of the letter

vv. 16-17 How we are made right with God (main point of letter)

vv. 18-32 How you're NOT made right; Lie #1 Worship of the Creation (Idolotry/ Paganism)

vv. 2:1-16 Lie #2 Being "good" doesn't make us right with God (1-11 Moralism) & beginning of Lie #3 Laws/ Rules (vv12-16 Nomianism)

vv. 2:17-29 Cont. Lie #3 Following Laws/Rules doesn't make us right with God. (Laws/ Nomianism)

vv. 3:1-20 Lie #4 Being born a Jew gets you into Heaven. (Judaism)

vv. 3:21-31 The Righteousness of God, freely given to those who believe.

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)

vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.

vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I'm made right with God. Praise God!

Opening Question

"Have you ever had a big fight with a friend and then made peace again?" How did it feel to be friends again?

(Lead into how Jesus made peace between us and God.)

Notes:

- In Chapters 3 and 4, Paul explained that we're saved by faith, not by works or being part of a special group like the Jews.
- Paul begins Chapter 5 by showing what happens after we're made right with God through faith.

Paul will answer two big questions:

- How can we know for sure that we're really forgiven and at peace with God—especially when life is still hard? (1-11)
- How can one man, Jesus, pay for the sins of everyone in the world? (12-21)

Paul will spend this chapter showing that our peace, hope, and salvation are completely secure because of what Jesus has done.

[ROMANS 5:1-11 NLT](#)

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us, sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we now have peace with God that will never be broken. We can be sure of our salvation because God loved us even when we were sinners, and He still loves us now that we are His friends.

[ROMANS 5:1-2](#) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. [2](#) Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

- V1-2 Right with God through Jesus' death, which gives us a future hope. This is joyful news!
 - Paul says, "therefore," which means he's building on what he already taught — that we're saved by faith, not by doing good things. (v1)
 - Being *made right by faith* means God has already declared us "not guilty" — and that verdict can't change! (v1)
 - Because of Jesus' death, we don't have to fear God's anger anymore — we now have peace with God, a restored friendship that will never be broken. (v2)
 - We "stand" in this grace forever — meaning we don't have to keep earning God's love. (v2)
 - Now we look forward to seeing God's glory — being with Him in Heaven one day! (v2)
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus makes peace between me and God.

Big Theology Word:

Hope: What we look forward to after death. A future life with Christ.

Reference [Ephesians 2:14-16](#)

- Paul also wrote in [Ephesians 2:14-16](#) that Jesus Himself is our peace.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He destroyed what separated us from God, our sin.
- Before Jesus, God's Law showed us how guilty we were.
- The commandments acted like a mirror, reminding us that we were in trouble with a perfect, holy God.
- Because of sin, there was a wall between us and Him.
- But when Jesus died, He took our punishment, the penalty the Law required.
- Once that penalty was paid, the wall came down!
- Now there is no reason for God to be our enemy- we are friends with Him again.

[ROMANS 5:3-4](#) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. [4](#) And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

- V3-4 Trials bring growth
 - Even when life is hard, we can rejoice because we have a future hope! Death is not the end! (v3a)
 - God uses hard things to help us grow strong in faith — like exercise for our hearts. (v3b)

- Problems & trials teach us to keep trusting God (that's perseverance), and that builds character and hope. (v4a)
- A believer who grows through trials becomes spiritually strong — that's proof that God is at work in us! (V4b)
- **Kid Point:** God uses hard times to make my faith stronger.

Big Theology Word:

Perseverance: to keep trusting God, even when its hard

[ROMANS 5:5](#) And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- V5 God's love fills my heart through His Spirit living in me.
 - The Holy Spirit reminds us every day that God truly loves us.
 - His Spirit living inside our hearts is proof that we belong to Him.
 - When you feel afraid or unsure, remember- God's Spirit is like a light in your heart saying, "You are Mine."
 - **Kid Point:** He gives us a part of Him and fills us with His hope & love

[ROMANS 5:6-8](#) When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. [7](#) Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. [8](#) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- V6-8 Jesus died for me, a sinner
 - Before we could do anything to help ourselves, Jesus died for us. Long ago. (v6)
 - We were helpless, stuck in sin, and couldn't save ourselves. We deserved punishment.
 - People might die for someone they love or for someone good, but Jesus died for people who were His enemies! (v7)
 - That's the greatest love ever shown: God loving the one who deserves death.
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus died for me even when I didn't deserve it.

[ROMANS 5:9-10](#) And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. [10](#) For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

- V9-10 Friend of God
 - If He loved us enough to die for us when we were His enemies, we can be sure He'll keep us safe now that we're His friends.
 - Jesus is alive today, and His life keeps proving that His plan works because we can see the proof of HOPE in us!
 - God didn't start loving us just to stop later; His love is eternal (forever).
 - **Kid Point:** If God loved me when I was His enemy, He'll never stop loving me now that I'm His friend.

Illustration Idea – Tell this story:

Imagine two soldiers fighting on opposite sides. One risks his life to save the other. After the war, they meet for coffee. The saved soldier says, "I can't trust you; maybe you'll hurt me."

The rescuer replies, "If I saved you when we were enemies, why would I hurt you now that we're friends?"

That's how silly it is to doubt God's love!

[ROMANS 5:11](#) So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

- V11 Jesus made me a friend of God
 - Because of Jesus, we're no longer enemies; we're God's friends!
 - We can celebrate our new life with joy because nothing can separate us from Him.
 - Believers should live thankful, joyful lives because we've been completely forgiven, even when life gets hard.
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus made me God's friend forever, that's worth celebrating!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What happens when we go through hard times as believers? (*Tribulation produces perseverance, character, and hope.* [Romans 5:3-4](#))
2. When did Jesus die for us? (*While we were still sinners.* [Romans 5:8](#))
3. What are we saved from through Jesus? (*From God's wrath and judgment.* [Romans 5:9](#))

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does it mean to have "peace with God"? (*It means God is no longer angry at our sin because Jesus paid the price. We're now His friends, not His enemies* [Romans 5:1](#))
2. Why can suffering be a good thing for Christians? (*Because God uses it to grow our faith and make us stronger in character* [Romans 5:3-4](#))
3. What does "justified by His blood" mean? (*It means Jesus' death made us right with God — our sin is gone, and we're declared innocent* [Romans 5:9](#))

4. Why can we be sure we'll stay saved? (*Because if God loved us when we were His enemies, He'll never stop loving us now that we're His children* [Romans 5:10](#))

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. What should you remember when you go through a hard time? (That God is using it to grow your faith and make you stronger)
 2. What can you do when you start to doubt if you're really saved? (Remember the cross- if God loved you when you were His enemy, He'll never stop now that you're His friend)
 3. What can you rejoice about today?
-

Activity #1: Romans Road Bookmark

Supplies:

Cardstock

Colored Strips of paper (different colors)

Scissors

Glue

String

Hole punch

Directions

- Give each child a bookmark-sized piece of cardstock.
- Give each child 5 different colored strips of paper (to fit on bookmark)
- Have the kids write on each strip the Romans road to salvation:
 - [Romans 3:10](#) (No one is perfect)
 - [Romans 3:23](#) (Everyone sins)
 - [Romans 6:23](#) (Sin is death, but Jesus is life)
 - [Romans 5:8](#) (Christ took our sin)
 - [Romans 10:9](#) (Confess & Believe)
 - [Romans 10:13](#) (Call on the Lord. You're Saved!!)
- Glue each strip to the bookmark, leaving the top and bottom open to write: Top: Romans Road; Bottom: Made New
- Hole punch the top & tie a colored string to the hole.
- Explain that this is the Gospel that saved lives. This is what we are to share with EVERYBODY!
- **Key Point:** Because of Jesus, the gap between us and God is gone; we have peace with Him forever! Share the Good News!

Activity #2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 5:8](#) *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Jesus gives us peace with God.
- God loved us even when we sinned.
- Jesus died to save us.
- God's love is in our hearts.
- We are friends with God forever.

Federal Representatives in Adam & Jesus

Scripture: [Romans 5:12-21](#)

Big Idea:

Adam brought death, Jesus Brings Life to Everyone Who Believes!

Call to Action:

Knowing how much God did to give you new life, how does that make you feel?

And how can you show Him thankfulness?

Family Action:

Show how God's grace is stronger than our sin — and practice giving grace to one another at home.

([Romans 5:21](#))

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 5:12-21](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V12 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)

vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.

vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I'm made right with God. Praise God!

vv. 5:12-21 Sin came through Adam, Life came through Jesus

Opening Question

"Have you ever broken something that someone else had to fix for you?" → That's what happened when Adam sinned. He broke our friendship with God, but Jesus came to fix it and make us new again!

Notes:

- Paul begins Chapter 5 by showing what happens after we're made right with God through faith.
- Paul will answer two big questions:
 - How can we know for sure that we're really forgiven and at peace with God—especially when life is still hard? (1-11)
 - How can one man, Jesus, pay for the sins of everyone in the world? (12-21)

- Paul will spend the second part of Chapter 5 showing that just as sin spread to all men through Adam, Life will spread to men in the same way.

[ROMANS 5:12-21 NLT](#)

12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. **13** Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. **14** Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. **15** But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. **16** And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. **17** For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. **18** Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. **19** Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. **20** God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. **21** So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- V12 Sin came into the world through Adam disobeying God's ONE rule ([Genesis 2:17](#))
 - When Adam disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, sin came into the world for the first time.
 - Because Adam sinned, everyone born after him was born with sin in their hearts too.
 - Sin broke the friendship with God and brought death and sadness into the world.
 - **Kid Point:** Adam's sin spread to everyone—

Big Theology Word:

Original Sin: How sin and death entered the world and were passed down to everyone through their parents. This took place in the Garden.

[ROMANS 5:13](#) Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break.

- V13 People had no idea how sinful they were until God gave the law
 - People were already doing wrong things before God gave the law to Moses.
 - The law helped people see what sin really was, but sin had already been there all along.
 - **Kid Point:** God's rules help us see our sin.

[ROMANS 5:14](#) Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.

- V14 Adam as our Federal Representative
 - Death is the result of sin, proving that everyone is sinful because of Adam's one act.
 - ([Genesis 2:17](#) (Spiritual Death) & [Genesis 3:17](#) (Physical death- cursed is the ground, Adam is made from the ground.))
 - Even people who didn't break the same rule as Adam still died, proving everyone is born sinful.
 - Sin is something that lives in us from birth—it spreads through the whole human family.
 - Adam's story points forward to Jesus: Adam brought sin and death, but Jesus brings forgiveness and life!
 - **Kid Point:** Adam brought death, but Jesus brings life!

Big Theology Word:

Federal Representative: A Federal Representative is someone who speaks or acts on behalf of others. In the Bible, it means one person's actions (like Adam or Jesus) can affect everyone they represent.

[ROMANS 5:15](#) But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

- V15 Jesus as our Federal Representative
 - Adam's one sin brought death to the whole world.
 - But Jesus' one loving act—dying on the cross—brought life and forgiveness to everyone who

believes.

- Adam's sin spread to many, but God's grace through Jesus spreads even further.
- The gift of Jesus is much greater than the sin of Adam!
- **Kid Point:** One man vs One man

[ROMANS 5:16](#) And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

- V16 A Gracious Gift from God through Jesus
 - Adam's sin led to guilt and punishment for everyone.
 - But Jesus' gift takes away our punishment and makes us right with God.
 - Even though we've sinned many times, Jesus' sacrifice covers them all.
 - **Kid Point:** What Adam ruined, Jesus restored completely.

[ROMANS 5:17](#) For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

- V17 We get death and sin from Adam, but new life and forgiveness from Jesus.
 - Adam's sin passed down to all of humanity.
 - Jesus' perfect life is passed down to humanity.
 - We are no longer born into sin but born again into Christ.
 - When we believe in Jesus, we are reborn spiritually—just like being part of a new family.
 - We now belong to Jesus' bloodline instead of Adam's.
 - **Kid Point:** We are Born-again!

Big Theology Word:

Born Again: We are all born from Adam and inherit his sinful nature, but Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit (not Man). When we believe in Him, we receive His perfect nature instead.

[ROMANS 5:18-19](#) Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. [19](#) Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

- V18-19 One man's sin brought death—but one man's obedience brings life forever!
 - One act of disobedience (Adam's sin) brought guilt, death, and separation from God to all people.
 - One act of obedience (Jesus' death on the cross) brought forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life.
- **Kid Point:** Adam vs Jesus as our Federal Representative

[ROMANS 5:20-21](#) God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- V20-21 One man's sin brought death—but one man's obedience brings life forever!
 - God gave His Law to show us what sin really is — like a mirror that shows our mistakes.
 - The Law only showed how much we needed a Savior.
 - As sin increased, God's grace grew even bigger to cover it!
 - No matter how dark sin seems, God's grace shines brighter.
- **Kid Point:** God's grace is stronger than sin — grace wins forever through Jesus!

Chart Main Idea:

Everything Adam broke, Jesus fixed. Adam's disobedience brought death, but Jesus' obedience brought eternal life.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. Who brought sin and death into the world? (*Adam did when he disobeyed God. [Romans 5:12](#)*)
2. What happened because of Adam's sin? (*Everyone was born with sin and faces death. [Romans 5:18](#)*)
3. Who brought righteousness and life? (*Jesus did through His obedience and death on the cross. [Romans 5:19](#)*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is Adam called our "representative"? (*Because his choice affected everyone who came after him. [Romans 5:12-14](#)*)
2. How is Jesus like Adam, but better? (*Adam's one sin brought death to many, but Jesus' one act of righteousness brings life to all who believe. [Romans 5:18-19](#)*)
3. What does it mean that grace "abounded more"? (*It means God's forgiveness and love are greater than all our sin. [Romans 5:20](#)*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. Why does Paul repeatedly compare Adam and Jesus in this passage, and how does this comparison help us? *(It helps us understand that we all inherit sin and death from Adam, but through Jesus we receive forgiveness and new life. Knowing this reminds us to trust in Jesus, not ourselves, for salvation.)*
 2. How can you show thankfulness that Jesus reversed Adam's mistake? *(By obeying God out of a love for Him and showing His love to others.)*
 3. What gives you hope when you feel guilty or afraid? *(Knowing Jesus' grace is stronger than my sin and I'm forgiven forever.)*
-

Activity #1: Adam vs Jesus Bowl Example

Supplies:

- Two clear bowls or containers
- Water (to represent God's purity)
- A little dirt (to represent sin)
- A bottle of clean water labeled "Jesus"
- Paper towels

Directions:

1. Start with "God's Perfect Creation"

Show the clean bowl of water.

Say: "This is like how God made the world — perfect and clean. No sin, no sadness."

2. Add "Adam's Sin"

Sprinkle dirt into the water.

Say: "When Adam disobeyed, sin entered the world. Everything became dirty — not just Adam, but everyone after him."

Stir it to show how the whole bowl becomes cloudy.

Ask: "Can we make this water clean again by ourselves?" (Let kids try but see it doesn't work.)

3. Show "Jesus' Gift"

Hold up the water bottle labeled "Jesus."

Say: "But God sent Jesus to take away sin. Jesus never sinned, but He died for us to clean our hearts."

Slowly pour the clean "Jesus" water into a new bowl and explain:

Say: "When we believe in Jesus, He gives us a new heart — clean and full of His Spirit."

4. Compare

Place the two bowls side by side — dirty vs. clean.

Say: "Everything Adam broke, Jesus fixed! In Adam, we became sinners.

In Jesus, we are made clean and alive again."

Discussion / Reflection Questions

- What made the water dirty? (Sin)
- Could we clean it by ourselves? (No!)
- Who cleaned us instead? (Jesus!)
- How do we get that clean heart? (By trusting in Him)
- **Key Point:** Adam brings sin and death, Jesus gives us New Life in Him!

Activity #2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 5:8](#) *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

-
- Sin came into the world through Adam.
- Jesus came to fix what Adam broke.
- One man's sin brought death — one Man's love brings life.
- God's grace is stronger than our sin.
- Jesus gives us a new life and eternal life. (Born again)

Dead to Sin, Alive with Jesus

Scripture: [Romans 6:1-14](#)

Big Idea:

When we believe in Jesus, our old, sinful self dies with Him, and we are given new life through His Spirit!

Call to Action:

How can you “use your body” for God’s glory? [Rom. 6:13](#)

Family Action:

Admitting to your kids that you sin from time to time is very helpful to encourage a child in their walk. Talk with your kids openly about sin. But always point them to prayer/the word in times of struggle

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 6:1-14](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God’s power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham’s Faith)

vv. 4:13-25 God’s promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham’s life.

vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I’m made right with God. Praise God!

vv. 5:12-21 Sin came through Adam, Life came through Jesus

vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!

Opening Question

“Have you ever had a school test and you were able to use a “free pass” to get a 100% on the test→ That’s what happened when Adam sinned. He broke our friendship with God, but Jesus came and took the test for every single human to bring us into relationship with God!

Notes:

Transition from Romans 5 to Romans 6

In Romans 5, Paul taught that when we trust in Jesus, God forgives us and declares us righteous—that means “right with God.” We didn’t earn it by being good; it’s a gift because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

But now Paul begins to answer some new questions that come up after we’re saved. Even though we

belong to Jesus, we still live in bodies that want to sin. We're new on the inside but sometimes feel pulled toward our old ways.

So in Romans 6–8, Paul helps us understand what happens next:

- Romans 6 explains what it means to live a new life in Jesus. If we've been saved, how should we live?
- Romans 7 talks about why we still struggle with sin even though we love God.
- Romans 8 shows how safe we are in God's love—nothing can separate us from Him!

In short, Paul says: Now that we've been made right with God (Romans 5), let's learn how to live for Him (Romans 6–8).

ROMANS 6:1-14 NLT

1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? **2** Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? **3** Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? **4** For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. **6** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. **7** For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. **8** And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. **9** We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. **10** When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. **11** So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. **13** Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. **14** Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Notes:

When you believe in Jesus, your old life of sin dies and you are raised to a brand-new life in Him. You don't have to live for sin anymore — you live for Jesus now!

[ROMANS 6:1-2](#) Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? **2** Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

- V1-2 Paul reminds us that Jesus saved us from sin, not so we can keep sinning.
 - When we trusted in Jesus, our old sinful self “died.” It’s not who we are anymore.
 - Because we’ve been made new, we don’t belong to sin — we belong to Jesus!
 - Living like our old self again doesn’t fit with who we are now in Christ.
 - **Kid Point:** When I believed in Jesus, my old sinful self died — I’m new now!

The war of Spirit vs Flesh:

- We have two parts — our spirit and our body.
- Before we believed in Jesus, our spirit was dead because of Adam’s sin.
- But when we believed in Jesus, God made our spirit alive again!
- Even though our spirit is alive, our body still wants to do wrong things - 100% sinful.
- That’s because our bodies came from the dust, and when Adam sinned, God said the ground (the dirt) would be cursed ([Genesis 3:17–19](#)).
- So now, we live in a sinful body, but we have a spirit that belongs to Jesus and wants to please God.

[ROMANS 6:3-4](#) Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? **4** For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

- V3-4 Paul uses baptism as a picture of what happened to us when we were saved.
 - When we go under the water, it’s like our old life being buried.
 - When we come up out of the water, it’s like Jesus rising from the grave — our new life begins!
 - Water baptism is a symbol of what’s already true in our hearts through faith. This is called baptism of the Spirit.
 - Our spirit is baptized by the Holy Spirit (100% perfect), and the physical act of baptism is a picture of what happened on the inside of us at salvation.
 - Water baptism does not save us. It’s merely a picture to the world of what took place in us.
 - **Kid Point:** Baptism shows the world that Jesus gave me a brand-new life!

[ROMANS 6:5](#) Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

- V5 We are now connected to Jesus forever — His story became our story.
 - Because He died and rose again, we too will rise again someday!
 - Our new spirit is already alive with Jesus, and one day our body will be too.
 - We don't just follow Jesus — we share His victory over death and sin.
 - **Kid Point:** I belong to Jesus, I will live forever with Him!

Notes:

Because Jesus died and rose again, we have been set free from sin's power! Our old life is gone — we now live to serve and love God.

[ROMANS 6:6-7](#) We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. [7](#) For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

- V6-7 When Jesus died, our old sinful spirit— the part that wanted to do wrong — died with Him.
 - Adam's one sin brought death to the whole world.
 - That means sin doesn't control us anymore; we don't have to obey it. It's dead, and dead things don't have life.
 - Our old "slave to sin" self is gone — we are free to follow Jesus instead!
 - Even though our body is still sinful at times, our spirit is clean and new inside, and can guide our body.
 - **Kid Point:** Because I belong to Jesus, I'm no longer trapped by sin!

[ROMANS 6:8-9](#) And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. [9](#) We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

- V8-9 Jesus beat death — and because we belong to Him, we will live forever too!
 - Death can't scare us anymore, because Jesus already took care of it. Our Spirit is no longer due the penalty for sin. Jesus took it through His death.
 - Just like Jesus is alive and free, we share in that same victory.
 - We don't live worrying about dying — we live joyfully for God every day!
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus is alive forever — and I get to live with Him too!

[ROMANS 6:10-11](#) When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. [11](#) So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

- V10-11 Jesus died once and for all — sin can't ever win again.
 - Jesus lives to bring glory to God — and we should do the same!
 - We should “think of ourselves” as dead to sin. That means we remember who we really are: God's children with a new sinless Spirit.
 - Our new life belongs to God — we live to please and serve Him, not our old sinful desires.
 - **Kid Point:** I'm dead to sin but alive to God — I live for Jesus now!

Notes:

Because Jesus gave us new life, we don't have to let sin be our boss anymore! We can use our lives to serve and honor God.

[ROMANS 6:12-14](#) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. [13](#) Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. [14](#) Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

- V12-14 Sin (our body/flesh) wants to boss us around, but we don't have to listen anymore.
 - Every part of us — our hands, eyes, heart, and words — can be used to serve God.
 - When we choose what's right, we show others that we belong to Jesus.
 - God's grace gives us the freedom to obey in our body and Spirit, which glorifies God.
 - Grace doesn't mean we can sin more — it means we can finally live for God!
 - **Kid Point:** Grace sets me free — I use my life to serve and honor God!

Theological Point: Mercy and Grace

What's the Difference?

Mercy means not getting what we deserve.

Grace means getting what we don't deserve.

Mercy: God's mercy is when He holds back His punishment for our sin.

- We deserve judgment because we've all sinned ([Romans 3:23](#)).
 - But through Jesus, God shows mercy — He doesn't give us the penalty we earned.
 - [Titus 3:5](#) He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.
 - Example for kids: If you broke something at home but your parents forgave you instead of punishing you — that's mercy.

Grace: God's grace is His free gift of love and blessing that we could never earn.

- He not only forgives our sin, but also gives us eternal life, His Spirit, and His love forever!
 - [Ephesians 2:8](#) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.
 - Example for kids: If your parents forgave you and then gave you ice cream afterward — that's grace!

Simple Way to Remember:

- ☉ Mercy = God doesn't give me the punishment I deserve. (Jesus' blood)
- Grace = God gives me blessings I don't deserve. (Gift of salvation)

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What happened to our old sinful self when we trusted Jesus? (*It died with Christ* [Romans 6:6](#))
2. What does baptism show? (*That we've been buried and raised with Jesus — our old life is gone* [Romans 6:3-4](#))
3. Who is our master now — sin or God? (*God!* [Romans 6:14](#))

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why shouldn't we keep sinning if we're saved by grace? (*Because we've died to sin — sin doesn't belong in our new life* [Romans 6:2](#))
2. What does it mean to be "alive in Christ"? (*Our spirit is made new and filled with God's life* [Romans 6:11](#))
3. Why is grace better than living under the law? (*Grace forgives and changes us from the inside, while law only shows us what we do wrong* [Romans 6:14](#))

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you show that you belong to Jesus this week? (By choosing right when tempted, helping others, or thanking God for saving me)
2. What can you do when sin tries to boss you around? (Tell yourself, "Sin isn't my boss — Jesus is!" and pray for strength to obey [Romans 6:12](#))
3. How can you "use your body" for God's glory? (Use my words to be kind, my hands to help, and my heart to love others [Romans 6:13](#))

Parent tool: A.P.T.A.T are practical steps to walk in God's power whenever you open your Bible:

Admit you can do nothing without God ([John 15:5](#)).

Pray for help ([Psalm 50:15](#)).

Trust God will help you ([2 Chronicles 20:20](#)).

Act ([Philippians 2:12-13](#)).

Thank God for his provision and goodness ([Psalm 106:1](#)).

Activities

1: Worksheet

Reflection

Take time to reflect on how God can use your hands, your words and your heart this week.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 6:13](#) *Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God gives me a brand-new Spirit when I believe in Jesus. ([Romans 6:4](#))
- Because of Jesus, I don't have to obey sin (Flesh) anymore. ([Romans 6:6](#))
- My new life means I can live for God, not for myself. ([Romans 6:11](#))
- God's grace gives me the strength to do what's right. ([Romans 6:14](#))
- When I choose to obey God, my life shows His goodness to others. ([Romans 6:13](#))

What Voice Will You Obey?

Scripture: [Romans 6:15-23](#)

Big Idea:

When we follow Jesus, we don't serve sin anymore—
We serve God, and His way leads to life forever.

Call to Action:

Nurture and take care of the seed. Feed it and give it light so that it will grow.
How can you feed and nurture your Christian walk?

Family Action:

Show your children how you remain close to God.
Walk them through what you do to strengthen your walk each day, week, and month.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 6:15-23](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V15 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)
vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.
vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I'm made right with God. Praise God!
vv. 5:12-21 Sin came through Adam, Life came through Jesus
vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!
vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!

Opening Question

"Have you ever tried to listen to two people talking to you at once? Whose voice do you follow?"
→ We all have two voices trying to lead us — one that says "do what's wrong," and one that says "follow God."

Notes:

When we believe in Jesus, our old, sinful self dies with Him, and we are given new life through His Spirit!

- Romans 6 explains what it means to live a new life in Jesus. If we've been saved, how should we live?

- Paul will continue: Let's learn how to live for Him in our body and with our life.

[ROMANS 6:15-23 NLT](#)

15 Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. 17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Notes:

When you believe in Jesus, your old life of sin dies, and you are raised to a brand-new life in Him. You don't have to live for sin anymore — you live for Jesus now!

[ROMANS 6:15-16](#) Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

- V15-16 Paul asks another big question: "Since God forgives us, can we do whatever we want?"
 - Before we knew Jesus, we obeyed sinful desire — it was like a boss we couldn't say no to. We were slaves to sin.
 - But now that we know Jesus, we belong to Him. We should obey our new Master — the One who loves us, becoming a slave to righteousness.
 - Every choice we make shows who we are serving: sin (flesh) or God (Spirit).
 - **Kid Point:** I can choose to obey God because He set me free from sin!

- Reminder- The war of Spirit vs Flesh:
 - We have two parts — our spirit and our body.
 - Before we believed in Jesus, our spirit was dead because of Adam's sin.
 - But when we believed in Jesus, God made our spirit alive again!
 - Even though our spirit is alive, our body still wants to do wrong things - 100% sinful.
 - That's because our bodies came from the dust, and when Adam sinned, God said the ground (the dirt) would be cursed ([Genesis 3:17-19](#)).
 - So now, we live in a sinful body, but we have a spirit that belongs to Jesus and wants to please God.

[ROMANS 6:17-18](#) Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

- V17-18 Thank God — we aren't slaves to sin anymore!
 - When we believed the Gospel, God stamped His truth on our hearts ([Romans 6:17](#)).
 - The Holy Spirit now teaches us from the inside how to live for God.
 - We're free from sin, but we're not free to do whatever we want — we're free to serve God!
 - Just like we used to obey sin, now we obey Jesus by how we live.
 - **Kid Point:** God set me free from sin so I can serve Him with my whole heart and life.

[ROMANS 6:19](#) Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

- V19 Slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness? You can't serve both!
 - Paul uses an example we can understand: being a "slave" means you belong to and obey someone.
 - Before we knew Jesus, we were slaves to sin — we obeyed wrong desires without even thinking.
 - Now we belong to God, so we should obey Him instead!
 - The more we practice following God, the stronger we grow in holiness (that's what sanctification means — becoming more like Jesus).
 - Just like muscles get stronger when we use them, our spirit grows stronger when we choose to obey God.
 - **Kid Point:** The more I obey God, the stronger my faith becomes.

Key Theological Term:

sanctification- the process of becoming more and more like Jesus every day, for our entire life.

[ROMANS 6:20-21](#) When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. [21](#) And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom.

- V20-21 Before we knew Jesus, we followed sin, but it only brought shame and led to death.
 - Before we knew Jesus, we didn't care about doing what's right.
 - But those choices didn't help us — they only hurt us and others.
 - Sin always brings sadness, guilt, and eventually death (being separated from God).
 - Now that we know Jesus, those old things should make us ashamed, not proud.
 - **Kid Point:** Sin seems fun, but it always brings sadness in the end.

[ROMANS 6:22-23](#) But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. [23](#) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- V22-23 Freed from the power of sin by Jesus!
 - Sin used to be our master, and its payment (or “wages”) was death.
 - But Jesus freed us by making the payment for us! Now we can freely serve God, and His gift is life forever!
 - We can't earn this gift — it's free because Jesus already paid for it.
 - Our new Master gives us purpose, peace, and eternal joy.
 - Which master would you rather serve — one that destroys you or one that gives you life?
 - **Kid Point:** God's free gift is eternal life through Jesus — that's the best gift ever!

Theological Point:

Mercy and Grace — What's the Difference?

Mercy means not getting what we deserve.

Grace means getting what we don't deserve.

Simple Way to Remember:

☪ Mercy = God doesn't give me the punishment I deserve. (Jesus' blood)

Grace = God gives me blessings I don't deserve. (Gift of salvation)

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What question does Paul ask in verse 15? (*“Should we keep on sinning because we are no longer under the law but under grace? — and answers, “Of course not! v.15)*
2. How does Paul use the picture of a slave in this teaching to help us understand flesh and Spirit in ourselves? (*We become slaves to whom we serve— either slaves to sin, which leads to death, or slaves to obedience, which leads to righteousness. v.16)*
3. What gift does God give instead of the wages of sin (Jesus paid the wages)? (*The free gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. v.23)*

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does it mean to be a “slave to sin”? (*It means letting sin control our choices — doing what’s wrong instead of what pleases God. v.16, 20)*
2. How does being a “slave to God” change our lives? (*Serving God builds our faith and leads to serving Him with our lives: Sanctification)*
3. Why can’t grace be used as an excuse to sin? (*Because God’s grace sets us free from sin’s power— it’s not permission to keep doing wrong. v.15–16)*

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. Who are you choosing to obey each day — sin or God?
2. How can we strengthen our Spirit each day? (*Reading God’s word, prayer, serving God, and not our flesh)*
3. What should I always remember when I mess up or sin? (*That the payment for sin was paid- I’m forgiven. God’s grace and forgiveness are enough.v.23)*

Activity #1: Planted in the Ground (dead)— Raised to New Life!

Based on [Romans 6:23](#): For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Supplies Needed:

- Small clear cups (1 per child)
- Potting soil
- Dry beans or seeds (kidney beans, pinto beans, or sunflower seeds work well)
- Plastic spoons or small shovels
- Water
- Permanent markers or stickers (to label each child’s cup)
- Optional: A Bible verse tag with [Romans 6:23](#) printed on it

Directions:

- Plant the “Dead” Seed:
- Give each child a cup and let them write their name on it.
- Fill it about halfway with soil.
- Drop in one seed and cover it lightly with soil.
- Water it gently.

Explain the Meaning:

As they plant, say: This seed looks dead and hidden under the dirt, but soon something amazing will happen — new life will grow! That’s what Jesus does for us. Our old sinful life is gone, and through Him, we are made new and alive forever.

Activity #2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 6:23](#) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Remind them: [Romans 6:23](#) is the gospel in one verse.

Activity #3:

For Older Youth Students, see separate printable handout.

What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

-
- Grace doesn’t give us permission to sin — it gives us power to obey God. ([Romans 6:15](#))
- Whatever we obey becomes our master — so we should follow God, not sin. ([Romans 6:16](#))
- When we trust Jesus, we become free from sin and belong to God. ([Romans 6:18](#), 22)
- Doing wrong leads to shame and death, but obeying God brings joy and life. ([Romans 6:21–22](#))
- Sin pays with death, but God gives eternal life as a free gift through Jesus. ([Romans 6:23](#))

The Law Shows Our Sin — Jesus Sets Us Free

Scripture: [Romans 7:1-13](#)

Big Idea:

Jesus freed us from the Law, and the Law shows how much we need Him.

Call to Action:

This week, when God's Word or God's Spirit shows you sin in your heart, stop and ask God for HELP!

Family Action:

Familiarize yourself and your children with God's Law. [Exodus 20:1-17](#).

There are 613 commandments in the covenant God made with Israel, as found in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible).

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 7:1-13](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)

vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.

vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I'm made right with God. Praise God!

vv. 5:12-21 Sin came through Adam, Life came through Jesus

vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!

vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!

vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.

Opening Question

What do you think it means to be "free" in Jesus? → Let kids explore this and give their thoughts and ideas.

Notes:

Paul will explain here that before we believed in Jesus, God's people had to live under lots of rules (the Law).

But when Jesus died and rose again, He made a new way for us to live — through His Spirit! We are united in Jesus' death and resurrection.

ROMANS 7:1-13 NLT

Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that the law applies only while a person is living?

2 For example, when a woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. 3 So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries.

4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. 6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

7 Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." 8 But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. 9 At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, 10 and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. 11 Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. 12 But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.

13 But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

Notes:

Jesus is speaking to the Jews about the Law given through Moses. The Law was meant to show God's people their sin, set them apart from other nations, and serve as a covenant (promise)—one they agreed to keep perfectly, accepting punishment if they failed. A Biblical covenant is lifelong. Death sets you free from the agreement.

- V1-3 Death ends a covenant. Marriage is a picture of a contract ending at death.
 - The Law was like a contract — a set of rules that told people how to live.
 - Once someone died, that contract no longer applied.
 - Paul used marriage as an example: a wife is bound to her husband while he's alive, but when he dies, she's free to remarry.
 - In the same way, when Jesus died and we believed in Him, our old life under the Law ended too.
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus' death frees people from the old Law so we can belong to Him. (Those to the law apply)

Key Theological Term:

covenant- It's not just any promise—it's a strong, unbreakable agreement where God says what He will do, and the people agree to follow Him. There are consequences for breaking your part of the covenant.

[ROMANS 7:4](#) So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

- V4 United with Christ
 - When Jesus died, our old self died with Him.
 - When the death occurred (when we believed), we were freed from the law, like in marriage.
 - Now we belong to Jesus — like a bride belongs to her husband.
 - Jesus made us new so we can live in a way that pleases God ("bear fruit").
 - This fruit means good things come from our life: kindness, love, obedience, and joy.
 - **Kid Point:** We died with Christ, setting us free from sin. Raised to new life. Now we can serve God!

[ROMANS 7:5-6](#) When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

- V5-6 Jesus' death freed us from the Law, so now we serve God through the Spirit!
 - Before we knew Jesus, our hearts wanted to do wrong.
 - The Law showed us what sin was, but it couldn't change our hearts.
 - In fact, once the law was shown to His people, sin became more obvious.
 - Now, the Holy Spirit helps us live in newness of life.

- We don't obey because we have to — we obey because we want to out of love for Jesus.
- **Kid Point:** I serve God with love, not fear. Freed from sin, law, and death!

[ROMANS 7:7-8](#) Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." ⁸ But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.

- V7-8 The Law reveals sin's power over my body and feelings.
 - God's Law is not sinful — it reveals what sin really is.
 - Paul didn't even know coveting was wrong until God said, "You shall not covet." (From the 10 commandments)
 - The Law is like a mirror: it shows the dirt on our face, but it doesn't cause the dirt.
 - Our sinful nature uses God's commands as opportunities to rebel — when God reveals the rule, our flesh pushes against it.
- **Kid Point:** The Law shows us our sin.

Key Theological Term:

Covet- To covet means to want something that belongs to someone else so much that you're not content with what you have. It's more than just liking something — it's wanting it in your heart in the wrong way.

[ROMANS 7:9-11](#) At one time, I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, ¹⁰ and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. ¹¹ Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.

- V9-11 Freed from the power of sin by Jesus!
 - Before the Law, sin was "quiet," but when the command came, sin "woke up" and wanted the opposite of what God said.
 - "Alive apart from the Law" means Paul once felt okay (before he believed and knew God's word)— he thought he was doing fine.
 - When he understood God's commands, he suddenly realized, "I'm a sinner!"
 - His sinful nature reacted like a lion being poked — it came alive and wanted to rebel.
 - Sin "deceived" him, just like the serpent deceived Adam and Eve.
 - The command that was thought to bring life instead showed him he deserved death. It was never obeying the law that made people right with God. It was their heart to please God by following His

law.

- **Kid Point:** God's law helps us see the need for a Savior.

[ROMANS 7:12-13](#) But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.

13 But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

- V12-13 The law is Holy and shows us how sinful we really are.
 - God's Law is not the problem — it is holy, perfect, and good because it comes from God.
 - The Law shows us what sin really is, like turning on a bright light in a dark room.
 - Our sinful flesh reacts to God's rules the wrong way — instead of obeying, it wants to rebel.
 - Sin “uses” the Law to stir up wrong desires inside us (like gasoline reacting to fire).
 - So inside us there is a battle:
 - Our new spirit from Jesus wants to obey,
 - Our sinful body wants to go the opposite way.
- Kid Point: Our sin is shown when lined up to God's holy Law.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. According to Paul, how long does the Law have authority over a person? *(As long as they are alive. v.1)*
2. What example does Paul use to explain being released from the Law? *(Marriage — when a husband dies, the wife is released from that covenant. v.2-3)*
3. What does Paul say the Law helped him recognize? *(The Law helped him know what sin was (like coveting) v.7)*

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why are believers “dead to the Law”? *(Because when we believed in Jesus, our old “self” died with Him, ending our connection to the Law. v.4)*
2. Is the Law bad because it makes us aware of sin? *(No. The Law is holy and good — it just reveals how sinful our flesh is. v.12)*
3. What does sin do when it hears God's commands? *(Sin uses the command to stir up more sin inside us. v.8)*

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. Who was the Law of God for, and are you held to the Law? *(His chosen People- Jews/ No, Gentiles aren't held to the law, but the Law is still useful in showing us how sinful we are)*

2. When God's Word shows you sin in your heart, what should you do? (*Confess it and ask God to help me obey Him instead of my flesh. [1 John 1:9](#) — If we confess our sins, He is faithful... to forgive.*)
 3. How can remembering that God's Law is good help you make better choices? (*It reminds me that God's rules protect me, and that sin hurts me. Also shows me the need for a Savior! v.12*)
-

Activities

1: Object Lesson

The Mirror vs. The Cleaner

Based on [Romans 7:1-13](#), the Law shows our sin, but Jesus cleans our hearts.

Supplies Needed:

- A mirror (or several hand mirrors)
- Dry-erase markers (dark colors work best)
- Paper towels or wipes
- Optional: A spray bottle with water (labeled "Jesus")

Directions:

1. Show the Mirror

- Hold up a clean mirror.
- "The mirror shows what's on your face, but it cannot clean your face. That's like God's Law. It shows us our sin, but it cannot remove it."

2. Let the Kids "Write Sin"

- Have each child take a dry-erase marker and write a word like: (lying, being selfish, disobeying, fighting, being unkind)
- "These words represent sin — our hearts without Jesus."

3. Try to Clean It With the Mirror

- Ask the kids: "Can the mirror clean itself?"
- Let them try to "clean" the mirror using only the mirror. (It won't work!)
- "The Law can SHOW your sin...but it can't REMOVE your sin." (Just like Romans 7 teaches!)

4. Bring Out the "Jesus Cleaner"

- Spray the mirror with water and wipe it clean.
- "Only Jesus can wash away sin. The Law shows us the dirt — Jesus removes the dirt!"

5. Repeat With Different Words

- Allow kids to try again: Write sins → mirror can't clean → Jesus cleans.

Reflection:

“God’s Law is like a mirror. It shows us what’s wrong on the inside — but it can’t fix it. Jesus is the One who washes our hearts clean. That’s why we need Him!”

[Romans 7:12](#) — “The Law is holy and good.”

[Romans 7:6](#) — “But now we serve in the new way of the Spirit.”

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 6:23](#) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth students, see separate printable handouts.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- When we believed in Jesus, our “old self” died. ([Romans 7:4](#))
- We now serve God in a new way — by the Holy Spirit. ([Romans 7:6](#))
- God’s Law is good because it shows us what sin really is. ([Romans 7:7,12](#))
- Sin lives in our flesh and reacts against God’s commands. ([Romans 7:8](#))
- Seeing our sin shows us how much we need Jesus. ([Romans 7:9-11](#))

The War Inside Every Believer

Scripture: [Romans 7:13-25](#)

Big Idea:

We have a new Spirit that wants to follow Jesus, but our sinful flesh fights against us!

Call to Action:

What can you do when you feel the “battle” inside to do wrong?

Family Action:

Help your child to understand that sin in all of us is real, and our weapon is feeding our Spirit: by the word of God, worshiping, and talking with others.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 7:13-25](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V13 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)
vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.
vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I'm made right with God. Praise God!
vv. 5:12-21 Sin came through Adam, Life came through Jesus
vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!
vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!
vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.
vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!

Opening Question

Have you ever turned on a light and suddenly noticed all the dust or mess in a room that you didn't see before?" → The light didn't make the mess—it showed it. → That's exactly what God's Law does with our sin.

Notes:

Chapter 6 addressed how that salvation changed our spirit for the better.

Chapter 7 explained why, despite our perfection in Christ, we still experience sin in our body.

Last week, Paul summarized his explanation of the law in v.12: *But still, the law itself is holy, and its*

commands are holy and right and good.

- The law is holy, and its instructions to us are holy and righteous and good.
- The problem isn't the Law itself; the problem is how our sinful flesh responds to God and His law.

Consequence of having our flesh body still as a believer: In coming to Christ, you have died to the law (setting you free from a covenant- like marriage), But clearly we still struggle with sin. WHY?

For Gentiles: Never under the law, but likewise, you have died with Christ, putting to death the old YOU, the spirit in you.

All believers, Jew and Gentile, are made new, born again, and have the perfect Spirit of Christ.

[ROMANS 7:13-25 NLT](#)

But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. **15** I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. **16** But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. **17** So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. **19** I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God's law with all my heart. **23** But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. **24** Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? **25** Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Notes: More consequences of having our fleshly body still as a believer.

- V13-14 God's Law is good, but my sinful flesh fights against it.
 - The Law is good and comes from God. The Law is not the problem!
 - The problem is our sinful flesh—the part of us that still wants to sin.

- The Law helps us see our sin; it doesn't create the sin.
- God's Law is spiritual and perfect—but we still live in sinful, human bodies. (Person- flesh)
- This creates a constant war between:
 - Christ's perfect spirit in us
 - Adam's sinful flesh still attached to our body
- **Kid Point:** The Law shows us God's perfection and gives sin a name. I am made new in my Spirit but still have a sinful body (flesh).

[ROMANS 7:15-18](#) I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. [16](#) But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. [17](#) So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. [18](#) And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[d] I want to do what is right, but I can't.

- V15-18 Sin is real in the believer! But not what we want to do!
 - Paul says in v.15 that sometimes he does things he doesn't understand—he messes up even when he doesn't want to.
 - We all know that feeling—when we mess up and think, “Why did I do that?”
 - When we do something wrong and feel bad about it, that shows our heart agrees with God—His Word is right and good.
 - Before we were saved, we didn't care that we sinned... but now our new heart does care.
 - Paul explains that the real me—the spirit Jesus made new—doesn't want to sin.
 - But sin still lives in our flesh (our physical body), and that's where the wrong desires come from.
 - Our spirit wants to obey God, but our flesh pushes us toward sin.
 - Wanting to do what's right is inside us... but actually doing it is hard because our body resists.
 - **Kid Point:** Our spirit wants to obey God, but our flesh pushes us toward sin.

[ROMANS 7:19-20](#) I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. [20](#) But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

- V19-20 The War inside every believer!
 - Paul says, “I want to do what's good... but I sometimes do the wrong thing instead.”
 - Every Christian feels this same battle—wanting to obey God but falling into sin.
 - This shows we have two parts inside us:
 - Our spirit, which loves God and wants to obey Him.

- Our flesh, which pulls us toward sin.
- When we sin, it doesn't mean we aren't saved—it means our flesh won that moment.
- Paul repeats the truth: Your spirit is not trying to sin—your flesh is!
- This helps us understand why Christians still struggle, even after Jesus saves us.
 - *Two wills live in the same person: The War!*
 - One wants what God wants. (Spirit)
 - One wants what sin wants. (Flesh)
- **Kid Point:** Spirit vs Flesh. Who will you listen to?

[ROMANS 7:21-25](#) I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. [22](#) I love God's law with all my heart. [23](#) But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. [24](#) Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? [25](#) Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

- V21-25 Two Forces Live Inside Every Christian
 - Paul says he wants to do good, because his new spirit loves God. v21
 - But he notices something: evil is still inside his body, trying to pull him the wrong way. vv22-23
 - Those wrong desires are not his true self — they're from the sinful flesh we still live in.
 - Our perfect Spirit loves God's ways
 - Our Body Has a Different Law — the Law of Sin. v23
 - Paul says there is a "different law" inside his body, always trying to fight his spirit. It's like a foreign enemy — something actively trying to pull us into sin.
 - This creates a real war inside us
 - Paul feels like a "prisoner" sometimes because he cannot completely escape his sinful flesh until he gets a new body in the resurrection.
 - We are not hopeless:
 - Inside us, we already have the mind of Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God's Word.
 - We have everything we need to fight sin.
 - The stronger our spiritual life grows, the more we can say "no" to sin and "yes" to God.
 - **Kid Point:** Spirit vs Flesh. We are free in Christ. We have everything we need to fight sin!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul say the Law is — good or bad? (The Law is holy, righteous, and good (v.12-13))
2. Where does Paul say sin lives? (Sin lives in the “members” of his body — his flesh (v.17-18, 23))
3. Does Paul say he always does the good he wants to do? (No — he often does the opposite (v.15,19))

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. If the Law is good, what's the problem? Why is there still sin? (Because the problem is not the Law, but the sin living in his flesh (v.14-17))
2. Why does Paul feel like there is a “war” inside him? (His new spirit wants to obey God, but his sinful flesh fights against it (v.22-23))
3. What does this passage teach us about Christians and sin? (That even believers still struggle with sin, even Paul — but that struggle proves God has made us new inside (v.22))

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. When you feel tempted, what should you remember about where sin comes from? (It doesn't come from my new spirit — it comes from my flesh, so I don't have to obey it (v.17-23))
2. What can you do when you feel the “battle” inside to do wrong? (Ask the Holy Spirit to help, choose what honors God, and follow His Word (v.22))
3. How does knowing Jesus rescued you help you fight sin today? (It reminds me that I'm not fighting alone — Jesus already won the war, and He helps me win daily battles (v.24-25))

Activities

1: Game**The Tug-of-War Inside Me!****Supplies Needed:**

- A long piece of rope (or jump rope)
- Tape or chalk to mark a center line on the ground
- Two signs (paper plates or cards):
- One labeled “Spirit – Wants to Do Good”
- One labeled “Flesh – Wants to Sin”
- Two volunteers (or two teams of kids)

Tell the kids: “Inside every Christian, there are two voices: Your Spirit (that loves God) and Your Flesh (that wants to sin). Paul says they are at war inside us!”

Read [Romans 7:21–23](#) aloud.

Directions - Round 1:

- Set Up the Tug-of-War
- Put the rope on the center line.
- Give one volunteer the “Spirit” sign and the other the “Flesh” sign.
- Let the kids tug while everyone watches.
(Keep it short so no one gets hurt!)
- After 10–15 seconds, call “STOP!”

“This tug-of-war happens inside every believer.

But there’s GOOD NEWS — the Holy Spirit helps us pull on the RIGHT side!”

Directions Round 2: Strengthening the Spirit

- Now add helpers to the Spirit’s side.
- Ask: “What things help your spirit grow stronger?”
- Kids answer: Reading the Bible, Praying, Listening to God, Obeying God, Being with other believers, Worshiping
- Every time a child names one, add another helper to the Spirit’s side of the rope.
- Do the tug-of-war again — Spirit wins easily.
- Tell them: “When we feed our spirit with God’s Word and prayer, we get stronger and can resist sin.
- We can’t stop the war, but we CAN choose which side we help!”

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 6:23](#) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- My spirit wants to obey God. (([Romans 7:22](#))
- My flesh still pulls me toward sin. ([Romans 7:23](#))
- It's normal to feel the battle inside. ([Romans 7:21](#))
- Sin doesn't come from my spirit; it comes from my flesh. ([Romans 7:17-18](#))
- Jesus gives me the power to fight sin. ([Romans 7:24-25](#))

Life in the Spirit

Scripture: [Romans 8:1-11](#)

Big Idea:

I'm safe in Jesus forever, and His Spirit helps me live for God now!

Call to Action:

This week, challenge yourself to write down what you have learned concerning Spirit & Flesh.

Family Action:

When we remind kids about the battle between the flesh and the Spirit, we're helping them see that they can make a choice. Show them how you face this battle too, and teach them how to choose Jesus instead of sin.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 8:1-11](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 4:1-12 Old Testament Proof for being saved by faith (Abraham's Faith)
vv. 4:13-25 God's promises come by faith, not by works. More Proof from Abraham's life.
vv. 5:1-11 Because of Jesus, I'm made right with God. Praise God!
vv. 5:12-21 Sin came through Adam, Life came through Jesus.
vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!
vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!
vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.
vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!
vv. 8:1-11 Life in the Spirit, Forever with God!

Opening Question

Who helps you when you feel stuck, scared, or unsure what to do?" (Let kids discuss) → Opens discussion about the Holy Spirit being our helper and proof we belong to Jesus.

Notes:

Romans 6 taught us that when we believed in Jesus, He made our spirit brand-new.

Romans 7 showed us why we still struggle with sin—because our body hasn't been fixed yet and still wants

to do wrong.

That can make us wonder things like:

- If I still sin, am I really saved?
- How do we know who is truly a believer?
- Do hard things happen because God is upset with me?

All these questions really come down to one worry: *“Am I safe with God forever?”*

Romans 8 answers that worry.

- It shows us that even though we still battle sin, we are completely secure in Jesus and nothing can ever separate us from Him.

[ROMANS 8:1-11 NLT](#)

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Notes:

Because Paul starts this with {So} as in you understand Romans 6 & 7, now I'll continue. Other versions of the Bible use the word *therefore*.

- V1 No Condemnation in Christ- RIGHT NOW!
 - When you trust in Jesus, God gives you a new spirit — perfect, clean, and forever His.
 - God never condemns His children. Not now... not ever.
 - Even though our body still sins, our true self (our spirit) is already forgiven and made new.
 - God sees Jesus' righteousness when He looks at us — not our failures.
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus took my punishment, so I never have to fear God's anger or wrath.

Key Theological Term:

condemnation- means being declared guilty and deserving of punishment. Example: It's like a judge saying, "You did wrong, and you must be punished."

[ROMANS 8:2-4](#) And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. **3** The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. **4** He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

- V2-4 Freedom From the Law of Sin and Death
 - The Holy Spirit sets us free (v.2).
 - Our old spirit was under a rule ("law") that said sin = death.
 - The Holy Spirit is now the "law of life" inside us.
 - The Law couldn't save us (v.3).
 - Our sinful flesh couldn't obey the law; the Law only showed us our failure.
 - Jesus fulfilled everything the Law required (v.4)
 - Everything God's Law demanded — perfect obedience — has already been completed in Christ.
 - When we trust Jesus, His perfect record becomes our record.
 - We now walk by the Spirit, not the flesh (v.4).
 - Our old sinful body still tries to pull us toward sin... but it doesn't rule us anymore.
 - **Kid Point:** Jesus completed everything the Law required, including the punishment of death.

[ROMANS 8:5-8](#) Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about

sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

- V5-8 Before I was saved, I never thought to please God.
 - Before Jesus, we only followed our flesh.
 - Before salvation, there was no tug-of-war inside us—only the sinful desires of our body. (Even the good we did).
 - The unbelieving mind naturally is against God (v.6–7).
 - Paul says a mind “set on the flesh” leads to death—because sin always ends in death.
 - The fleshly mind is hostile toward God—it doesn't want what He wants and can't obey Him, even if it tries.
 - God's Law shows us what's right, but the flesh uses that knowledge to sin even more.
 - The unbeliever cannot please God (v.8).
 - Without the Spirit, a person has no desire to honor God.
 - They don't feel convicted about sin, and they don't think about eternity.
 - They do not worry about salvation — because the idea never even enters their mind.

Notes:

After salvation, everything inside us changes!

- When we trust in Jesus, God gives us a new spirit that perfectly agrees with Him.
- Our thinking changes from:
 - “How do I avoid trouble?” → to → “How do I please God?”
 - “What do I want?” → to → “What does God want?”
- Now we feel burdened by sin, not just its consequences.
- We think about eternal life, not just earthly things.
- Our changed thinking is proof that we belong to Jesus!
 - The fact that you care about sin...
 - The fact that you want to obey...
 - The fact that you think about heaven...
 - All of that proves the Holy Spirit is inside you.
- **Kid Point:** Before Jesus, my mind followed sin. Now, because of the Holy Spirit, I can think in a way that pleases God.

[ROMANS 8:9-11](#) But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) [10](#) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. [11](#) The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

- V9-11 The Holy Spirit is God's proof that you truly belong to Jesus and will live forever with Him.
 - When you believed in Jesus, the Holy Spirit came to live inside you instantly (v.1).
 - Paul says clearly:
 - If someone has the Spirit, they belong to Jesus.
 - If someone does NOT have the Spirit, they are not His.
 - Your body still sins and will one day die. But the Spirit in you is ALIVE!
 - Your spirit is part of Christ, perfect and righteous forever.
 - The SAME Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will raise your body one day, making it new and perfect and unable to sin ever again.
 - This means nothing you do in your body can undo what Christ has done in your heart.
 - **Kid Point:** I am His forever & will one day have a perfect body like Jesus!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. According to [Romans 8:1](#), what is there now for those who are in Christ Jesus? *(No condemnation. God will not judge or punish our spirit for sin. However, there IS still consequences for sin)*
2. In [Romans 8:2](#), what has set us free from the law of sin and death? *(The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus — meaning our new Spirit-born life. Being Born-again)*
3. According to [Romans 8:9](#), who does not belong to Christ? *(Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ living in them. Unbelievers)*

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is there no condemnation for believers? *(Because our spirit is now perfect and righteous in Christ, even though our body still sins. v.1)*
2. What does Paul mean when he says the Spirit “set us free”? *(We are no longer under the law that demanded death for our sin — Jesus already paid that penalty v.2)*
3. What does [Romans 8:11](#) mean when it says the Spirit will “give life to your mortal bodies”? *(The same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus will one day raise our bodies and make them new and sinless forever v.8)*

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. If God says you are “not condemned,” how should you think when you feel guilty or afraid?
(Remember that God does not condemn me — my sin does not change God’s love or my salvation. There are still consequences for sin v.1)
 2. How can knowing the Spirit lives in you help you make better choices? *(I can listen to His voice and choose things that please God instead of things my sinful body wants v.9-10)*
 3. How does the promise of resurrection encourage you when life feels hard? *(God will finish the good work He started — one day I will have a perfect body and live with Him forever v.11/ [Philippians 1:6](#))*
-

ACTIVITIES

1: Craft**Old Life / New Life Flip Book****Supplies Needed:**

- Cardstock or construction paper (1 per child)
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers (optional)

Instructions

- Give each child 1 sheet
- Fold in half horizontally like a booklet.
- Cut the top folded portion in half. You will have 2 flaps.
- Label the flaps : OLD LIFE (Flesh) | NEW LIFE (Spirit)
- Under each flap, draw a picture to represent the old and new life.
 - Examples of the old life controlled by sin (simple, non-guilty examples):
 - A sad face
 - Someone doing something selfish
 - A heart with scribbles
 - A broken chain
 - Darkness / storm clouds
 - Examples of life in the Spirit:
 - A happy face / peaceful heart
 - A bright light
 - A heart with cross in it
 - Hands praying
 - A chain broken completely
- On the back, kids write: “Because of Jesus, I have a NEW LIFE! [Romans 8:1-11](#)”

Teaching Conversation While They Work:

Ask: “What’s the difference between the old life and the new life?”

- “Which part of you does God say is perfect and alive now?”
- “How does the Holy Spirit help you every day?”

Remind them gently: The old life still shows up sometimes, but the real “you” is the new life in Jesus.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 8:1](#) *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God will not punish me for sin when I stand before Him. ([Romans 8:1](#))
- God's Spirit gives us a brand-new kind of life. ([Romans 8:2](#))
- Jesus perfectly obeyed God for us. ([Romans 8:3-4](#))
- God sees us as righteous because of Jesus living in us. ([Romans 8:10](#))
- The Holy Spirit guarantees our future resurrection. ([Romans 8:11](#))

The Hope Ahead!

Scripture: [Romans 8:12-25](#)

Big Idea:

I'm safe in Jesus forever, and His Spirit helps me live for God now!

Call to Action:

This week, think about the suffering you experience day to day. It's only for a little while. Let's focus on the HOPE that's promised to His children.

Family Action:

Help children see that even though we suffer now, these verses remind us to look past our pain and focus on the amazing glory God is bringing.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 8:12-25](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V12 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!

vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!

vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.

vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!

vv. 8:1-11 Life in the Spirit, Forever with God!

vv. 8:12-25 Suffering for a Little While

Opening Question

Have you ever waited a long time for something good—like a birthday or a special trip—and it felt SO hard to wait? → Paul says Christians are also waiting... but for something even better! But in the waiting period, there will be suffering, pain trials.

Notes on Suffering

Now we enter the second half of Romans 8, where Paul talks about another big question: If God loves us and we belong to Him, why do we still suffer? Vv23-25 is about our personal suffering in our bodies.

Sometimes people think that only “bad people” should have hard times and “good people” should always have good things. But that's not how God works. So we might wonder:

Does suffering mean God is upset with me?

Does it mean my salvation isn't secure?

Why do Christians still face pain and problems?

Paul wants us to understand that suffering does not mean we've lost God's love. Instead, he begins to explain God's bigger plan — not just for us, but for all of Creation.

All of this proves that we are safe with God forever.

[ROMANS 8:12-25 NLT](#)

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. **13** For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." **16** For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. **17** And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. **19** For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. **20** Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, **21** the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. **22** For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **23** And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. **24** We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. **25** But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

- V12-14 God's Spirit lives in me — and that means I'm truly His child.
 - Paul is telling believers, "You don't have to obey your sinful desires anymore."
 - People who follow only the sinful flesh — with no struggle, no guilt, no desire for God — are showing they don't belong to Jesus.

- But believers are different, by the Spirit:
- We feel the battle.
 - We want to obey God.
 - The Holy Spirit won't let us stay comfortable in sin.
- How do we know someone really belongs to Jesus? How do we know someone really belongs to Jesus?
 - The battle between right and wrong inside your heart is proof that you are God's child.
- Kid Point: The struggle against sin is evidence that I'm God's forever.

[ROMANS 8:15-17](#) So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." [16](#) For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. [17](#) And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

- V15-17 I'm an heir of the Most High King!
 - Before we knew Jesus, we had a spirit of slavery—meaning we lived in fear. Fear of death. Fear of bad things. Fear of not knowing our purpose. (Which is ultimately a fear of God, unknowingly)
 - But when we believed in Jesus, God replaced our fearful spirit with a new spirit that wants Him.
 - We don't fear death. We don't live in shame. We now have a purpose.
 - The Spirit communicates with us, guiding us towards God. v16
 - The Spirit guides us perfectly to God and with God.
 - If children of God, then heirs! (An heir is someone who receives a special gift or inheritance.)
 - Jesus died and rose again—and because we are in His family, we share everything God gives Him!
 - We have life NOW, we will rise to life again after death BUT we will also suffer in this life like Jesus.
 - **Kid Point:** We inherit everything Jesus did—perfection, new life, and suffering too.

[ROMANS 8:18-22](#) Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. [19](#) For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. [20](#) Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, [21](#) the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. [22](#) For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- V18-22 Life can be hard, but God is preparing something so wonderful that nothing can compare!

- Life can be hard, but Paul says God is preparing something so amazing that nothing we suffer now can compare.
- God has promised His children Heaven, new bodies, and a perfect world with no pain or sin.
 - When Adam sinned, the whole world was cursed—that's why we have storms, sickness, disasters, and death.
- Creation didn't choose this; God allowed the curse because He has a better future plan. He didn't leave us in a sinful state forever after the fall (Gen. 3)
- One day, creation will be set free from the curse, just like we will. ([Gen. 3:17](#))
 - Paul says creation is “cries” like a mom giving birth:
 - Pain now → joy later. Suffering & Pain → New life.
 - The world's “cries” remind us that God uses today's suffering to bring something wonderful—His perfect kingdom and our future glory.
- **Kid Point:** Suffering for now doesn't compare to the GLORY to come!

[ROMANS 8:23-25](#) And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. [24](#) We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. [25](#) But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

- V23-25 Christians still feel sadness, sickness, and pain because our bodies are still part of the broken world.
 - V23: This verse shows that being a Christian doesn't mean life is easy—we still suffer while we wait for God's plan to be finished.
 - We feel the brokenness of the curse (from Genesis 3), but we also know it won't last forever.
 - One day, God will give us brand-new bodies that never get sick, hurt, or die.
 - So we don't expect everything to be perfect now—our hope is for what God will do in the future.
 - We can't see our new bodies yet, but we believe God will give them to us. That's what hope and faith are.
 - Hope helps us keep going, even when life is hard, because we know God always keeps His promises.
 - Just like a mom has pain before a baby is born, our suffering comes before the joy God promised.
 - That's why we wait patiently—God's timing is perfect.
- **Kid Point:** Our hope in His promise helps us wait patiently.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. According to Paul, what are Christians not obligated to live by? *(We are not obligated to live according to the flesh. v.8:12)*
2. What happens if someone lives according to the flesh, without having the Spirit? *(Flesh is due a penalty- death. Rom. v.8:13)*
3. What is all of creation, including our bodies, doing while it waits for God's plan? *(Creation is groaning and waiting eagerly for the sons of God to be revealed. vv.19-20)*

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does fighting sin show we belong to God? *(Because the Holy Spirit in us leads us to fight against sin — only God's children feel this inner battle. vv.13-14)*
2. Why does Paul say we don't fear God like slaves anymore? *(Because we received the Spirit of adoption, and now we see God as our loving Father ("Abba"). vv.15-16)*
3. Why does Paul say our suffering isn't worth comparing to future glory? *(Because the glory God will reveal to His children is far better and lasts forever, while suffering is temporary. v.18)*

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. When you struggle with sin, what should you remember? *(That the struggle itself is proof the Holy Spirit lives in you — God is helping you fight. vv.13-14)*
2. When life gets hard or painful, what perspective should you keep? *(Remember that these trials are temporary, and God has prepared future glory that is far greater. vv.24-25)*
3. How can we live with hope even when we don't see God's promises yet? *(By waiting with perseverance, trusting God for what we cannot yet see. vv.24-25)*

Activities

1: Craft

Hope Jar — Waiting for God's Promises

Supplies Needed:

- A small jar (1 per child)
- Slips of paper
- Pen or crayons
- Stickers or tape
- Label: "My Hope Jar"

Directions:

Decorate your jar with stickers and the words "My Hope Jar."

On each paper slip, write things God promises in the Bible:

- "God will give me a new body."
- "God will wipe away all tears."
- "Jesus is coming back."
- "God is always with me."

Fold the slips and place them in the jar.

Whenever you feel discouraged or sad, pull out a promise and read it.

- Thank God for what He will do—even if you can't see it yet.

Teaching Conversation While They Work:

Explain Hope is trusting God for things we can't see yet—just like Paul says in Romans 8.

Remind them gently: The old life still shows up sometimes, but the Spirit is here to guide and point you towards God- 100% of the time. Not sometimes.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 8:28](#) *We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are chosen to be a part of His plan.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death.

Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God Gives Us the Strength to Fight Sin ([Romans 8:12-13](#))
- Struggling Against Sin Shows We Belong to God ([Romans 8:14](#))
- We Are God's Real Children—Adopted Into His Family ([Romans 8:15-16](#))
- One Day We Will Get New Perfect Bodies ([Romans 8:23](#))
- Suffering Now Means Glory Later ([Romans 8:18-22](#))

God Made Us His Children Forever!

Scripture: [Romans 8:26-39](#)

Big Idea:

Nothing can separate me from God!

Call to Action:

This week, when something hard happens, how should you think about it in light of knowing GOD did the work to make you HIS CHILD?

Family Action:

Explain to your children that God may allow hard moments, but the Holy Spirit helps us through them. Share your own struggles openly.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 8:26-39](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V39 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!

vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!

vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.

vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!

vv. 8:1-11 Life in the Spirit, Forever with God!

vv. 8:12-25 Suffering for a Little While

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can Separate Me from God!

Opening Question

When you're having a really hard day, who do you go to for help—and why?" → God gives us the Holy Spirit who helps us every day, even in our weaknesses.

Notes:

The second half of Romans 8, where Paul talks about another big question: If God loves us and we belong to Him, why do we still suffer? vv23-25 is about our personal suffering in our bodies.

Sometimes people think that only "bad people" should have hard times and "good people" should always have good things. But that's not how God works. So we might wonder:

- Does suffering mean God is upset with me?
- Does it mean my salvation isn't secure?
- Why do Christians still face pain and problems?

Paul wants us to understand that suffering does not mean we've lost God's love. Instead, he begins to explain God's bigger plan — not just for us, but for all of Creation. Suffering for a little while is not comparable to what waits for us in the future. A new perfect sinless body, with Jesus!

Continuing in the rest of the chapter, Paul shows us why God allows suffering and what it tells us about our eternal security. Suffering brings spiritual growth, dependence on God, v28 tells us it's for our good. But how?

REMINDER: God allows suffering- even for his own Son.

[Is. 53:10](#) *But the Lord was pleased*

To crush Him, putting Him to grief;
If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring,
He will prolong His days,
And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

However, suffering is not done alone!!!!

[ROMANS 8:26-39 NLT](#)

[26](#) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. [27](#) And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. [28](#) And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. [29](#) For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. [30](#) And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

[31](#) What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? [32](#) Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? [33](#) Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.

[34](#) Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us

and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

[35](#) Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? [36](#) (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") [37](#) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

[38](#) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. [39](#) No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- V26-27 The Holy Spirit Helps Us When We're Weak

- Paul is telling believers that the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak
- The Holy Spirit prays for us to God directly even when we have no prayer to give or when we don't know what to pray for ourselves.
- God the Father searches our hearts—He knows what we're feeling.
- His prayers are always right, always good, and always loving.
 - Even when we pray for the wrong things (like "God make everything easy"), the Spirit prays for what will actually help us grow.
- The Spirit & God are always working for His children!
- **Kid Point:** God never lets us struggle alone—when we're weak, confused, or don't even know what to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us perfectly while we wait to join Jesus in Heaven.

Notes:

Paul summarizes this in one of the best-known passages in the New Testament:

[ROMANS 8:28](#) And we know that God causes everything to work together[m] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

- V28 God is at Work for Me!

- Believers can know (with confidence) that God uses every circumstance—good or bad—for their eternal good.
- God Himself is actively working in our lives; nothing is random.
- This promise applies only to believers ("those who love Him... called according to His purpose").

- Unbelievers do not receive this guarantee because they cannot benefit eternally from God's good purposes.
- Sometimes hard or confusing moments are the Spirit helping us grow—teaching us, correcting us, and strengthening our faith.
- Nothing we go through can stop God's good plan for us. No trial, suffering, or attack can take away the future glory He promised.
- **Kid Point:** God uses everything in a Christian's life—even the hard stuff—for good, because He loves us and is always in control.

Notes:

The chain of salvation. God started the work of saving before any of us were ever born and therefore, he will complete the saving. God chooses, God holds us secure, God will one day Glorify us.

[ROMANS 8:29-30](#) For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. [30](#) And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

- V29-30 God planned our whole salvation from the very beginning—and He promises to finish what He started.
 - God knew every Christian before the world even began. (v.29)
 - God Has a Perfect Plan (v.29)
 - To be “conformed to Jesus” means:
 - To follow Him,
 - To suffer like He did,
 - And one day to share His glory.
 - God's Unbreakable Chain (v.30)
 - Paul shows us a chain that cannot be broken:
 - God chose us
 - God called us
 - God made us right with Him (justified)
 - God will glorify us (give us new, perfect bodies)
 - If God starts the chain, He always finishes it.
 - Every Christian already has part of this chain in their past—
 - we were chosen,
 - called,

- and made right with God.
- Only one step is left: glorified—and God promises it will happen!
- Why does this chain matter? This chain proves Christians are safe forever in God's hands.
- **Kid Point:** God's going to finish what He started. He is the one doing the Saving- not us! (Ephesians: 1:3-6)

Notes:

Paul draws our attention to where we sit on the chain today, and he leads us to the conclusion that if God has taken us this far, by His power and not because of anything we've done, then how can we doubt He will bring us to the final link: Glory with God.

[ROMANS 8:31-32](#) What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? [32](#) Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

- V31-32 If God gave us His Son & saved us through HIM, then nothing and no one can stop His plan for us.
 - Paul asks: If God is on our side, who could ever beat Him? The answer: No one!
 - God already decided to bring us to glory—no power in the universe can change His plan.
 - God gave us His most precious gift—His only Son. (v.32)
 - It would make no sense for God to do the hardest thing (giving His Son) but then fail to finish His plan.
 - Jesus Himself said He will never lose anyone the Father gives Him. ([John 6:37-39](#))
- **Kid Point:** If God chose you, called you, saved you, and gave you Jesus, then NOTHING can stop Him from bringing you safely to glory.

[ROMANS 8:33-39](#) Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. [34](#) Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

[35](#) Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? [36](#) (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") [37](#) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

[38](#) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers

of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- V33-39 Nothing—not sin, people, suffering, or any power—can ever separate God's children from His love.
 - No One Can Accuse Us (v.33–34)
 - Paul asks: Who can accuse God's children and make God change His mind about us?
 - Satan loves to accuse Christians, but God is the Judge, and He already said we are forgiven.
 - Jesus died for us, rose again, and now defends us at God's right hand.
- SKIP V36- explained below
 - Nothing Hard in Life Can Separate Us (v.35–37)
 - Paul asks: Can suffering pull us away from Jesus? Trouble? Stress? Being treated badly? Being hungry? Feeling ashamed? Danger? Even death? No!
 - Jesus went through all these things on His way to the cross—He understands our pain.
 - Because we are credited with His victory, we “overwhelmingly conquer” through Him.
 - Even if we fail sometimes, Jesus' perfect life covers our failures.
 - NOTHING in All Creation Can Separate Us (v.38–39)
 - Paul makes the strongest promise of all: Not death, Not life, Not angels, Not demons, Not today, Not the future, Not any power, Nothing high, Nothing deep, Nothing God made.....can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
 - **Kid Point:** God will never stop loving His children—nothing in the whole universe is strong enough to pull us away from Him.

Notes: (Paul adds this unusual verse here) v36

Paul suddenly quotes Psalm 44—a psalm where Israel cries out in suffering, feeling abandoned and attacked by enemies.

At first, this seems strange because Paul is teaching that nothing can separate us from God's love. So why bring up a verse where God's people feel rejected?

[ROMANS 8:36](#) The Holy Writings say, “Because of belonging to Jesus, we are in danger of being killed all day long. We are thought of as sheep that are ready to be killed.”

- V36 Paul wants the Jews in the audience to ask a big question—“What about Israel?”
 - Psalm 44 shows Israel suffering, attacked, and feeling abandoned for rejecting God and Jesus.
 - But Paul's point is that even when God's people suffer—even terribly—God's plan for them is never destroyed.
 - By using this verse, Paul prepares the crowd to wonder:

- If Israel suffered and rejected Jesus, did God forget His promises?
- And if Israel looks rejected, could God reject us too?
- This sets up Romans 9–11, where Paul answers:
 - What is God doing with Israel?
 - Has He abandoned them?
 - Will He keep His covenants?
- Psalm 44 ends with hope—Israel looked rejected, but God wasn't done with them.
- Just like our suffering doesn't separate us from God, Israel's suffering doesn't cancel God's promises either.
- **Kid Point:** Paul quotes Psalm 44 to remind us that God's people may suffer deeply—but suffering never means God has abandoned them. God always keeps His promises.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. Who helps us pray when we don't know what to say? (*The Holy Spirit helps us vv. 26-27*)
2. Who is working all things together for the good of God's people? (*God is working all things together for good. v.28*)
3. What can separate us from Christ's love? (*Nothing in all creation. vv.38-39*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does the Spirit pray for us when we are weak? (*Because the Spirit knows God's heart and prays for us exactly the way we need. v.27*)
2. What does it mean that God works everything for good? (*It means even hard things can be used by God to grow us and help us because He loves us. v.28*)
3. Why can nothing separate us from Christ's love? (*Because Jesus died for us, rose again, and now stands in our place, so His love is forever. v.34*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. When you feel sad or confused, how can you remember the Spirit is helping you? (*I can pray, "Holy Spirit, help me," knowing He understands my heart even when I don't have the words. v.26*)
2. When something hard happens, how should you think about it? (*I can trust that God is using everything—even hard stuff—for my good and His plan. v.28*)
3. When you feel alone or afraid, what truth can you remind yourself of? (*Jesus will never stop loving me, and nothing can pull me away from Him. v.38-39*)

Activities

1: Craft

The Unbreakable Chain of God's Plan

Supplies Needed:

- Construction paper (5 colors if possible)
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue stick OR stapler
- A Bible

Directions:

- Cut five long strips of construction paper.
- Each strip will represent one key word from [Romans 8:29-30](#).
 - GOD KNEW US FROM THE BEGINNING – God knew us and loved us before we were born.
 - GOD CHOSE ME BEFORE TIME – God planned for us to become like Jesus.
 - GOD CALLED ME – God called us to believe the Gospel.
 - GOD MADE ME RIGHT WITH HIMSELF – God made us right with Himself through Jesus. Justified. (This is where we are in the chain)
 - HE WILL GLORIFY ME ONE DAY – God promises to give us brand-new, perfect bodies one day.
- Take each strip, shape it into a loop, and glue/staple it.

Teaching Conversation While They Work:

Help kids understand “chain of salvation” — God’s unbreakable plan from eternity past to eternity future. God is responsible for our Salvation and all of those around us.

Explain as they build: “See how they link together?”

- God’s plan is like a chain — NO link breaks!
- If God begins the chain with you... He finishes it with glory!”

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 8:28](#) *We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are chosen to be a part of His plan.*

3: Discussion

For Older Youth students, see separate printable handout.

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- When we don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us ([Romans 8:26](#)).
- When we don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us ([Romans 8:26](#)).
- God chose us, called us, saved us, and promises to glorify us ([Romans 8:29-30](#)).
- Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love ([Romans 8:35-39](#)).
- Even when things feel scary or too hard, Jesus has already won the victory ([Romans 8:37](#)).

Israel? Does God Keep His Promises?

Scripture: [Romans 9:1-13](#)

Big Idea:

God always keeps His promises, and He chooses to love and save people by His grace.

Call to Action:

This week, remember, You don't earn God's love—He gives it to you!
Thank Him!

Family Action:

This week, talk together about a promise God has made in the Bible.
Read God's promise as a family (for example, [Romans 8:38-39](#) or [John 3:16-17](#)).

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 9:1-13](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer finger on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 6:1-14 The old self is dead, buried, and raised to new life through Christ!
vv. 6:15-23 Once a slave to sin, now a slave to righteousness!
vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.
vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!
vv. 8:1-11 Life in the Spirit, Forever with God!
vv. 8:12-25 Suffering for a Little While
vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!
vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

Opening Question

Have you ever been chosen for something special—like a team, a job, or a surprise—and how did it make you feel?→ God chooses His children because He wants you and loves you, not because of performance.

Notes:

A verse concerning Israel is put in the middle of Paul explaining that God is faithful over our salvation.
Once His, always His.

[ROMANS 8:35-36](#) Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? [36](#) (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") [37](#) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

- By the end of Romans 8, a big question comes up: Did God reject Israel?
- Paul taught that salvation comes through faith in Jesus—not by family or where you were born. But many Jewish people had not believed in Jesus, and that made people wonder if God had stopped keeping His promises.
- If God made promises to Israel, would He really break them?
- And if He could reject Israel... could He reject us too?

Paul knows this is an important question, especially for the Jewish believers in the church. So in the next three chapters, he stops to answer it.

In Romans 9, 10, and 11, Paul explains:

- Israel's past with God (chapter 9),
- Israel's present rejection of Jesus (chapter 10),
- And Israel's future, when God will keep every promise He made (chapter 11).

These chapters teach us one big truth: God is always faithful, and He never breaks His promises— to Israel or to us.

[ROMANS 9:1-13 NLT](#)

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. [2](#) My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief [3](#) for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them. [4](#) They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. [5](#) Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

[6](#) Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people! [7](#) Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly

Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too. ⁸ This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children. ⁹ For God had promised, "I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰ This son was our ancestor Isaac. When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. ¹¹ But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; ¹² he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son."
¹³ In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau."

Notes:

Paul says he is telling the truth and that he feels deep sadness for Israel. He loves them so much that he wishes they could be saved.

- V1-3 Paul Loves Israel
 - Paul Shares His Heart (vv.1-3)
 - Paul begins by stating that he is telling the truth and not lying.
 - He wants everyone to know he truly loves Israel.
 - He is an Israelite
 - Paul feels very sad because many Israelites have not believed in Jesus.
 - He even says he would give up his own salvation if it meant Israel could be saved.
 - This shows how deeply Paul cares about his people.
 - Paul Is Talking About a Nation (Context)
 - In earlier chapters, Paul talked about individual believers.
 - Now he shifts to talk about Israel as a nation.
 - Israel is made up of people, and each person still needs faith to be saved.
 - But Paul is asking a bigger question: What does God's plan look like for Israel as a whole?
 - **Kid Point:** Paul loves Israel very much & wants them to understand God and His promises!

Notes:

Paul now reminds us who Israel is—the people God chose long ago, who received His promises, and from whom Jesus was born.

[ROMANS 9:4-5](#) They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with

them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. ⁵ Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

- V4-5 Who Exactly Is Israel?
 - Paul reminds us who Israel is:
 - They are the Israelites, descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - God adopted them as His special people.
 - God showed them His glory.
 - He gave them the covenants, the Law, the temple, and the promises.
 - Most importantly, Jesus came from Israel.
 - Why This Matters:
 - Paul is not talking about the church or Gentiles here.
 - He is talking about physical Israel, the people God formed long ago.
 - God made many promises to Israel, including sending them a Messiah.
 - But Israel did not accept Jesus when He came.
 - This leads to the big question Paul will answer next:
 - If God made promises to Israel, and they rejected Jesus, did God fail—or is He still faithful?
 - **Kid Point:** God loves Israel, keeps His promises, and always has a plan—even when we don't understand it yet.

Key Theological Term:

Messiah- The Messiah is the Savior God promised in the Old Testament, and Jesus is revealed in the New Testament as that Savior.

Examples:

- The Messiah would come from God's chosen people ([Genesis 12:3](#)).
- He would be born in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)).
- He would suffer for our sins and bring peace with God ([Isaiah 53:5](#)).
- He would be a King who lasts forever ([2 Samuel 7:12-13](#)).

All these promises were like arrows pointing forward to someone God would send.

In the New Testament, God shows us that Jesus is the Messiah He promised.

- Jesus lived exactly the way God said the Messiah would live.
- Jesus died on the cross to pay for sin.

- Jesus rose from the dead, proving He is God's Savior.

The name "Christ" in Greek means the same thing as "Messiah" in Hebrew.

Notes:

Paul explains that God's promises have not failed. Not everyone born into Israel was part of God's promise. God chose Isaac—not every child of Abraham—to receive the promises.

[ROMANS 9:6-9](#) Well then, has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people! [7](#) Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too. [8](#) This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children. [9](#) For God had promised, "I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

- V6-9 Who is Israel? And does He keep His promises to Israel?
 - Paul says: God Did NOT Break His Promises? NO! (v.6)
 - Even though many Israelites rejected Jesus, that does NOT mean God broke His promises.
 - Paul explains that not everyone born into Israel is part of God's promised Israel.
 - Being born into the right family is important—but it's not enough by itself to save.
 - Being God's Child Is More Than Family (vv.6–7)
 - Paul says that just because someone is a descendant of Abraham doesn't mean they automatically receive God's promises.
 - God told Abraham, "Your descendants will come through Isaac." ([Genesis 21:12](#))
 - Abraham had more than one son, but only one son received the promise. (Isaac & Ishmael)
 - This shows us that God chooses who receives His promises.
 - Children of Promise vs. Children of Flesh (v.8)
 - Paul explains that God's children are not decided by birth, but by God's promise.
 - "Children of the flesh" means children born naturally.
 - "Children of the promise" means children God chose to receive His blessings.
 - God's promises were always meant for a specific group, not everyone born into Abraham's family.
 - God Chose Isaac on Purpose (v.9)
 - God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son—and that son would receive the promise.

- God kept His word exactly as He said.
- This proves that God decides ahead of time who will receive His promise.
- God's choices are based on His plan and grace—not on what people do to earn them.
- Why Does This Matter??
 - If we look at the wrong group, we might think God failed.
 - But Paul shows that God always knew who His promises were for.
 - God never lost control, never changed His plan, and never broke His word.
- **Kid Point:** God always keeps His promises, and He decides who receives them.

Notes:

If you think Abraham was the only one this happened to, Paul gives us another example to help us understand.

Isaac's Children: Paul explains that before Jacob and Esau were even born, God chose Jacob to receive the promise, not because of what either boy would do, but because of God's plan and choice.

[ROMANS 9:10-13](#) This son was our ancestor Isaac. When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. [11](#) But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; [12](#) he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son." [13](#) In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau."

- V10-13 God chooses by His grace who will be HIS, not by what people do or deserve.
 - Paul gives a second example—Isaac's children.
 - Rebekah had twin boys, Jacob and Esau.
 - Before they were born—and before they did anything good or bad—God made His choice.
 - This shows that God's plan does not depend on behavior, effort, or goodness.
 - God Chose the Unexpected One (v.12)
 - God told Rebekah, "The older will serve the younger."
 - In Bible times, the older child usually received the blessing.
 - But God chose the younger child, Jacob.
 - This showed that God's ways are different from human expectations.
 - "Jacob I Loved, Esau I Hated" (v.13)
 - These words do not mean God was being mean or angry.
 - In the Bible, "love" means chosen, and "hate" means not chosen.

- God chose Jacob to receive the promise, and Esau was passed over.
- God's choice was not about being better or worse—it was about God's plan.
- God's Pattern is the same throughout the Bible
 - Jacob instead of Esau
 - David instead of his older brothers
 - Moses, Gideon, prophets, apostles—ordinary people
 - God does this so no one can brag and say, "I earned this."
 - Salvation is always because of God's grace, not human effort.
- Why This Matters
 - God's choices are never unfair—even when we don't understand them.
 - God is wise, loving, and always right in what He does.
 - We belong to Jesus because God chose us, not because we were good enough.
- **Kid Point:** God's love and salvation are gifts of grace—chosen by God, not earned by people.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. How does Paul feel about the people of Israel? (*Paul feels very sad and has deep sorrow for them. v.2*)
2. What special blessings did God give to Israel? (*God gave Israel adoption, His glory, His promises, the Law, worship, and the Messiah. vv. 4-5*)
3. Who did God choose to receive the promise—Isaac or Ishmael? Jacob or Esau? (*God chose Isaac, and later Jacob. v.7/vv. 12-13*)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does Paul say God's Word has not failed? (*Because God's promises were always meant for those He chose, not everyone born into Israel. v.6*)
2. Why did God choose Jacob before he and Esau were born? (*To show that God's plan depends on His choice, not on what people do. v.11*)
3. What does "children of the promise" mean? (*It means the people God chooses to receive His promises. v.8*)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How should knowing God keeps His promises help you trust Him? (*I can trust God even when things are confusing, because He always keeps His Word. v.6*)
2. How does this passage help you understand God's grace? (*It reminds me that God loves and saves people by grace, not because they earn it. v.11*)
3. How should Paul's love for Israel encourage how we care about others and specifically Israel? (*I should care deeply about others and pray for them, even when they don't believe yet, including Israel. v.2-3*)

Activity #1: Coloring sheet & Discussion**Directions:**

- Give each child the coloring sheet for Romans 9A

Teaching Moment:

- Just like this chain stays together, God's promises stay together.
- God chose Isaac and Jacob because of His promise—not because they earned it.
- God keeps every promise He makes.

Activity #2 : Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 8:28](#) *We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are chosen to be a part of His plan.*

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Even when things look confusing, God never forgets or breaks what He promised. ([Romans 9:6](#)).
- People don't earn God's love—He gives it freely because He is loving and kind. ([Romans 9:11](#)).
- We belong to God because He chose us, not because we were good enough. ([Romans 9:8](#)).
- God often chooses in ways people don't expect, but His way is always best. ([Romans 9:10-13](#)).
- If God was faithful in the past, He will be faithful now and forever. ([Romans 8:28](#)).

Israel's Past: Is God's plan still moving forward?

Scripture: [Romans 9:14-33](#)

Big Idea:

God's choices are always right, and His plan is still moving forward.

Call to Action:

Romans 9 is humbling—God chose you before creation, and Israel's rejection of Jesus opened the door for your salvation. How does that make you feel?

Family Action:

This week's truth may be hard to understand, but God calls us to trust His Word even when we don't fully understand His plan.

([Proverbs 3:5](#), [Romans 9:20](#), [Ephesians 1:4](#)).

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (15-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 9:14-33](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V14 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.

vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!

vv. 8:1-11 Life in the Spirit, Forever with God!

vv. 8:12-25 Suffering for a Little While

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!

vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

vv. 9:14-33 God's Sovereign over ALL, and will not fail.

Opening Question

If you could design the rules for a game, would you want everyone to follow your rules—or their own?

Why? Or Why Not→ today we'll learn that God is the one who makes the rules—and He always does what is right.

Notes:

After Romans 8, Paul asks an important question: *"What about Israel?"*

- God promised Israel a Savior, but many didn't believe in Jesus. Did God fail?
 - Paul explains no.
- In the beginning of Romans 9, Paul shows that God has always chosen who receives His promises:
 - Not everyone born into Abraham's family was included—God chose Isaac, not Ishmael, and Jacob, not Esau, before they were born.
- Romans 9 teaches us that God is the sovereign Lord, which means He is in charge and answers to no one.
- God chose Israel in the past to be His special people.
 - He gave them promises, the Law, and the Messiah would come through them.
 - But many in Israel did not believe in Jesus when He came.
 - Because of their unbelief, God set the nation of Israel aside for a time.
 - This does not mean God broke His promises.
 - It means God is working out His plan in the way He decided—by mercy and faith, not by effort or family background.
- God's choices are always right, and His plan is still moving forward.

Context of vv.14-33:

- Is God choosing some and not choosing others unfair or mean?
- Did God forever leave the Israelites to choose Gentiles?
- Does God still love Israel? Is God trustworthy in His promises?

Key Theological Term

Sovereign- God is in charge of everything. He makes perfect decisions, no one tells Him what to do, and He always does what is right and good.

ROMANS 9:14-33 NLT

14 Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! 15 For God said to Moses,

"I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose."

16 So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

17 For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, "I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth." 18 So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen.

19 Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?"

20 No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into? 22 In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. 23 He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. 24 And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles. 25 Concerning the Gentiles, God says in the prophecy of Hosea, "Those who were not my people, I will now call my people. And I will love those whom I did not love before." 26 And, "Then, at the place where they were told, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'children of the living God.'" 27 And concerning Israel, Isaiah the prophet cried out, "Though the people of Israel are as numerous as the sand of the seashore, only a remnant will be saved. 28 For the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth quickly and with finality." 29 And Isaiah said the same thing in another place: "If the Lord of Heaven's Armies had not spared a few of our children, we would have been wiped out like Sodom, destroyed like Gomorrah." 30 What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God's standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place. 31 But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. 32 Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. 33 God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said, "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall.

But anyone who trusts in him
will never be disgraced.”

- V14-18 God is always fair and good, even when we don't understand His choices.
 - Paul Answers a Hard Question (v.14)
 - Paul knows people will ask: “Is God unfair?”
 - His answer is very strong: Absolutely not!
 - God is always good, always right, and never unjust.
 - Just because we don't understand God's choices doesn't mean they are wrong.
 - Mercy Is a Gift, Not a Right (vv.15–16)
 - God told Moses, “I will show mercy to whom I choose.”
 - Mercy means kindness we don't deserve.
 - God does not owe mercy to anyone.
 - We cannot earn mercy by trying harder or wanting it more.
 - Mercy comes only because God chooses to give it.
 - God Is in Control of All Things (v.16)
 - Paul says salvation does not depend on:
 - what we want, or
 - how hard we try.
 - It depends on God's mercy.
 - This shows that God—not people—is in charge of saving.
 - Pharaoh Shows God's Power (vv.17–18)
 - Paul gives an example from the past history of the OT..
 - God used Pharaoh to show His power to the whole world.
 - Pharaoh was already sinful and stubborn.
 - God allowed Pharaoh's hard heart to continue refusing to let God's people go so His power would be seen.
 - Just as God shows mercy to some, He allows others to remain hard.
 - God Is Still Good and Just
 - Everyone is born sinful and deserves judgment.
 - The amazing thing is not that God judges—but that He shows mercy at all.
 - When God gives mercy, it is grace.
 - When God withholds mercy, He is still just.
 - God is never cruel, never wrong, and never unfair.
 - Kid Point: God is always right, always loving, and always in control—even when His choices are

hard to understand.

Key Theological Term:

Mercy vs Grace

Simple Way to Remember:

☪ Mercy = God doesn't give me the punishment I deserve. (Jesus' blood)

Grace = God gives me blessings I don't deserve. (Gift of salvation)

Notes:

Paul knew we would still have questions about “how can God blame us, if He is the one who didn't choose some for salvation? The heart of asking a question like this is to imply that God is not just and that we deserve to know why God doesn't choose some.

[ROMANS 9:19-21](#) Well then, you might say, “Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?”

[20](#) No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, “Why have you made me like this?” [21](#) When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into?

- V19-21 God is the Creator, and He has the right to decide how He uses what He makes.
 - In response to his teaching, Paul knows people will say: “If God is in control, why doesn't He just save everyone?”
 - This question sounds honest, but it often hides doubt or disagreement with God's plan.
 - Paul understands this struggle and answers it directly.
 - Paul reminds us that we are not God. (v.20)
 - We don't get to talk back to our Creator or tell Him how He should run the world.
 - Just like clay doesn't question the potter, people don't get to question God's decisions.
 - God knows far more than we do and always does what is right.
 - Paul uses a picture we can understand, The Potter & the Clay (v.21):
 - God is like a potter.
 - We are like clay.
 - A potter can take the same lump of clay and make something special for honor, or something for ordinary use.
 - The clay doesn't choose its purpose—the potter does.
 - In the same way, God decides how each life will be used.

- God's Choices Are Never Wrong!
 - God never acts unfairly or cruelly.
 - Everything God does has a good purpose—even when we don't understand it.
 - Questioning God's wisdom shows we are trusting ourselves instead of Him.
- **Kid Point:** God made us, God knows best, and we can trust Him—even when we don't understand His plans.

[ROMANS 9:22-24](#) In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. ²³ He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. ²⁴ And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles.

- V22-24 God shows His mercy so we can clearly see how loving and glorious He is.
 - God Is Patient With a Broken World (v.22)
 - Paul explains that God could judge sin right away—but He doesn't.
 - God patiently allows sinful people to live, even though they don't honor Him.
 - This shows God's great patience, not cruelty.
 - God Uses Contrast to Show His Mercy (v.23)
 - Paul says God allows this so His children can see how amazing His mercy really is.
 - We understand light better when we've seen darkness.
 - We understand forgiveness better when we know judgment is real.
 - Seeing a broken world helps us understand how special God's grace truly is.
 - God Prepared His Children for Glory (v.23)
 - This means God planned their rescue before they were born.
 - Salvation was never an accident—it was always part of God's loving plan.
 - God's mercy is not only for Jewish people. (v.24)
 - God also calls Gentiles—people from all nations.
 - God's family includes people from every background.
 - Anyone who belongs to Jesus is a vessel of mercy.
 - **Kid Point:** God patiently shows mercy so we can see how great His love really is—and thank Him for it.

[ROMANS 9:25-29](#) Concerning the Gentiles, God says in the prophecy of Hosea,
 “Those who were not my people,

I will now call my people.
And I will love those
whom I did not love before.”

26 And,

“Then, at the place where they were told,
‘You are not my people,’
there they will be called
‘children of the living God.’”

27 And concerning Israel, Isaiah the prophet cried out,
“Though the people of Israel are as numerous as the sand of the
seashore,
only a remnant will be saved.

28 For the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth
quickly and with finality.”

29 And Isaiah said the same thing in another place:

“If the Lord of Heaven’s Armies
had not spared a few of our children,
we would have been wiped out like Sodom,
destroyed like Gomorrah.”

-
- V25-29 God has always chosen who receives His mercy—and He keeps His promises exactly as He planned.
 - God Promised to Call New People His Own (vv.25–26)
 - Paul first quotes Hosea, who spoke about a time when God would show mercy to people who were not His people.
 - This means Gentiles—people who were not Jewish—would become God’s people.
 - God said those once called “not My people” would be called “children of the living God.”
 - This shows that God planned long ago to include people from all nations.
 - God Shifted His Mercy on Purpose:
 - After Jesus came, most Jewish people rejected Him.
 - At the same time, many Gentiles believed in Jesus.
 - This surprising change was not an accident—it was God’s plan.
 - God chose to extend His mercy to Gentiles during this time.
 - Only God’s choice can explain why Gentiles believed while most Jews did not.
 - God Always Saves a Remnant (vv.27–28)
 - Paul then quotes Isaiah, who explains that only a small group, called a remnant, would be saved from Israel.
 - Even though Israel was very large, God only saved some, not all.
 - This has always been true throughout Israel’s history.

- God's promises never failed—He fulfilled them exactly as He said.
- Mercy Is the Only Reason Anyone Is Saved (v.29)
 - Paul quotes Isaiah again, reminding us that without God's mercy, no one would be saved.
 - Even the faithful people of Israel would have ended up like Sodom and Gomorrah without God's help.
 - The remnant was saved only because God chose to show mercy.
 - No one was saved because they were better—only because God was kind.

Key Theological Term:

Remnant- a small group of people who keep trusting and obeying God even when most others do not, within Israel.

- God promised this in the Old Testament: [Isaiah 10:22](#) Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand of the sea, only a remnant will return
- **Kid Point:** God has always saved people by mercy alone, and He always keeps His promises.

Notes:

Paul switches from Israel's past circumstances to Israel's present circumstances in v.30.

- God chose to show His kindness to the Gentiles, while Israel chose not to believe in Jesus.
- God is always in control and knew this would happen, and He used it as part of His plan to save people from all nations.

[ROMANS 9:30-33](#) What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God's standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place. [31](#) But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. [32](#) Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. [33](#) God warned them of this in the Scriptures when he said,
 "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble,
 a rock that makes them fall.
 But anyone who trusts in him
 will never be disgraced."

- V30-33 We are made right with God by trusting Jesus, not by trying to earn it. (Israel missed this)
 - Paul asks, "What should we say about this?" (v.30)
 - Gentiles—who were not looking for God—ended up being made right with Him.
 - They didn't earn righteousness.
 - They received it by faith in Jesus.

- Israel worked very hard to be righteous. (v.31)
 - They followed God's Law and tried to earn God's approval.
 - But even with all their effort, they did not become righteous.
 - Trying harder did not bring them closer to God.
- The Problem: Paul explains why Israel failed: they did not trust God by faith. (v.32)
 - They thought they could earn righteousness by good works.
 - Because of pride, they missed God's way of salvation.
 - Jesus became a stumbling stone to them.
- Jesus is the Stone: God warned Israel ahead of time through Isaiah. (v.33)
 - Jesus would be a stone people might trip over.
 - Those who tried to save themselves would stumble over Him.
 - But anyone who believes in Jesus will never be disappointed.
- Faith vs. Effort: Gentiles received righteousness because they trusted Jesus.
 - Israel missed it because they trusted themselves.
 - God kept His promise—Jesus came exactly as foretold.
 - The problem was not God's faithfulness, but human pride.
- **Kid Point:** We don't earn God's love by following Law—we receive it by trusting Jesus.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What question does Paul ask about God in [Romans 9:14](#)? Is God unfair, according to Paul? *(Paul asks if God is unfair. No! v.14)*
2. Who does Paul compare God to in [Romans 9:20–21](#)? *(God is compared to a potter, and people are compared to clay. vv. 20-21)*
3. Who received righteousness by faith according to [Romans 9:30](#)? Why did the Israelites struggle with this? *(The Gentiles received righteousness by faith, so does anyone who believes. But the Israelites thought following the Law gained them right standing with God v.30)*

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does Paul say God is not unjust even though He shows mercy to some? *(Because mercy is a gift God chooses to give, not something anyone deserves. v.15-16)*
2. Why did Israel stumble over Jesus? *(Because they tried to be right with God by works instead of by faith. v.32)*
3. Why does God allow some people to receive mercy and others not? *(To show the greatness of His mercy and glory to those He saves. v.22-23)*

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How should we respond when we don't understand God's choices? *(We should trust God, knowing He*

is wise and good. v.20)

2. What is the right way to be made right with God? *(By trusting Jesus in faith, not by trying to earn it. v.30-33)*
 3. How should knowing God showed us mercy affect our attitude? *(It should make us thankful, humble, and full of praise to God. v.23-24)*
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Activities

1: Craft

Potter & Clay

To help kids understand that God is sovereign, mercy is a gift, and we trust God even when we don't understand His choices ([Romans 9:14-33](#)).

Materials:

- Modeling clay or Play-Doh (one small piece per child)
- Paper towels or placemats

Directions:

Give each child clay.

Tell them to shape the clay into something simple (cup, bowl, heart).

- Explain: “The clay doesn’t decide what it will be. The potter does.”
- Halfway through, change the instruction (e.g., “Now turn it into a cup”).

Discussion Questions to ask while working:

- Was it hard when the plan changed?
- Did the clay get to argue?
- Who decided what the clay became?

Teaching Moment – explain clearly and gently:

- God is the potter. We are the clay.
- God has the right to decide how His plan works.
- God’s mercy is a gift—not something we earn.
- Trusting God is more important than understanding everything.

2: Memory Verse:

Come up with moves:

[Romans 9:16](#) *So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.*

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God chooses some and others He doesn't. Even in this, He is just for who are we to question God (Romans 9).
- God is always fair, even when we don't understand Him. ([Romans 9:14](#)).
- We can't work for God's love—it is given by His kindness. ([Romans 9:15-16](#)).
- Being good isn't enough; faith in Jesus is what makes us right with God. ([Romans 9:30-32](#)).
- People either trust Jesus or trip over Him—but He is God's plan for salvation. ([Romans 9:33](#)).

Israel's Present: Choosing Effort Instead of Faith

Scripture: [Romans 10:1-13](#)

Big Idea: Israel is lost not because God failed, but because they rejected Jesus— while salvation is given to anyone who believes by faith.

Call to Action:

Gentiles like me were saved when Israel rejected Jesus. We should thank God and pray for His people.

Family Action:

This week, explore Jewish traditions and see how they point to Jesus—like the Sabbath showing our rest in Him and the feasts showing God's plan.

([Matthew 11:28](#), [Hebrews 4:9–10](#), [Colossians 2:16–17](#), [1 Corinthians 5:7](#)).

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-15 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 10:1-13](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 7:1-13 God's Law is good—our sinful nature is the problem.

vv. 7:13-25 The war of the Flesh!

vv. 8:1-11 Life in the Spirit, Forever with God!

vv. 8:12-25 Suffering for a Little While

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!

vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

vv. 9:14-33 God's Sovereign over ALL, and will not fail.

vv. 10:1-13 Trusting Jesus Is the Way, Jesus the stumbling block (Israel's Present State)

Opening Question

What do you think God asks us to do to be saved—try harder or believe in Jesus?→ Explain your answers!

Notes on What We Learned in Romans 9:

- Last week we learned that God is always in control of who receives His mercy, and He keeps every promise He makes.
- Long ago, God promised (through Hosea) that Gentiles—people who were not Jewish—would one day know Him and receive His mercy.

- God knew Israel's rejection of Jesus, and He used it as part of His plan to save the world.
- God also promised that Israel would not be forgotten forever. He would always keep a small group of believing Jews, called the remnant, who trusted Him.

This happened not because God broke His promises, but because:

- Israel chose pride instead of faith, through the Law.
- And God, in His sovereignty, allowed mercy to go to the Gentiles for a time because they rejected Jesus.
- God was not unfaithful. He did exactly what He said He would do.

Opening Romans 10, Paul turns to an important question:

- Is God being fair to Israel right now?

In Romans 10, Paul will answer questions like:

- Did Israel deserve salvation because they were so serious about God's law?
- Did God fail to explain His plan clearly to them?
- Is God unfair for helping Gentiles while Israel struggles?

Key Theological Term (optional to explain):

Sovereign - God is in charge of everything. He makes perfect decisions, no one tells Him what to do, and He always does what is right and good.

[ROMANS 10:1-13 NLT](#)

Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. ² I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. ³ For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. ⁴ For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

⁵ For Moses writes that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. ⁶ But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven?' (to bring Christ down to earth). ⁷ And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead?' (to bring Christ back to life again)."
⁸ In fact, it says,

"The message is very close at hand;
it is on your lips and in your heart."

And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹ If

you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10](#) For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. [11](#) As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” [12](#) Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. [13](#) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- Paul begins this next chapter by making one thing very clear:
 - He loves Israel.
 - He wants them to be saved.
 - And God is still faithful—even now.
- V1-4 Trying hard can’t save the Jewish people or anyone—only trusting Jesus can.
 - Paul explains that Israel truly wanted to follow God—but they tried to be right with God in the wrong way:
 - They worked hard to obey the Law instead of trusting Jesus, who is the only way to be made right with God.
 - Paul Truly Loves His People (v.1)
 - Paul calls the Jewish people his brothers and sisters.
 - He wants them to be saved and prays for them.
 - Zeal Without Truth Isn’t Enough (v.2)
 - Paul says Israel had a strong passion for God.
 - They worked hard to obey God and protect His Law.
 - But their passion was missing something important—truth.
 - They Tried to Make Their Own Righteousness (v.3)
 - Israel tried to be “good enough” for God by obeying rules through the Law.
 - They didn’t understand that God’s righteousness must be given, not earned.
 - No amount of good works can erase even one sin.
 - Jesus Finished the Job (v.4)
 - Paul says Christ is the end of the law for being made right with God.
 - Jesus lived perfectly and fulfilled the Law for us.
 - Anyone who believes in Jesus receives God’s righteousness as a gift.
 - **Kid Point:** Nobody earns God’s righteousness—we receive it by trusting Jesus.

[ROMANS 10:5-10](#) For Moses writes that the law’s way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. [6](#) But faith’s

way of getting right with God says, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will go up to heaven?’ (to bring Christ down to earth). ⁷ And don’t say, ‘Who will go down to the place of the dead?’ (to bring Christ back to life again).” ⁸ In fact, it says,

“The message is very close at hand;
it is on your lips and in your heart.”

And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

- V5-10 Being right with God comes from believing in Jesus, not from being perfect.
 - Paul explains the difference between trying to obey God perfectly and trusting what God has already done through Jesus:
 - God’s way to be made right is not about doing more—it is about believing.
 - The Law Required Perfection (vv.5)
 - Paul reminds Israel what Moses wrote in the Law.
 - God said a person would live only if they obeyed everything perfectly.
 - This showed that no one could earn righteousness by keeping rules.
 - God Never Hid the Answer from His People on How to be Saved (vv.6–7)
 - Moses also taught that righteousness was not far away.
 - No one needed to go up to heaven or cross the sea to find it.
 - Paul explains that people don’t bring Jesus down from heaven or raise Him from the dead by good works.
 - Jesus came and rose again because we could not keep the Law.
 - God had to do the work to give people salvation.
 - People who trust God don’t ask how to earn righteousness.
 - Paul says God’s message is near—in our mouths and hearts. (v.8)
 - This means God’s way of salvation is simple and reachable.
 - We don’t work for it—we receive it.
 - Confession and Belief Work Together (vv.9–10)
 - Paul explains that Moses was pointing to faith in God’s words.
 - Moses spoke of the mouth first, then the heart, so Paul follows the same order.
 - To confess means to agree with what God says.
 - To believe means to trust something is true even when we can’t see it.
 - We confess that Jesus is Lord (He is God).

- We believe that Jesus died and rose again.
- **Kid Point:** We are saved by believing in Jesus, not by trying harder to be good.

[ROMANS 10:11-13](#) As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” [12](#) Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. [13](#) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- V11-13 Anyone who trusts Jesus will be saved—God’s promise is for everyone.
 - Paul explains that anyone who believes in Jesus—no matter who they are—will be saved.
 - God made the way of salvation clear, simple, and open to everyone.
 - Believing in Jesus Never Disappoints (v.11)
 - Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah.
 - Isaiah promised that anyone who believes in the Messiah will not be disappointed.
 - Trusting Jesus gives us what we hope for—being right with God.
 - People who trust themselves will be disappointed, but people who trust Jesus won’t be.
 - God Treats Everyone the Same (v.12)
 - Paul says there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles when it comes to salvation.
 - God is the Lord of all people.
 - God offers the same rich blessings to everyone who calls on Him in faith.
 - God Always Planned This (v.13)
 - Paul quotes the prophet [Joel 2:32](#).
 - God promised long ago that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
 - This promise was always meant for all people, not just one group.
 - God did not hide the way to salvation—it was clearly written in Scripture.
 - **Kid Point:** Anyone—anywhere—who trusts Jesus and calls on Him will be saved.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What did Paul want most for the people of Israel? (Paul wanted them to be saved. v.1)
2. What problem did Israel have when they tried to follow God?(They were very serious about God, but they didn’t understand how to be saved. vv. 2-3)
3. Who can be saved according to Paul? (Anyone—Jew or Gentile—who calls on the name of the Lord. Vv.12-13)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why couldn’t Israel become righteous by keeping the law? (Because no one can keep the law perfectly

—only Jesus did. vv.3-4)

2. What does it mean that “Christ is the end of the law”? (It means we don’t earn salvation by rules anymore—Jesus fulfilled the law for us. v.4)
3. What two things go together or work together in salvation? (Believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. vv.9-10)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can I avoid making the same mistake Israel made? (By trusting Jesus instead of trying to be “good enough” on my own.vv.3-4)
 2. What should I do if I believe Jesus is Lord? (Confess Him openly, talk about Him to others, and trust Him with your whole heart. Vv.9-10)
 3. Who can I tell about Jesus this week? (Anyone!)
-

Activities

1: Craft

Gospel Letter (Scripture Focus: [Romans 10:1](#), 9–13)

What to Do:

- Think of one friend or family member who does not believe in Jesus or may not understand the Gospel.
- Write them a letter that includes:
 - How you feel about them
 - Why you are writing
- A clear explanation of the Gospel:
 - Who Jesus is
 - What He did (died and rose again)
 - How we are saved by faith, not works ([Romans 10:9–10](#))

Courage Reminder! Sharing the Gospel can feel scary. Many people reject it—just like Israel rejected Jesus ([Romans 10:3](#)). But Jesus still offered Himself anyway, and He tells us to do the same. Our job is to share; God's job is to change hearts.

- **Prayer Step:** After writing your letter, spend time praying:
 - Ask God to work in their heart
 - Ask Him to open their eyes to the truth ([Romans 10:1](#))
 - Trust God with the outcome
- Write the letter as if to a stranger.
 - Pray that God would bring that person into your life so you can share it.
 - Trust that God uses obedience, even when we don't see the results right away.
- If You Can't Think of Someone:
- Write the letter as if to a stranger.
 - Pray that God would bring that person into your life so you can share it.
 - Trust that God uses obedience, even when we don't see the results right away.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 10:13](#) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God never stopped loving Israel, and He never stops wanting people to be saved. ([Romans 10:1](#)).
- People can be very serious about religion and still miss God if they don't trust Jesus. ([Romans 10:2-3](#)).
- The Law shows us God's rules, but only Jesus can make us right with God. ([Romans 10:4](#)).
- You don't have to be born into the right family or follow special rules—faith is for everyone. ([Romans 10:9,12](#)).
- God saves people who call on Him, anyone and everyone. ([Romans 10:13](#)).

Extra handout for families:

Family Activity:

Seeing Jesus in Jewish Traditions

Big Idea:

God planned from the beginning for His promises and traditions to point to Jesus.

Day 1

The Sabbath: Rest in Jesus

Learn:

The Sabbath shows us that God wants His people to rest and trust Him.

Talk About:

God gave the Sabbath as a day of rest.

Jesus gives us rest for our hearts, not just our bodies.

Scripture:

- [Exodus 20:8-11](#)
- [Matthew 11:28](#)
- [Hebrews 4:9-10](#)

Activity:

Have a quiet family time. Talk about what it means to “rest in Jesus” instead of trying to earn God's love.

Day 2

Passover: Jesus the Lamb

Learn:

Passover points to Jesus as the Lamb who saves us from sin.

Talk About:

The blood on the doorposts in Egypt

Jesus' blood saves us from sin

Scripture:

- [Exodus 12:13](#)
- [John 1:29](#)
- [1 Corinthians 5:7](#)

Activity:

Draw a door and a lamb. Write "Jesus saves" on it.

Day 3

Feast of Unleavened Bread: A Clean Heart

Learn:

Leaven is an ingredient that raises the bread. When you remove this ingredient, it is flat bread.

Removing leaven shows us God wants us to turn from sin.

Talk About:

Leaven is a picture of sin

Jesus helps clean our hearts

Scripture:

- [Exodus 12:15](#)
- [1 Corinthians 5:8](#)
- [Psalms 51:10](#)

Activity:

Clean one small area together and talk about how Jesus cleans our hearts.

Day 4

Firstfruits: Jesus Is Alive

Learn:

Firstfruits points to Jesus rising from the dead.

Talk About:

Firstfruits = first and best

Jesus is the first to rise to eternal life

Scripture:

- [Leviticus 23:10-11](#)
- [1 Corinthians 15:20](#)

Activity:

Plant a seed or draw a plant growing to show new life.

Day 5

Pentecost: God Gives the Holy Spirit

Learn:

Pentecost shows God giving His Spirit to help believers.

Talk About:

God helps us live for Him

The Holy Spirit lives in believers

Scripture:

- [Acts 2:1-4](#)
- [John 14:26](#)

Activity:

Pray and thank God for helping us obey Him.

Israel's Present: Is this a Big Misunderstanding?

Scripture: [Romans 10:14-21](#)

Big Idea:

Israel's unbelief is not because of a misunderstanding, but because God chose to show mercy to Gentiles while preserving only a believing remnant in Israel.

Call to Action:

There are still Jews today who reject Jesus. This week let's focus on praying for these people.

Family Action:

Talk with your child about Israel (show it on a map) and how God used them to bring mercy to Gentiles—and will one day restore Israel.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-15 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 10:14-21](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer fingers on V14 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!

vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

vv. 9:14-33 God's Sovereign over ALL, and will not fail.

vv. 10:1-13 Trusting Jesus Is the Way, Jesus the stumbling block (Israel's Present State)

vv. 10:14-21 Is this a Big Misunderstanding, that Israel missed Messiah? (Israel's Present State)

Opening Question

What do you think God asks us to do to be saved—try harder or believe in Jesus?→ Explain your answers!

Notes:

- Romans 9 reminds us that God is always faithful and fully in control of His mercy.
 - Paul began his defense by explaining that throughout Israel's history, the Lord selected some for His mercy while passing over others (Isaac & Ishmael; Esau & Jacob)
 - Though Israel rejected Jesus, God used this to bring salvation to the Gentiles, while still preserving a faithful remnant of Israel—proving He never breaks His promises.
- As Romans 10 opens, Paul asks an important question:

- Is God being fair to Israel?

He explains that Israel's problem was not a lack of effort, but that they pursued righteousness through the Law instead of faith in Jesus. Now, Paul moves on to explain Israel's continued rejection of Christ—and how salvation is freely offered to anyone who believes.

[ROMANS 10:14-21 NLT](#)

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

16 But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "Lord, who has believed our message?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. 18 But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have: "The message has gone throughout the earth, and the words to all the world."

19 But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said, "I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation. I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles."

20 And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying, "I was found by people who were not looking for me. I showed myself to those who were not asking for me."

21 But regarding Israel, God said, "All day long I opened my arms to them, but they were disobedient and rebellious."

- Israel's rejection of Jesus is not because God failed to keep His promises, but because their hearts were hard.
 - God clearly showed Israel the way to be right with Him, but they chose to trust their own goodness instead of Jesus.
 - And this leads to the third question Paul answers: Did Israel really have enough chance to understand that Jesus was their Messiah, or was God unfair by not explaining it clearly enough?
 - Was this a huge misunderstanding?
- V14-17 How will Israel believe, if they don't know Him?
 - Paul knows his Jewish readers are wondering:
 - "Why hasn't Israel believed in Jesus yet?" (v.14)
 - You can't call on Jesus unless you believe

- Some might think the problem is simple:
 - Maybe Israel didn't hear clearly (v.14)
 - You can't believe unless you hear about Him
 - Maybe no one explained it well (v.14)
 - You can't hear unless someone tells you
 - Maybe God didn't send the right messengers (v.15)
 - And no one tells unless God sends them
- Paul asks those questions for them—not because he agrees, but so he can answer them.
 - But God did send messengers. (Through His word and Prophets)
 - God did give Israel the message. (Through His word and Prophets)
- The Problem:
 - The Good News was preached (By the Prophets & in the word)
 - Some Jews did believe (the remnant), but most chose not to listen
 - Isaiah, the Prophet to Israel, said this would happen: Many would hear the message; But few would believe it. ([Isaiah 52:15](#)/ 53:1)
 - So the problem was not a lack of information; the problem was hard hearts
- Why faith happens or doesn't (v.16-17) — *we learned back in Romans 9*
 - In human terms, faith comes by hearing the Gospel message
 - But in spiritual terms, a person's potential to understand what they hear is determined by the word of Christ, calling them.
 - Or we could say, the Lord determines who truly hears the message of the Gospel
 - And we have learned that Israel rejected this message and still does today
- **Kid Point:** Faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

[ROMANS 10:18](#) But I ask, have the people of Israel actually heard the message? Yes, they have:

“The message has gone throughout the earth,
and the words to all the world.”

- V18 Well, did Israel actually hear the message?
 - Paul answers one last set of excuses people might make for Israel:
 - “Maybe Israel never heard the message.”
 - “Maybe they didn't understand what the Scriptures meant.”
 - Paul's answer to both is clear: Yes, they heard. Yes, they understood.
- Did Israel Hear? (v.18)
 - Paul quotes [Psalm 19:4](#), which says God's message goes out everywhere.

- Israel had even more help:
 - God's Word, God's prophets, God's promises
 - Israel had far more opportunity than the Gentiles to know the truth.
- **Kid Point:** Faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

[ROMANS 10:19-20](#) But I ask, did the people of Israel really understand?
Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God said,
"I will rouse your jealousy through people who are not even a nation.
I will provoke your anger through the foolish Gentiles."
[20](#) And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God, saying,
"I was found by people who were not looking for me.
I showed myself to those who were not asking for me."

- V19-20 Did Israel Understand?
 - Paul quotes Moses, showing that God already said Gentiles would believe—even though they weren't looking for Him. ([Deuteronomy 32:21](#))
 - Gentiles would find the Messiah first, and Israel would see it happen.
 - Jealousy: this kept Israel's hope for a Messiah alive by seeing the Gentiles have a Savior, but still, most refused to believe.
 - Further, Paul quotes [Isaiah 65:1-5](#), saying God was found by people not looking for Him. (Gentiles)
 - Israel wasn't confused about who Jesus claimed to be. He said He was the Messiah, God, sent from God to them.
 - They rejected Him anyway.
 - **Kid Point:** The people of Israel understood—and rejected Him anyway.

[ROMANS 10:21](#) But regarding Israel, God said,
"All day long I opened my arms to them,
but they were disobedient and rebellious."

- V21 God's Open Arms
 - Paul ends with a powerful picture from Isaiah ([Isaiah 65:2](#)):
 - God held out His arms to Israel all day long
 - But they were disobedient and rebellious
 - God told Israel:
 - Where the Messiah would be born
 - When he would come
 - What family He would come from
 - How He would die

- and how to be saved—by faith
- Nothing was hidden. Nothing was missing.
- God kept every promise He made to Israel
 - He preserved a remnant who believed
 - He gave Israel more opportunities than anyone else (His word, Prophets, Jesus)
- **Kid Point:** Israel remains without Christ—not because God failed, but because He did not grant mercy to the nation as a whole.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What must happen before someone can call on Jesus to be saved? (Paul wanted them to be saved. v.1)
2. Who did God send to share His words with Israel? (Prophets, Paul quotes many of them through vv 14-21)
3. Did Israel hear and understand God's message? (Yes, they heard it clearly and understood it. vv18-19)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does Paul ask so many questions in verses 14–15? (He is showing that God made sure Israel heard the message, so the problem wasn't a lack of information. v14-15)
2. Why did Gentiles believe even though they weren't looking for God? (Because God chose to show Himself to them by His mercy because of Israel's hard hearts. v20)
3. Why did many people in Israel still reject Jesus? (They were disobedient and refused to trust God by faith, even though he extended mercy to them over and over. v21)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. What does this passage teach us about sharing the Gospel? (God wants us to tell others about Jesus, even though only He can open hearts. vv.15,17)
2. What warning does Israel's story give us? (Knowing about God is not enough—we must respond in faith and obedience. v21)
3. How does it make you feel to know you are saved because God chose to show you mercy? (Open for discussion)

Activities

1: Craft**Timeline:** “The Message Goes Out”

Materials needed:

Long paper or poster board for each child 6x18ish

Markers

Sticky notes for scripture

Instructions:

Create a timeline showing how God revealed His Word and carried out His plan of salvation, as explained in Romans. Include the key Scripture references and draw a picture for each event to illustrate what is happening. As you build your timeline, notice how every step reveals that God is always at work, faithfully accomplishing His promises. From His covenant with Israel to the spread of the Gospel to the nations, Scripture gives us a roadmap of God's unfolding plan for the world.

Students must include each stage with Scripture:

- God gives Israel His Word ([Romans 3:1-2](#))
- Jesus comes to Israel ([Matthew 1:21](#) / [John 1:11](#))
- Israel hears but many reject ([Romans 10:18-21](#))
- Gentiles receive the message ([Romans 10:20](#) / [Acts 13:46](#))
- The Gospel goes to all nations ([Matthew 28:19](#) / [Romans 10:15](#))

Key Understanding: God sent His message first to Israel, then to the world—just as He planned. The promise of [Genesis 12:3](#)



2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 10:13](#) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God makes sure people hear about Jesus. ([Romans 10:14-15](#)).
- Hearing the Gospel is how faith begins. ([Romans 10:17](#)).
- Israel did hear and understand God’s message. ([Romans 10:18-19](#)).
- Not everyone who hears the Good News believes it. ([Romans 10:16](#)).
- God patiently reached out to Israel, even when they resisted. This is still going on today within Israel

([Romans 10:21](#)).

Israel's Future: Has God Rejected Israel Forever?

Scripture: [Romans 11:1-27](#)

Big Idea:

God will keep His Promises to Israel — He paused the branches, grafted in the nations, and will restore Israel again.

Call to Action:

How can we bless God's chosen people this week?

Share the Gospel, pray for them, read their history in the Bible.

Family Action:

Each night this week, dedicate time to pray with your child specifically for Israel as a nation to come to Jesus and for individual Jews to believe.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 11:1-27](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to see their pointers on V1)

Review:

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!

vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

vv. 9:14-33 God's Sovereign over ALL, and will not fail.

vv. 10:1-13 Trusting Jesus Is the Way, Jesus the stumbling block (Israel's Present State)

vv. 10:14-21 Is this a Big Misunderstanding, that Israel missed Messiah? (Israel's Present State)

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel, He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

Opening Question

How should we treat someone who helped us succeed, even if they're struggling right now?

→ Explain that in today's lesson, we will see how, because of Israel's current state of unbelief, now you and I can be one of God's children, grafted in.

Notes:

Israel's Past: Romans 9 shows that God is always faithful and sovereign in showing mercy, choosing according to His promise, and preserving a faithful remnant of Israel, while shifting His focus to Gentiles. To save them because of Israel's hardened hearts.

Israel's Present: As Romans 10 opens, Paul asks if God is being fair to Israel and explains that Israel's problem was not effort, but trusting the Law instead of faith in Jesus—leading him to address Israel's ongoing rejection of Christ and God's open offer of salvation to all who believe. *Still going on today concerning Israel!* The Lord in His providence has elected to leave Israel in their disobedience for a time to extend mercy to Gentiles

Where This Leads Us Next:

- If God could save Gentiles who weren't looking for Him...
- and Israel had everything they needed...
- Why hasn't God saved all of Israel yet?
- That question leads us directly into Romans 11 — Israel's future.

[ROMANS 11:1-27 NLT](#)

I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”

4 And do you remember God's reply? He said, “No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!”

5 It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them. 6 And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

7 So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened. 8 As the Scriptures say,

“God has put them into a deep sleep.

To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see,
and closed their ears so they do not hear.”

9 Likewise, David said,

“Let their bountiful table become a snare,
a trap that makes them think all is well.
Let their blessings cause them to stumble,
and let them get what they deserve.

10 Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see,

and let their backs be bent forever.”

11 Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. 12 Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

13 I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, 14 for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. 15 For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead! 16 And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.

17 But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. 18 But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

19 “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.” 20 Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. 21 For if God did not spare the original branches, he won't spare you either.

22 Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. 23 And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. 24 You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.

25 I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number

of Gentiles comes to Christ. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say,

“The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem,
and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness.

²⁷ And this is my covenant with them,
that I will take away their sins.”

Notes:

After Romans 9–10, Paul knows his readers will ask one final question: If most of Israel does not believe in Jesus, does that mean God is finished with them?

- V1-6 Has God rejected His people, Israel?
 - Some people—then and now—answer this question wrongly by saying:
 - Israel is finished
 - The Church replaced Israel
 - God’s promises now belong only to Gentiles
 - Paul immediately says: Absolutely not!
 - Paul’s First Proof: Himself (v.1)
 - Paul says, “I am an Israelite.”
 - Paul is living proof that God has not rejected Israel.
 - If even one Jew believes, it shows God is still keeping His promise.
 - Paul’s Second Proof: God’s Pattern (vv.2–4)
 - Paul reminds them of Elijah:
 - Elijah thought he was the only faithful Jew left in the entire world.
 - But God said He had kept 7,000 who did not worship idols
 - God was never absent. Elijah just couldn’t see the whole picture.
 - Paul says it is the same now (v.5)
 - God is saving a remnant of Israel
 - God has always worked this way: Never saving the whole nation at once
 - Paul makes this crystal clear: Salvation is by Grace, Not Works (v.6)
 - If it were by works, grace would no longer be grace
 - Israel’s problem: Trying to earn righteousness through the Law
 - The remnant’s salvation: Comes only by God’s undeserved kindness (GRACE)
 - **Kid Point:** God has not rejected Israel—He is still saving a faithful remnant by grace, just as He always has.

Notes:

- God has not rejected Israel
- He has preserved a remnant
- Salvation has always been by grace
- And God is not finished with His covenant people

Where This Leads Next:

- If God has preserved a remnant...and has not rejected Israel...
- What is God's future plan for the nation of Israel?

[ROMANS 11:7-10](#) So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened. ⁸ As the Scriptures say, “God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.” ⁹ Likewise, David said, “Let their bountiful table become a snare, a trap that makes them think all is well. Let their blessings cause them to stumble, and let them get what they deserve. ¹⁰ Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see, and let their backs be bent forever.”

- V7-10 If God has not rejected Israel, why do most still not believe?
 - Paul asks, “What does everything we’ve learned so far mean?”
 - Israel is divided into two groups:
 - **The Remnant:** A small number of Jews were chosen by God, they received righteousness by grace
 - **The Majority:** Most of Israel did not believe; their hearts were hardened by God
 - This shows God is still faithful, but working with only a minority for now.
 - What Does “Hardened” Mean?
 - Israel already had sinful, unbelieving hearts
 - God did not create their unbelief
 - But He make sure it continued, to bring good
 - **Just like Pharaoh:
 - Pharaoh resisted God on his own
 - God hardened Pharaoh to carry out His larger plan

- **In the same way:
 - Israel rejected Jesus willingly
 - God hardened the nation to carry out His plan of salvation
- Scripture confirms this, Paul quotes Moses: (v.8)
 - Israel saw miracles, Israel heard God's Word
 - But God did not give them eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to understand who Jesus was
- **No one believes unless God grants mercy!**
- Paul then quotes a warning from David : (vv.9–10)
 - Israel's "table" represents the Kingdom
 - Jesus offered the Kingdom to Israel
 - Israel rejected Him (Jesus)
- So what could have been a blessing became a stumbling block, became a judgment
 - Israel's rejection of Jesus became the reason God withheld the Kingdom—for now.
 - This hardening is temporary, not final
- **Important Clarification: Which keeps us from misunderstanding God's fairness.
 - Paul is speaking about nations, not individual people. (Israel & Gentile Nations)
 - Individual Jews can still be saved (Remnant)
 - Individual Gentiles can have hard hearts towards Jesus (unbelievers)
 - But nationally, Israel is hardened (Israel)
 - Nationally, Gentiles are receiving mercy (The majority of the Church is Gentiles)
- **Kid Point:** Paul uses the Old Testament Scripture to show that Israel will be hardened temporarily.

[ROMANS 11:11-16](#) Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. [12](#) Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

[13](#) I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, [14](#) for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. [15](#) For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead! [16](#) And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants

will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.

- V11-16 God's Plan and Gentiles Bless through Israel's Temporary Rejection
 - Israel's rejection of Jesus was not their end, but part of God's plan to bring salvation to the Gentiles—and Israel's future acceptance will bring even greater blessing to the world.
 - Why God Allowed Israel to Stumble by Rejecting Jesus? (v.11)
 - God withheld mercy for a time, and salvation went to the Gentiles (This was intentional, not accidental.)
 - God's purpose was to extend mercy to the Gentiles
 - Israel will then see Gentiles and their "Messiah" and make Israel long for their Messiah; this is jealousy.
 - Paul points out something amazing (vv.12, 15):
 - Israel's rejection brought salvation to the world
 - So Paul asks: If God brought so much good from Israel's rejection, how much greater will the blessing be when Israel finally receives Christ?
 - Paul calls that future moment : Israel's fulfillment, Israel's acceptance, life from the dead (the resurrection and Kingdom)
 - Paul's Heart for Israel is shown when he turns to address the Gentiles directly (vv.13–14)
 - Paul was sent to the Gentiles, only because Israel rejected Jesus
 - Paul hoped that Gentiles receiving salvation would stir Israel's longing for the Messiah and lead some Jews to faith
 - This shows how Gentiles should view Israel today—with hope, respect, and compassion.
 - Why Israel still matters using dough/ whole lump and root/ branches (v.16)
 - The meaning is simple: Israel's beginnings were holy!
 - God set them apart; the nation that came from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob still matters.
 - God's promises started with them and He will keep His promises
 - How are Gentile believers to respond to this?
 - We were saved through Israel's stumbling
 - We will receive the Kingdom when Israel receives Christ
 - So honor Israel, pray for Israel, desire their salvation
 - Not because every Jew is faithful, but because God is faithful to His covenant people.
 - **Kid Point:** Israel's stumbling over Jesus brought salvation to the world, but God's not done with His Holy people.

[ROMANS 11:17-24](#) But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—
some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles,

who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. ¹⁸ But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

¹⁹ "Well," you may say, "those branches were broken off to make room for me." ²⁰ Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. ²¹ For if God did not spare the original branches, he won't spare you either.

²² Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. ²⁴ You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.

- V17-24 A Warning Against Pride to the Gentiles

- Paul reminds the Gentiles in the church to set aside pride, prejudice, or hatred toward Israel. God is still working His plan, and Gentiles must understand their place in it.
 - The olive tree picture: Israel is the root of God's promises (vv.17–18)
 - The present generations of the saved Israel are the natural branches (remnant)
 - Gentiles (us) are wild branches grafted in
 - Gentiles now share in God's blessings only because Israel was set aside for a time.
 - The root supports the branches—not the other way around.
- A Warning to some who may say Israel was removed and we take their place (vv.19–21)
 - Paul answers: Israel was set aside because of unbelief
 - Gentiles stand only by faith, which is from GOD!
 - Therefore, do not be arrogant—fear God
 - If God set aside His own people for a time, He can also set aside Gentiles.
- Kindness and Severity of God (v.22)
 - God showed severity toward Israel and showing kindness to Gentiles
 - But this situation is temporary.
 - God's mercy moves according to His plan.

- Israel Will Be Grafted Back In (vv.23–24)
 - When Israel turns from unbelief, God will restore them
 - If God could graft in wild branches, how much easier to restore natural ones?
 - God is not finished with Israel.
 - He will bring them back to Him once His mercy & grace are fulfilled in the Gentiles
- That truth should humble us towards Israel!!
- **Kid Point:** Do not be ugly or prideful towards Israel, they are STILL God’s chosen people in the end.

ROMANS 11:25-27

25 I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. **26** And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say,

“The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem,
and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness.

27 And this is my covenant with them,
that I will take away their sins.”

- V25-27 Israel’s hardening is partial and temporary, and when God finishes saving the Gentiles, He will save all Israel.
 - Paul introduces a mystery—a truth hidden before, now revealed. (v.25)
 - Israel’s hardening is not total (a remnant still believes)
 - Israel’s hardening is not permanent
 - It lasts until the full number (fullness) of Gentiles is saved
 - When that number is reached, God’s focus will return to Israel
 - This shows God’s sovereignty (control) over salvation for both Jews and Gentiles.
 - All Israel Will Be Saved (v.26)
 - Paul declares the future plainly: Jesus will return
 - Ungodliness will be removed from Israel (unbelief)
 - Every Jew alive at that time will believe
 - This happens at Christ’s Second Coming, when God pours out His Spirit on Israel.
 - God Keeps His Covenant (v.27)
 - God promised to forgive Israel’s sins
 - This promise goes back to Abraham, Moses, and the prophets ([Genesis 12:3](#))
 - God delayed Israel’s restoration to extend mercy to the nations

- But delay is not denial or failure from God!
- **Kid Point:** Israel's future is secure in God!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. Does God reject Israel according to Paul? (No. God has not rejected Israel and has preserved a faithful remnant. v.1-2, 5)
2. What happened to most of Israel, and what happened to Gentiles? (Most of Israel was hardened, while Gentiles received salvation. v. 7,11)
3. What will happen to Israel in the future? (When the fullness of the Gentiles is complete, all Israel will be saved. vv25-26)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does Paul mean by a "remnant" in Israel? (A small group of Jews chosen by God's grace who believe in Jesus, proving God is still faithful to Israel. v5-6)
2. Why did God allow Israel to stumble? (God used Israel's rejection of Jesus to bring salvation to the Gentiles and to prepare for Israel's future restoration. V11-12,15)
3. What is the "mystery" Paul reveals about Israel and Gentiles? (Israel's hardening is partial and temporary and will end after God finishes saving the Gentiles. v25)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How should Gentile believers view Israel today? (With humility and respect, knowing we share in blessings that began with Israel. vv.18-20)
2. What warning does Paul give to Gentile believers? (Not to become arrogant, because God can shift His mercy according to His plan. v21-22)
3. What does Romans 11 teach us about trusting God's promises? (God always keeps His promises, even when fulfillment is delayed. vv.26-27)

Activities

1: Craft**The Olive Tree — God's Plan for Israel and the Nations**

Supplies:

Blank paper or poster paper

Pencil and colored markers

Bible

Printed picture of a large olive tree

Instructions:

Step 1 — Draw the Tree (Show the image of olive tree)

- Have students draw a large olive tree with:
 - Roots
 - Trunk
 - Several branches
 - A few broken branches
 - A few new branches being nailed in
- Label the drawing: “God’s Olive Tree — Romans 11” ([Romans 11:17](#))

Step 2 — Students must label each part with words + Scripture:

- Root Label: God’s promises to Israel (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) ([Romans 11:16](#))
 - Natural Branches Label: Israel — God’s covenant people ([Romans 11:17](#))
 - Broken Branches Label: Unbelieving Israel set aside for a time ([Romans 11:20](#))
 - Grafted-In Branches Label: Gentile nations sharing in God’s blessings ([Romans 11:17](#), 19)

Step 3 — Color Coding (Visual Reinforcement)

- Green → Root & promises
 - Brown → Natural branches
 - Gray → Broken branches
 - Bright green → Grafted-in branches

Step 4 — Add Key Notes Around the Tree

- - Have students write these short statements around the diagram: The root supports the branches
 - Israel was set aside, not destroyed.
 - Gentiles are included by grace, not pride.
 - Israel will be grafted back in.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 10:13](#) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

-
- God makes sure people hear about Jesus. ([Romans 10:14-15](#)).
- Hearing the Gospel is how faith begins. ([Romans 10:17](#)).
- Israel did hear and understand God’s message. ([Romans 10:18-19](#)).
- Not everyone who hears the Good News believes it. ([Romans 10:16](#)).
- God patiently reached out to Israel, even when they resisted. This is still going on today within Israel ([Romans 10:21](#)).

Worship to God

Scripture: [Romans 11:28-12:2](#)

Big Idea:

God always keeps His promises and calls us to respond by giving our lives fully to Him.

Call to Action:

How can you begin renewing your mind this week?

Family Action:

Spend time in the word together. Read a passage together and show this is our worship and thankfulness for what Gods done for us.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 11:28](#) — 12:2 in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to see their pointers on V28)

Review:

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!

vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

vv. 9:14-33 God's Sovereign over ALL, and will not fail.

vv. 10:1-13 Trusting Jesus Is the Way, Jesus the stumbling block (Israel's Present State)

vv. 10:14-21 Is this a Big Misunderstanding, that Israel missed Messiah? (Israel's Present State)

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises, shows mercy to all, and calls us to respond with lives that honor Him.

Opening Question

How should we live for God when we realize what He has actually done to save us?

→ Let children answer and discuss. Explain that Paul will explain in detail over the next few chapters what this looks like for believers.

Notes:

As we come to the end of Romans 11, Paul brings together everything he has taught in Chapters 9–11. He has carefully explained:

- God's sovereignty in mercy
- Israel's present hardening
- The salvation of the Gentiles
- And Israel's future restoration

Paul now pauses to summarize before moving forward. This section serves as a bridge—bringing us back to where Romans 8 ended: God's righteousness and the truth that nothing can separate us from Him.

He shifts away from his detailed explanation of Israel's role in God's plan and returns to his larger theme—the righteousness of God and how believers are to live in light of it.

But before moving into Romans 12, Paul closes this section with a powerful reminder:

God's wisdom, mercy, and faithfulness are beyond human understanding.

[ROMANS 11:28-12:2 NLT](#)

28 Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 29 For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. 30 Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. 31 Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.

33 Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

34 For who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give him advice?

35 And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

36 For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

[CHAPTER 12](#)

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Notes:

Paul has just finished explaining that God is not finished with Israel. Because of their hardened hearts, God has extended His mercy to the Gentiles for a time. Yet salvation has always been for everyone, as foretold in the Old Testament through Moses, Isaiah, and many other prophets. This isn't a new idea—it's been part of God's plan all along.

- V28-32 God Still Loves Israel & God Keeps His Promises
 - Paul says (v. 28):
 - From the side of the Gospel, Israel is acting like an enemy because they rejected Jesus.
 - But from God's side, they are still beloved because of the promises He made to their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).
 - God allowed Israel to reject Jesus for a time so that Gentiles (like us) could receive mercy.
 - God Keeps Every Promise (v.29)
 - Long ago, God promised Israel blessings and discipline if they disobeyed.
 - When God makes a promise, He does not change His mind.
 - In [Deuteronomy 29:25](#)–28, God said that Israel would face judgment if they turned away from Him.
 - So Israel's rejection by God today actually shows God is keeping His Word.
 - Mercy Moves in God's Plan (vv.30–31)
 - Paul explains something amazing: Gentiles were once disobedient and God showed us mercy anyway.
 - And now, Israel is disobedient, and one day God will show them mercy, too.
 - God is working a big plan: First mercy to Israel, then mercy to Gentiles, then mercy again to Israel in a future time
 - God Is Fair to All (v.32)
 - Paul says: "God has imprisoned everyone, so everyone can experience His mercy"
 - This means: Both Jews and Gentiles have been slaves to sin, and both need mercy.
 - God allows both to experience disobedience so He can show mercy to both.
 - Everyone depends on God's kindness for salvation.
 - Truth
 - Israel is disciplined, but still loved.
 - Gentiles received mercy, even though we were disobedient.
 - One day Israel will receive mercy again.
 - God always keeps every promise He makes.
- **Kid Point:** Everyone depends on God's kindness. God will always keep His promises.

[ROMANS 11:33-36](#) Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and

knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

34 For who can know the Lord's thoughts?

Who knows enough to give him advice?

35 And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back?

36 For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

- V33-36 When we understand how great God's plan is, the right response is worship.
 - After explaining everything about Israel, Gentiles, mercy, and God's plan, Paul doesn't argue anymore.
 - God's plans are perfect—even when we don't fully understand them.
 - God's wisdom is: Deeper than we can measure, smarter than we can understand and bigger than we can explain!
 - We Can't Teach God (vv.34–35)
 - Paul asks three big questions:
 - Who can know the thoughts of God?
 - Who knows enough to advise God?
 - Who has ever given so much to God that God owes them something now?
 - The answer is simple — No one!
 - We don't advise God; we don't improve His plans: we don't give Him anything He needs.
 - God owes us nothing: Everything we have comes from Him.
 - Everything Is About God (v.36)
 - Paul finishes with a BIG reminder that everything that exists is for HIS GLORY
 - Everything starts with God.
 - Everything happens because of God.
 - Everything is for God's glory.
 - Salvation is God's plan from beginning to end.
 - Why this matters for all of us?
 - When people hear that God chooses who receives mercy, hardens hearts for a time, and moves nations according to His plan, they sometimes begin to question Him.
 - But Paul shows us the right response. It's not doubt. It's not pride. It's not arguing with God. It's worship!!!
 - God's plan with Israel and the Gentiles shows us that He is just, wise, faithful to His promises, and fully in control.
 - That truth should give us confidence—not fear.

- **Kid Point:** Because God's way is above ours, we should worship Him. Nothing is dependent on us mere humans!

Notes:

In Chapters 12-15, God will show believers how to live our lives in worship to God because He has saved us. Paul is teaching us how to live for Jesus in the right order. It's not just a list of rules. It's a plan! Think of it like a big target with circles going outward.

Paul will teach us order for living for Jesus:

- God first
- then His people
- then the world
- and always in the power of the Spirit.

Show Bulls-eye Document

Explain:

The very center is our relationship with God.

This is the most important part. We must love God and grow closer to Him first.

○ The next circle is our relationship with the church (other believers).

When we grow with God, we can better love and serve other Christians.

○ The next circle is our relationship with the world (people who don't believe).

When we learn to love well inside the church, we're better prepared to share Jesus with others.

○ The last circle is our relationship with government and society.

We respect leaders, but God always comes first.

The center is where we will start as we enter Chapter 12. The most important part of our walk! If we don't grow close to God first, we won't be ready to serve others well.

[ROMANS 12:1-2](#) And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- V12:1-2 Because God has saved us and loves us forever, we should live our lives to please Him.
 - Paul says "And so..." That means he is building on everything he just taught.
 - In [Romans 8:36-39](#) he said:

- Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- So now Paul says in [Romans 12:1](#): Because you already have God's mercy...Live in a way that honors Him.

Remember, Paul took a brief break in his teaching to discuss Israel. Some people in his audience would begin to think God had not kept His promises to Israel, so Paul used chapters 9, 10, and 11 to explain that God is still faithful and still has a plan.

Now Paul is going back to where he left off. He reminds us of the good news: God has saved you, and nothing can separate you from His love!

- Paul says: "Give your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice." (v.1)
 - In the Old Testament, animals were sacrificed on an altar every day as worship.
 - But now: God wants us.
 - A "living sacrifice" means: Giving your life to God each day.
- What does this look like?
 - Choosing to obey Him.
 - Letting go of things that pull you away from Him.
 - Sometimes that means giving up: A bad attitude, pride, a sinful habit, or something you love that isn't good for you

True worship is not just singing!

True worship is obedience with your entire life and body!

- Don't Copy the World (v.2)
 - Paul says: "Do not copy or act like the world."
 - The world says: Do whatever makes you happy, think about yourself first, there are no consequences.
 - But God says: Follow Me. Trust Me. Live differently.
 - We cannot follow both the world and Christ at the same time.
- Be Transformed (v.2)
 - Paul says: "Be transformed into a new person by changing the way you think."
 - To be transformed means: Changed from the inside out.
 - How does that happen? Reading God's Word, praying, listening to godly counsel, thinking like Jesus thinks
- The Holy Spirit changes us, but the tool is God's Word.
 - When our thinking changes, our actions change.
- Paul's main point: You cannot lose God's love. So you don't need to try to earn it. Instead, give your life to Him daily!
- When we live this way:

- We show others what God's will looks like.
- We prove what is good and pleasing to Him.
- We become a witness to the world.
- We are already righteous by faith.
- Now we live righteously to honor God.
- **Kid Point:** Worship Him with your entire life and body! You are NEW!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. How does Paul describe Israel in relation to the Gospel and God's promises? (Israel is currently opposed to the Gospel, but still loved by God because of His promises. v.28)
2. What does Paul say about God's gifts and calling? (God's gifts and calling cannot be taken back. v. 29)
3. What does Paul urge believers to present to God? (Their bodies as a living and holy sacrifice. v.1)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is Israel's rejection actually proof that God is faithful? (Because God is keeping both His promises of blessing and His promises of judgment. V28-29 / Duet. 29)
2. Why does Paul say we should offer ourselves as living sacrifices? (Because of God's mercy toward us — we obey in response to His love, not to earn it. v.1)
3. What does it mean to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind"? (It means allowing God to change the way we think so our lives begin to reflect His will. v.2)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How should we view Israel today knowing God still loves them? (With humility and respect, trusting God's plan rather than judging it. vv.28-32)
2. What is one area of your life that might need to be placed on the "altar" as a living sacrifice? ((Personal response) Something that stands in the way of obedience to Christ. v.1)
3. How can you begin renewing your mind this week? (By spending time in Scripture, prayer, and listening to God's truth instead of copying the world. v.2)

Activities

1: Craft

The Altar

Supplies:

Paper (white or cardstock)

Pencil

Colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Scissors

Optional: small cardboard piece (to represent an altar)

Instructions:

Step 1 — Have students draw a simple altar like in the Old Testament.

- Explain: In the Old Testament, sacrifices were placed on an altar.
- Today, God asks us to offer our lives as a living sacrifice.
- Read [Romans 12:1](#)
- Label the altar: “Living Sacrifice — My Life for God”

Step 2 — Write "God's Mercy" above the altar, have students write:

- “God keeps His promises.” [Romans 11:2](#)
- “God showed mercy to me.” [Romans 11:32](#)
- Explain: We obey God because He first showed mercy to us.

Step 3 — Draw or Write What We Offer to God: Around or on the altar, students write or draw things they can offer to God, such as:

- My thoughts
- My choices
- My attitude
- My time
- My words
- My obedience
- Explain: This means choosing to live in a way that pleases God. [Romans 12:1](#)

Step 4 — Renewing the Mind Section; On the side of the page, write:

- “Renew My Mind” [Romans 12:2](#)
- Under it, students list ways to renew their mind:
 - Reading the Bible
 - Praying
 - Obeying God
 - Listening to truth
- Explain: God changes us from the inside out.

Discussion Questions to ask:

- Why do we offer our lives to God?
- What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
- What is one thing you can offer to God this week?

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 10:13](#) For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God still loves Israel and keeps His promises to them. ([Romans 11:28](#)).
- God’s gifts and calling cannot be taken back. ([Romans 11:29](#)).
- God shows mercy to both Jews and Gentiles. ([Romans 11:32](#)).
- Because of God’s mercy, we are to offer our lives to Him. ([Romans 12:1](#)).
- We are called to think differently and live differently from the world. ([Romans 12:2](#)).

Our Relationship with Other Believers

Scripture: [Romans 12:3-13](#)

Big Idea:

Worship God: serve the Body/Church, and love others sincerely.

Call to Action:

Ask God what gifts He has given to you to serve Him and others.

Volunteer somewhere in your church to help out!

Family Action:

Talk to your kids about serving in your church, which is the Body of Christ.

Explain that EVERY believer has a spiritual gift! What is yours?

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 12:3-13](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to see their pointers on V3)

Review:

vv. 8:26-39 Nothing can separate me from God!

vv. 9:1-13 Did God break His Promises to save Israel (Israel's Past History)

vv. 9:14-33 God's Sovereign over ALL, and will not fail.

vv. 10:1-13 Trusting Jesus Is the Way, Jesus the stumbling block (Israel's Present State)

vv. 10:14-21 Is this a Big Misunderstanding, that Israel missed Messiah? (Israel's Present State)

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises & Our relationship with God

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts

Opening Question

Have you ever been part of a team where everyone had a different job — and what happened when someone didn't do theirs? → Let children answer and discuss. Paul will explain that we are to love the Body of Christ/ Church and do our part with the gifts God has given us.

Key Theological Terms:

Spiritual Gifts – a special gift given to EVERY believer to serve and help the church body grow.

Body of Christ or Church Body – All believers locally and worldwide.

Notes:

In Romans 12–15, Paul shows us how to live in response to God’s mercy. This is not a list of rules, but a plan for worship. Because God has saved us and nothing can separate us from His love, our lives should reflect gratitude and obedience.

Think of it like a target :

- The center is our relationship with God (12:1–2).
- Then comes our relationship with other believers (12:3–13).
- Then the world, and finally government and society.

If living this way feels impossible, Paul already gave us the starting point. We become a living sacrifice, renewing our minds through God’s Word. As our thinking changes, our behavior changes. This is where sanctification begins.

If we neglect our relationship with God, everything else weakens. But when we come to Christ and drink deeply ([John 7:37–38](#)), the Spirit strengthens us—and that strength flows outward to bless others. Strength at the center makes faithfulness in the outer circles possible.

[Romans 12:3–13](#), Paul moves from the center outward, showing how transformed hearts live among other believers.

*Paul paused in Chapters 9–11 to show that God is still faithful to Israel and keeps every promise. Now in Chapter 12, he returns to the main point: since God has saved you, live your whole life as worship to Him.

[ROMANS 12:3-12:13 NLT](#)

3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. **4** Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, **5** so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. **7** If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. **8** If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

9 Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is

wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. [10](#) Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. [11](#) Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. [12](#) Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. [13](#) When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

- V3-5 We All Belong to One Body (The Church Body or Body of Christ)
 - Paul begins teaching about how Christians should treat each other in the church. (v. 3):
 - Don't think you are more important than you are. (Pride)
 - But also don't think you are more important. (Arrogance)
 - God gave each believer a special role.
 - We are all part of one big family — the Body of Christ.
 - Paul says he speaks "by the grace given to me."
 - That means God gave Paul the job of being an apostle.
 - And just like Paul, God gives every believer a job too.
 - Paul compares the church to a human body. Think about your body:
 - Your hands grab things, your feet help you walk, your eyes help you see, even your little toe helps you balance! Every part has a job!!
 - If one part refuses to do its job, the whole body struggles.
 - The same is true in the church:
 - Some people teach, some help, some encourage, some serve quietly behind the scenes.
 - No one is more loved.
 - No one is unimportant.
 - And no one is replaceable.
 - A Helpful Picture: God has assigned each of us a part in His big plan — like instruments in an orchestra.
 - The violin doesn't try to become a drum.
 - The drum doesn't try to become a flute.
 - Each plays its own part beautifully.
 - If everyone tries to switch parts, it becomes noise!
 - But when everyone plays the part God gave them, it becomes beautiful music.
 - **Kid Point:** Everyone depends on God's kindness. God will always keep His promises.

[ROMANS 12:6-8](#) In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. [7](#) If your gift is

serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. [8](#) If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

- V6-8 Use Your Gift Well

- Paul now explains how we are to use the gifts God has given us to serve Him and the Body.
- These gifts are called spiritual gifts — which are special abilities God gives believers when they trust in Jesus. (v.6)
- These gifts are:
 - Given by God's grace
 - Different for each person
 - Meant to help the church grow
 - Your gift helps show where you fit in the Body of Christ.
- Paul gives examples (v.6-8):
 - Prophecy – Speak God's truth clearly.
 - Serving – Help others in practical ways.
 - Teaching – Explain God's Word.
 - Encouraging – Cheer others on in faith.
 - Giving – Share generously.
 - Leading – Guide others responsibly.
 - Kindness/Mercy – Care for people gladly.
- Paul is telling his audience: Whatever your gift is — do it well! Not halfway. Not with complaining.
- Not wishing you had someone else's gift.
- **Kid Point:** We all have a specific gift from God that we are good at! What is yours?

[ROMANS 12:9-13](#) Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. [10](#) Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. [11](#) Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. [12](#) Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. [13](#) When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

- V12:9-13 How to Love in God's Family

- Paul now gives many short commands about how believers should treat each other:

- Love must be real. (v.9)
- Hate what is evil. (v.9)
- Hold tightly to what is good. (v.9)
- Love with real love and put others first. (v.10)
- Work hard in serving with JOY. (v.11)
- Rejoice for your salvation- Praise God. (v.12)
- In troubles, be patient and always pray. (v.12)
- Help other believers. (v.13)
- Welcome others kindly. (v.13)
- *This is a list of how a healthy church family should live.
- *Paul is showing us that Love is not just a feeling; love is something we do.

Examples: (Let kids discuss and chat about what this looks like for them)

- Love Must Be Real: (v.9)
 - Let someone else have the better seat.
 - Share what you have.
 - Pray when you say you will.
- Hate What Is Evil — Hold to What Is Good (v.9)
 - Don't watch ugly things on electronics.
 - Have friends who encourage you, not point you towards evil things.
 - Love seeing and hearing good and beautiful things.
- Treat Each Other Like Family: Our church family is our spiritual family. These relationships last forever — even into eternity. (v.10)
 - Encourage each other.
 - Protect unity.
 - Put fellow believers first when choices are difficult.
 - But never do something that dishonors Christ.
- Serve with Energy and the Right Heart: We serve people — but we are really serving Jesus. (v.11)
 - Don't be lazy.
 - Be enthusiastic.
 - Serve the Lord.
- *Rejoice, Persevere, Pray: (v.12)*
- Paul connects three important ideas:
 - Rejoice in hope (our future resurrection).
 - Persevere in trouble.

- Be devoted to prayer.
- We don't rejoice because life is easy.
 - We rejoice because Jesus defeated death.
- When trouble comes: (v.12)
 - Don't quit.
 - Don't isolate yourself.
 - Keep praying.
- *Help Believers — Show Hospitality to Others:* Paul ends with two acts of kindness: (v.13)
 - Support the needs of fellow believers.
 - Practice hospitality.
 - Hospitality means welcoming and helping others — even strangers.
- **Kid Point:** When we live this way, we show the world what Jesus is like!!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What warning does Paul give about how we should view ourselves? (Paul warns believers not to think too highly of themselves but to evaluate themselves honestly. v.3)
2. How does Paul describe the church in verses 4–5? (He compares the church to a body with many parts, each having a special function. v. 4-5)
3. What kinds of attitudes and actions does Paul command in verses 9–13? (Sincere love, hatred of evil, devotion to one another, diligence, joy in hope, perseverance in trials, prayer, generosity, and hospitality. v.9-13)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. What does “measure of faith” in [Romans 12:3](#) mean? (It refers to the portion or role God has assigned to each believer in the body, not the strength of personal faith. v.6)
2. Why must love be “real and not pretend”? (Because fake love damages unity. True Christian love is self-sacrificial action, not just words. v.9)
3. Why does Paul connect rejoicing, perseverance, and prayer? (Because our hope in resurrection gives us strength in trials, and prayer keeps us anchored to God in every season. v.12)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can I serve in the body without pride or false humility? (By accepting the role God has given me and serving faithfully in that place. v. 3)
2. What does real love look like in my church or to those around me? (Personal response) Following through on commitments, helping sacrificially, honoring others above myself. v.10)
3. What Spiritual Gift/gifts has God given to me? (Personal response) v.9-13)

Activities

1: Game

Build the Church Together

Supplies:

Straws/Spaghetti noodles

Mini Marshmallows

Instructions: Work together to build a church building that stands up. Use the straws or noodles as the walls that brace the building and the marshmallows as the joints to hold the structure in place. Work together.

Step 1 — Divide kids into small groups of 3

- Pass out materials
- Ask them to build a church with no directions

Step 2 — Now have students work together to build a standing church

- Give job roles:
- One child is the thinker
- One child is the builder
- One child is the encourager
- (Feel free to change the jobs)

Step 3 — Which way worked best?

- The one with no guidance or roles?
- Or the one where each person had a specific role to play to make it work together?
- When we know our gift and contribute to the Body, we help those in the Body and show others on the outside what it looks like to serve, help, encourage, and build the Body.
- People see Jesus when we work together and serve each other.

Step 4 — Add Key Notes Around the Tree

- Have students write these short statements around the diagram: The root supports the branches
- Israel was set aside, not destroyed.
- Gentiles are included by grace, not pride.
- Israel will be grafted back in.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 12:4-5](#) *Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

• • • •

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God assigns our spiritual gifts to serve the Body of Christ (believers). ([Romans 12:3-13](#)).
- No part of the Body of Christ is unimportant. ([Romans 12:4-5](#)).
- Our abilities to serve come from God, not personal merit. ([Romans 12:6](#)).
- Love must be genuine and sacrificial. ([Romans 12:9-10](#)).
- Faithful service requires perseverance and prayer. ([Romans 12:11-12](#)).

Our Relationship with Unbelievers

Scripture: [Romans 12:14-21](#)

Big Idea:

Worship God: By how we live among unbelievers

Call to Action:

Do you know of any unbelievers? If not, then the mission of sharing the life-saving news with unbelievers is stopped.

Family Action:

Talk to your kids about serving in your church, which is the Body of Christ.

Explain that EVERY believer has a spiritual gift! What is yours?

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 12:3-13](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to see their pointers on V3)

Review:

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises & Our relationship with God

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts

vv. 12:14-21 Our Relationship with Unbelievers

Opening Question

How do you treat those around you that don't look like you? Aren't part of your group at school? Or don't believe what you believe?

→ Let children answer and discuss.

Notes:

In Romans 12–15, Paul shows us how to live in response to God's mercy. This is not a list of rules, but a plan for worship. Because God has saved us and nothing can separate us from His love, our lives should reflect gratitude and obedience.

Think of it like a target :

- The center is our relationship with God (12:1–2).

- Then comes our relationship with other believers (12:3–13).
- Then the world/ unbelievers 12:14-21).
- and finally, government and society. (13)

If living this way feels impossible, Paul already gave us the starting point. We become a living sacrifice, renewing our minds through God's Word. As our thinking changes, our behavior changes. This is where sanctification begins.

If we neglect our relationship with God, everything else weakens. But when we come to Christ and drink deeply ([John 7:37–38](#)), the Spirit strengthens us—and that strength flows outward to bless others.

Strength at the center makes faithfulness in the outer circles possible.

In [Romans 12:14-21](#), Paul moves from the center outward, showing how transformed hearts live among unbelievers or in the world.

[ROMANS 12:14-21 NLT](#)

14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. **15** Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. **18** Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

19 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

"I will take revenge;

I will pay them back,"

says the Lord.

20 Instead,

"If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap

burning coals of shame on their heads."

21 Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

- V14-18 How to Treat People Who Don't Believe
 - Now Paul moves to the third ring — how we treat unbelievers.
 - Unbelievers are not our enemies. They are our mission:
 - 1. Bless Instead of Curse. When people attack us for our faith, we (v. 14):
 - Don't fight back.

- Don't insult them.
- Don't seek revenge.
- Instead, we bless them.
- [John 15:20](#) — "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."
 - Jesus warned that the world would oppose believers.
- [Matthew 5:44](#) — "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
 - This surprises people.
 - And surprise opens hearts.
- **Our goal is to give people the opportunity to know Christ.**
 - 2. Share in Their Joy and Pain. Even when we disagree with someone's lifestyle, we still care about their lives. (v.15):
 - Paul says: Rejoice when they rejoice.
 - Weep when they weep.
 - Jesus spent time with sinners without joining in sin. If we judge from a distance, we will never get close enough to share Christ.
 - 3. Stay Humble. Remember: We were once enemies of God too (v.16):
 - Paul warns: Don't be proud.
 - Don't think you're better.
 - Spend time with the lowly.
- Humility keeps our hearts soft and our witness strong.
 - 4. Don't Repay Evil for Evil. (v.17):
 - If someone wrongs you: Don't seek revenge.
 - Don't escalate conflict.
 - Don't destroy your testimony.
 - Instead:
 - Do what is right in the sight of all.
 - That means: Act with integrity.
 - Follow the law.
 - Represent Christ well.
 - 5. Pursue Peace — As Much As You Can (v.17b)
 - Paul says: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."
 - Sometimes conflict cannot be avoided if we stand for truth. But we must never be the cause of unnecessary conflict.
 - We are called to balance:
 - Personal holiness

- Loving witness
- Strategic kindness
- Standing firm in truth, while keeping doors open for salvation.
- **Kid Point:** Unbelievers are not our enemies — they are people Jesus wants to save!

[ROMANS 12:19-20](#) Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

“I will take revenge;

I will pay them back,”

says the Lord.

[20](#) Instead,

“If your enemies are hungry, feed them.

If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap

burning coals of shame on their heads.”

- V19-20 Let God Be the Judge
 - Paul now explains what to do when someone truly hurts you. Not just insults. Not just disagreement but real harm.
 - He says:
 - Do not take revenge.
 - Let God handle justice.
 - Show kindness instead.
 - This is about trusting God with what feels unfair.
 - 1. Revenge Belongs to God. God says: “Vengeance is mine.” (v. 19) ([Deuteronomy 32:35](#))
 - That means:
 - God sees everything.
 - God judges perfectly.
 - God knows what we do not.
 - If we take revenge, we:
 - Step into God’s role.
 - Sin in anger.
 - Interfere with God’s plan.
 - We don’t know what God may do:
 - He may save that person someday.
 - Or He may judge them justly.
 - Either way, it’s not our job to decide.

- 2. Kindness Is Powerful. Paul says: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him.” (v.20)
 - This doesn’t mean pretending nothing happened if wronged.
 - It means choosing kindness over retaliation.
- When we respond with goodness:
- It shocks people.
 - It softens hearts.
 - It leaves room for God to work.
 - Paul calls it “heaping burning coals.”
- That picture means:
 - Our kindness leaves the outcome in God’s hands — and God’s justice is always greater than ours.
- Protect Your Witness. We want peace “so far as it depends on you.”
- Sometimes standing for the truth causes conflict. If we:
 - Refuse to join sin
 - Hold to our conscience
 - Choose holiness over popularity
 - Conflict may still come.
- When that happens? Return to rule #1:
 - Bless those who persecute you. (v.14)
- *What does all this mean for us today, when conflict arises with a believer or unbeliever? Holiness Comes First!
- We cannot:
 - Compromise truth to avoid tension.
 - Join in sin to keep relationships smooth.
- The “inner rings” come first:
 - Personal holiness
 - Faithfulness to Christ
 - Then peace with others
 - Peace never replaces obedience.
- It’s a Win-Win
 - If the person is later saved, you will be glad you didn’t seek revenge.
 - If they reject God, He will judge perfectly.
- Either way:
 - You stayed faithful.
 - You protected your witness.

- You trusted God.
- **Kid Point:** When we refuse revenge and choose kindness, we trust God to handle it!

[ROMANS 12:21](#) Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

- V12:21 How to treat unbelievers in our life (Summary of v. 14-20)
 - Paul ends the chapter with this command: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (v.21)
 - As we engage the unbelieving world (the third ring), we must be careful not to be pulled down or corrupted by it.
 - We can only represent Christ well if we are strong in the inner rings—walking closely with God and loving believers well.
 - If we are spiritually weak, the world will influence us rather than we influencing it.
 - We must overcome evil by consistently showing the goodness of Christ and His Word, never allowing sin to gain the upper hand in our lives.
 - **Kid Point:** Overcome evil by showing kindness like Christ!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul command believers to do when they are persecuted? (Believers are to bless and not curse those who persecute them. v.14)
2. How are believers instructed to respond emotionally to others' circumstances? (We are to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. v. 15)
3. What does Paul say about revenge? (We are never to take revenge but leave justice to God. v.19)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does Paul tell believers to bless those who persecute them? (Because unbelievers are not our enemies but our mission. Responding with kindness keeps the door open for the Gospel. v.14)
2. What does it mean to "leave room for the wrath of God"? (It means trusting God to handle justice perfectly instead of taking matters into our own hands. v.19/ [Deuteronomy 32:35](#))
3. What does "so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" teach us? (We are responsible for pursuing peace, but we cannot control others' reactions. We must maintain holiness even if conflict arises. v.18)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How should I respond when someone mistreats me for my faith? (I should bless them, refuse revenge, and trust God with justice. v. 14,19-20)
2. How can I avoid becoming prideful or judgmental toward unbelievers? (By remembering that I was once God's enemy too and was saved by grace. v.16/ [Ephesians 2:4-5](#))

3. When peace and obedience conflict, what should I choose? (I must choose obedience to God while pursuing peace as far as it depends on me. v.9-18/ [Acts 5:29](#))
-

Activities

1: Game

Kingdom Reaction Challenge

Supplies:

Hang two papers with the following phrases on opposite sides of the room:

“World’s Way”

“Kingdom Way”

Instructions:

You’ll read scenarios. Kids must immediately walk to the side that represents the response they would instinctively choose.

Scenario 1 — Someone insults your faith publicly.

- Fire back with sarcasm.
- Bless and stay calm.

Read [Romans 12:14](#)

Discuss: Why is blessing harder?

How could it open a Gospel door?

Scenario 2 — A friend spreads rumors about you.

- Expose them and get even.
- Refuse revenge and trust God.

Read [Romans 12:19](#)

Discuss: What does “leave room for God’s wrath” mean?

Scenario 3 — A neighbor damages your property.

- Retaliate.
- Do what is right and pursue peace.

Read [Romans 12:17-18](#)

Discuss: Is pursuing peace the same as being weak?

Scenario 4 — An unbeliever celebrates something you morally disagree with.

- Distance yourself and act superior.
- Stay relational without compromising holiness.

Read [Romans 12:16, 18](#)

Discuss: How do we balance holiness and relationship?

Scenario 5 — Someone who mistreated you is now in need.

- Ignore them.
- Feed them / help them.

Read [Romans 12:20](#)

Discuss: Why does kindness shock people?

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 12:21](#) *Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God assigns our spiritual gifts to serve the Body of Christ (believers). ([Romans 12:3-13](#)).
- No part of the Body of Christ is unimportant. ([Romans 12:4-5](#)).
- Our abilities to serve come from God, not personal merit. ([Romans 12:6](#)).
- Love must be genuine and sacrificial. ([Romans 12:9-10](#)).
- Faithful service requires perseverance and prayer. ([Romans 12:11-12](#)).

Our Relationship with Government

Scripture: [Romans 13:1-14](#)

Big Idea:

Showing Jesus in our attitude towards Governing Authorities

Call to Action:

Think about how you treat those around you in authority.

Family Action:

Talk to your kids about how sometimes it may be hard to follow those in charge.

Give examples of how we can still obey authority even if we don't like it.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 13:1-14](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to see their pointers on V1)

Review:

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises & Our relationship with God

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts

vv. 12:14-21 Our Relationship with Unbelievers

vv. 13:1-14 Our Relationship with Governing Authority

Opening Question

Have you ever had to follow a rule or obey someone in authority even when you didn't want to? → Why do you think God asks us to respect authority and treat others with love?

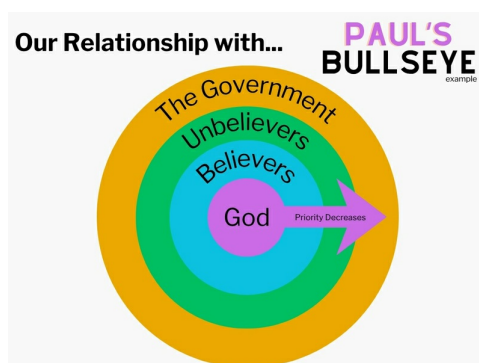
Notes:

In Romans 12–15, Paul shows us how to live in response to God's mercy. This is not a list of rules, but a plan for worship. Because God has saved us and nothing can separate us from His love, our lives should reflect gratitude and obedience.

Think of it like a target :

- The center is our relationship with God (12:1–2).

- Then comes our relationship with other believers (12:3–13).
- Then comes our relationship with the world/unbelievers (12:14-21).
- and finally, government and society. (13).



If living this way feels impossible, Paul already gave us the starting point. We become a living sacrifice, renewing our minds through God's Word. As our thinking changes, our behavior changes. This is where sanctification begins.

Paul now teaches the final part of living a holy life. This part is about how Christians live in the in society with Leaders. Even though our true home is in heaven, we still live here on earth with a government. Some people might think that because we belong to God's kingdom, we don't have to listen to leaders or follow rules in society. But that's not true! God wants us to live in a way that respects authority and shows His goodness so that people can see Christ through us. (Police, Governor, President - The Government as a whole). Romans chapter 13.

Key Theological Term:

Sanctification- The process of becoming more like Jesus in our lives.

ROMANS 13:1-14 NLT

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

⁶ Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do.

7 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. **9** For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. **12** The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. **13** Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. **14** Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

- V1-5 Respecting Authority

- Paul now moves to the fourth and final ring — our relationship with the government and authority.
 - Paul teaches a clear rule: Christians should respect and obey governing authorities.
 - Why? Because God Himself established government.
 - Every ruler and authority exists because God allowed them to be there.
- 1. Government Is Established by God (v. 1):
 - God raises up leaders.
 - God allows governments to exist.
 - Even imperfect leaders are part of God's plan.
 - *Even when rulers are flawed, God can still use them for His purposes.
- 2. Government Helps Restrain Evil (v. 2):
 - God created government to help control sin in society.
 - Without laws and rulers, people would simply do whatever they wanted.
- Government exists to:
 - Protect people
 - Promote justice

- Punish wrongdoing
- When we obey laws, society works better.
- 3. Disobeying Authority Brings Consequences (v.3-4):
 - Paul explains: If you break the law, you should expect punishment.
 - The government carries the authority to enforce justice.
 - This doesn't mean every government is perfect — but it does mean chaos is worse than order.
 - A world with no government at all would be far more dangerous.
- 4. Our Heart Should Be Toward Obedience (v.5):
 - Christians should seek to obey the government whenever possible.
 - Just like parents expect children to obey their rules, God expects us to respect authority.
- Our attitude towards government should be:
 - Respectful
 - Peaceful
 - Law-abiding
- 5. What if the government tells me to go against God?
 - There are rare times when we must obey God instead of government. For example, when the apostles were ordered not to preach about Jesus. ([Acts 5:29](#)) They said, “We must obey God rather than men.”
- Even then, the apostles:
 - Disobeyed respectfully
 - Accepted the consequences
 - Continued trusting God
 - They still showed respect to authority.
- **Kid Point:** Christians honor God by respecting authority!

[ROMANS 13:6-10](#) Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. [7](#) Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

[8](#) Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. [9](#) For the commandments say, “You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.” These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” [10](#) Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's

law.

- V6-10 Living Honorably in the World
 - Paul continues teaching how Christians should live honorably in society. These actions protect our witness for Christ in the world.
 - 1. Pay What You Owe (v. 6)
 - That means:
 - Paul says Christians should pay taxes.
 - Even if we dislike how governments spend money, we still obey the law.
 - Paying taxes is not just about money — it is about obeying God.
 - Jesus taught the same thing. ([Matthew 22:21](#))
 - “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.”
 - 2. Respect & Obey Those Who Serve in these Roles (v.7)
 - Paul says government workers are servants of God.
 - That includes people like:
 - Police officers
 - Judges
 - Teachers
 - Tax collectors
 - Government workers
 - Even if they are imperfect, they still serve a role in society.
 - 3. Do What is Fair (v.8)
 - Living honestly in everyday life.
 - Examples:
 - Pay people fairly for their work
 - Return things you borrow
 - Keep your promises
 - Follow customs that show respect
 - *These are not “extra kindness.” They are simply doing what is right.
 - The One Debt That Never Ends - LOVE
 - Unlike money, love is never “paid off.”
 - We keep loving people again and again — even when they do not return it.
 - This is exactly how Jesus loved us.
 - When we love others well, we live out what God commands. Jesus summarized God’s law this way: [Matthew 22:39](#): Love your neighbor as yourself. (v. 9-10)

- Love means:
 - Doing good for others
 - Treating people fairly
 - Expecting nothing in return
 - This shows the world what Christ is like.
- **Kid Point:** Christians honor God by living respectfully in society, doing what is right, and showing love

[ROMANS 13:11-14](#) This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. [12](#) The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. [13](#) Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. [14](#) Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

- V11-14 Wake Up — Jesus Is Coming
 - Paul finishes this section of Romans with a strong reminder: Jesus is coming again! This helps us remember that our real future is with Christ. (v.11)
 - 1. Leave the Darkness Behind (v. 12)
 - Night represents the sinful world, while the coming day represents Christ's kingdom.
 - Because believers belong to the light, we should stop living in sinful ways.
 - 2. Avoid the Sins of the World (v.13)
 - Paul lists some examples of behaviors that belong to the darkness. These things distract believers from living for Christ.
 - Wild Parties
 - Being Drunk
 - Sexual Sin
 - Bad Actions
 - Fighting
 - Jealousy
 - 3. Prepare for Christ's Return (v.14)
 - Choose to live like Jesus! Letting our whole lives and body belong and follow Jesus:
 - Following His commands

- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Avoiding situations that lead us into sin
- *When believers pursue holiness and follow Christ, they prepare themselves for the day they will see Him. Living this way honors God and prepares us for the reward He promises.
- **Kid Point:** Jesus could return at any time, believers should live ready!

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul say about where government authority comes from? (All governing authority is established by God. Police, teachers, president, boss, parents. v.1)
2. What are Christians instructed to give to those in authority? (Taxes, respect, and honor. v. 6-7)
3. What command summarizes how we should treat others? (Love your neighbor as yourself. v. 8-10)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why should believers submit to governing authorities? (Because God has allowed those authorities to exist and uses them to maintain order. v. 1-4)
2. Why does Paul say love fulfills the law? (Because loving others keeps us from harming them and fulfills God's commands about how we treat people. v. 9-10)
3. Why does Paul tell believers to "wake up" spiritually? (Because Jesus' return is getting closer, and believers should live ready for Him. v.11)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you show respect to authority in your life (parents, teachers, leaders)? (By obeying rules, speaking respectfully, and doing what is right. v. 1-2)
2. What is one practical way you can show love to your neighbor this week? (Let kids answer. Helping someone in need, being kind, forgiving someone, or treating others fairly. v. 8-10)
3. What is one "deed of darkness" you should avoid so you can live ready for Jesus? (SIN. Examples: jealousy, arguing, dishonesty, selfish behavior.) v. 13-14)

Activities

1: Game**Flashlight in the Darkness**

Supplies:

- Flash light
- Small objects

Instructions:

- Turn off the lights in the room so it is mostly dark.
- Ask the kids:
 - Is it easy or hard to see in the dark?
 - What happens when you try to walk around in darkness?
- Turn on the flashlight and shine it around the room.
 - Explain that light helps us see clearly and move safely!
- Connect this to the Bible passage. [*Romans 13:12*](#) *Night is almost gone. Day is almost here. We must stop doing the sinful things that are done in the dark. We must put on all the things God gives us to fight with for the day.*
- Explain:
 - Darkness = sin and living like the world
 - Light = living like Jesus
- Hide the objects in the dark
 - Have the children close their eyes or look away while you hide an object.
 - Use the flashlights to find the small object you hid.
- Explain:
 - That we need to live in the light, even as we go through life in the world and it may be hard.
 - Jesus shines light on our sin and calls us to live for HIM/light and not in darkness/sin.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[*Romans 12:21*](#) *Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.***Remind them: What is the Gospel?**

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

-
- God establishes governing authorities, and believers should submit to them. ([Romans 13:1](#)).
- Government exists to restrain evil and promote what is good. ([Romans 13:3-4](#)).
- Christians should pay what they owe and show respect and honor to others. ([Romans 13:6-7](#)).
- Loving others fulfills God's commands for how we treat people. ([Romans 13:8-10](#)).
- Because Jesus could return at any time, believers should turn from sin and live in the light. ([Romans 13:11-14](#)).

Grace for Jewish Believers

Scripture: [Romans 14:1-23](#)

Big Idea:

Showing Jesus in our attitude towards Jewish believers (weaker)

Call to Action:

Think about how you treat those around you who hold to different beliefs within Christianity. Do you show compassion or division?

Family Action:

Talk with your kids about how God gives different convictions, and remind them not to force those convictions on others or cause someone to stumble.

Talk about your convictions.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 14:1-23](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to start their pointer finger on V1 and follow along)

Review:

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises & Our relationship with God

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts

vv. 12:14-21 Our Relationship with Unbelievers

vv. 13:1-14 Our Relationship with Governing Authority

vv. 14:1-23 How we can show Grace to Jewish Believers

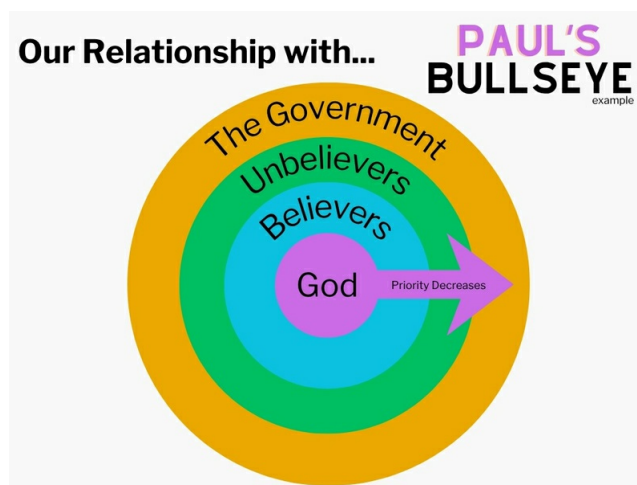
Opening Question

Have you ever met another Christian who believed something a little different than you? For example, maybe they think eating certain foods is wrong or believe a different day should be set aside as special.
→ How do you think God wants us to treat other believers when they follow different personal rules?

Notes:

In Romans 12–15, Paul shows us how to live in response to God's mercy. This is not a list of rules, but a plan for worship. Because God has saved us and nothing can separate us from His love, our lives should reflect gratitude and obedience.

Think of it like a target :



- The center is our relationship with God (12:1-2).
- Then comes our relationship with other believers (12:3-13).
- Then comes our relationship with the world/unbelievers (12:14-21).
- and finally, government and society. (13).

Remember, Paul is teaching us how to live as a living sacrifice for God. As we learn God's Word and change the way we think, our actions begin to change, too. This is called growing to be more like Jesus.

Now Paul explains how Christians should treat other believers in the church who still follow certain old rules from the Law, like not eating certain foods or keeping a certain day special.

God gave those rules to the people of Israel long ago to help set them apart and prepare them for the coming of Jesus. But when Jesus came, He perfectly fulfilled the Law. Because of this, people who believe in Jesus are no longer required to follow those old rules to be right with God.

Some Jewish believers in the early church were still used to those rules because they grew up with them. Paul says other believers, especially Gentiles, should be patient, loving, and kind toward them, because they are still learning and growing in their understanding.

Key Theological Term:

Sanctification - The process of becoming more like Jesus in our lives.

ROMANS 14:1-23 NLT

Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. ² For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. ³ Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to condemn someone else's

servants? Their own master will judge whether they stand or fall. And with the Lord's help, they will stand and receive his approval.

5 In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. 6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. 7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. 8 If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For the Scriptures say, "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God."

12 Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. 13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. 16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good.

17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. 19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

20 Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.

22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your

convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

- V1-4 Accept Believers Who are Still Growing
 - Paul teaches that believers must accept one another and show patience, even when they have different convictions about certain things.
 - “Weak” does not mean someone is bad — it means they are still growing spiritually. (v.1)
 - Some believers felt free to eat anything, while others felt they should avoid certain foods. (v.2)
 - These differences came from their background and understanding.
 - Paul says believers should not:
 - Look down on others
 - Mock their convictions
 - Pressure them to change immediately
 - Instead, they should show grace and patience.
 - Do not judge other believers by what they eat or don’t eat, or by what they worship (v. 3)
 - If God has welcomed (accepted) someone into His family, believers should welcome them too.
 - Some believers will understand their freedom in Christ faster than others.
 - Every believer serves the same master (v.4)
 - Paul reminds the church that every believer belongs to Jesus.
 - Christ is the one who leads and judges His servants.
 - Give other believers time to grow in Jesus.
 - **Kid Point:** Believers should accept and love one another, giving grace to those who are still growing in their faith.

[ROMANS 14:5-9](#) In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. ⁶ Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we don’t live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, it’s to honor the Lord. And if we die, it’s to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

- V5-9 Following Your Convictions for the Lord

- Paul continues that when believers have different convictions about certain practices, they should respect one another and remember that each person is living to honor the Lord.
 - Some believers treat certain days as special, while others do not. (v.5-6)
 - What matters is that each believer is fully convinced in their own mind that they are serving the Lord.
- Believers Do Not Live for Themselves (v.7-8)
 - Paul reminds the church that Christians belong to Christ.
 - Everything we do should be about serving the Lord, not pleasing ourselves or other people.
 - Our entire life is meant to honor Jesus.
- Paul ends by reminding believers why Jesus died and rose again. (v.9)
 - Because Jesus is Lord of every believer, He is the one who guides each person's conscience.
 - We should not try to control other believers' convictions.
- **Kid Point:** Believers may have different convictions about certain things, but everyone should live to honor the Lord and respect one another's faith.

[ROMANS 14:10-13](#) So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. [11](#) For the Scriptures say, "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God."
[12](#) Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. [13](#) So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

- V10-13 Let God Be the Judge
 - Do not condemn other believers' convictions. (v.10)
 - Paul asks an important question: Why would we condemn another believer for their choices when they are free to worship in a personal way?
 - When believers pressure others to follow their own standards, it can hurt their faith and walk.
 - Paul reminds the church that one day every believer will stand before God.
 - Everyone will recognize God's authority and stand before Him. (v.11)
 - This shows that God alone has the right to judge His people.
 - Each person is responsible for their own life. (v.12)
 - Every believer will answer to God for their own choices.
 - We are responsible for how we obey Christ — not for controlling others.
 - Protect your brother's walk. (v.13)
 - When believers pressure others to ignore their convictions, they can cause them to sin or

stumble.

- Instead, Christians should help each other grow by:
 - Showing patience
 - Teaching Scripture
 - Encouraging obedience to Christ
 - Loving others means helping them follow Jesus faithfully.
- ** Stumbling Over Convictions:
 - This can happen in two ways. First, a believer may try to force their personal convictions on others and look down on them for not following the same rules. Second, a believer who feels free in Christ may look down on another Christian who still chooses to follow certain rules about food, drink, or special days. In both cases, pride can cause believers to judge one another instead of showing love.
- **Kid Point:** God alone is the judge of every believer, so Christians should respect one another's convictions and focus on living faithfully for the Lord.

[ROMANS 14:14-23](#) I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. [15](#) And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. [16](#) Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good. [17](#) For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [18](#) If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. [19](#) So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. [20](#) Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. [21](#) It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. [22](#) You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. [23](#) But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

- V14-23 Love Is More Important Than Being Right
 - Christians should care more about people than about proving their freedom. (v.14-16)

- Paul explains that food itself is not sinful, but if you have a personal conviction, then it is wrong for you.
- And on the opposite side of that, if eating something hurts another believer, love should come first.
- God's Kingdom Is Not About Food (v.17)
 - Paul reminds believers what truly matters.
 - God's kingdom is about:
 - Living rightly
 - Living in peace
 - Experiencing joy through the Holy Spirit
- Serving Jesus is the Goal (v.18-19)
 - Having a loving attitude towards other believers is pleasing to God and others.
 - Live well with each other, even when there are differences in personal convictions.
- Don't Divide or Cause Another to Stumble Over Food or Drink (v.20-21)
 - Paul says sometimes it is better to limit our freedom if it helps another believer.
 - Love sometimes means giving up something so that another believer can grow stronger.
- Paul says believers should hold their convictions between themselves and God. (v.22)
 - Paul warns believers not to encourage behavior that could cause guilt or stumbling.
 - Because we have the freedom to eat/drink or not eat/drink certain things, we should be careful not to make others stumble or act like we are better than them.
 - The goal is to build others up, not pressure them into actions that trouble them.
- Acting against your convictions is sin, in any case. (v.23)
 - Paul warns all believers that when we go against convictions, it becomes sin.
 - Even if the action itself is not sinful, doing something against what you believe God wants is disobedience.
 - The Holy Spirit guides believers through their convictions.
- **Kid Point:** Christians should follow their convictions before God and respect the convictions of other believers, always acting in love.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul tell believers to do with someone weak in faith? (Accept them with compassion and do not argue about their opinions. v.1)
2. What examples does Paul give of differences between believers? (Differences about eating certain foods and observing special days. v. 2,5)
3. What warning does Paul give about causing another believer to stumble? (Believers should not put a stumbling block or obstacle in another believer's path. (*See V.13 to help guide this Q&A)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why should believers avoid judging one another over personal convictions? (Because God has already accepted each believer, and each person will answer to God. v. 3-4,12)
2. What does Paul mean when he says the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking? (God's kingdom is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit rather than personal preferences. v. 17)
3. Why is acting against your convictions considered sin? (Because it is God who convicts us, therefore, we must listen. v.23)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you show patience with another believer who has different convictions than you? (By loving and accepting them without judging and giving them time to grow spiritually. v. 1)
2. What should you do if your freedom might cause another believer to stumble? Example: Drinking alcohol may be ok for you, but it may hurt another; Eating pork may hurt another (From the Law). (Choose love and avoid doing what would harm their walk. v. 15,21)
3. How can you make sure your choices honor God? (By following your convictions and seeking to live for the Lord in everything. v. 8,23)

Activities

1: Game

Don't Make Them Stumble!

Supplies:

- Cones, chairs, or objects to place on the floor
- Blindfold (optional)
- Tape or rope to mark a path

Instructions: Help students understand that our choices can help or hurt other believers, and we should live in a way that builds others up instead of causing them to stumble.

Step 1 – Set the Path (The Stumbling Obstacle Course)

- Create a simple walking path across the room.
- Place a few obstacles along the path (cones, books, chairs).
- Explain that the path represents walking with Jesus.

Step 2 – First Round (Without Help)

- Choose one student to walk the path blindfolded.
- The class cannot help them.
- Usually, they will bump into something or hesitate.

- Let each one try without help.

Step 3 – Second Round (Helping Each Other)

- Now have students choose a partner.
- This time, your partner can guide by saying things like:
- “Step to the right!”
- “There’s something in front of you!”
- “Stop!”

Step 4 – Remove the Obstacles

- After each child has finished the obstacles, remove the obstacles for your partner and guide them to walk the path.
- Explain: Sometimes loving others means removing obstacles, like giving up something that might cause another believer to stumble.

Discussion:

- What did it feel like walking the path with obstacles?
- How did it feel when others helped you?
- How can our choices affect other believers?

Connect this to the Bible passage. [Romans 14:19](#) *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.*

Explain: Believers should help each other walk with Jesus, not create obstacles that make someone stumble.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 14:19](#) *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.*

• • • •

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus’ perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he’ll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- Believers should accept and love other Christians who are still growing in their faith. ([Romans 14:1](#)).
- God has already accepted every believer, so we should not judge one another over personal convictions. ([Romans 14:3-4](#)).
- Christians should be careful not to cause another believer to stumble in their walk with Christ. ([Romans 14:13](#)).
- God's kingdom is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit—not about food or personal preferences. ([Romans 14:17](#)).
- Believers should follow their convictions before God, because whatever is not done (OR is done) is sin. ([Romans 14:23](#)).

Grace for Gentile Believers

Scripture: [Romans 15:1-13](#)

Big Idea:

Stronger believers should focus on unity and coming alongside those who think “rules” will help their walk. The focus should be love and unity.

Call to Action:

How can you help someone who is still growing in their faith when it comes to “rules” they must think they need to follow to be close to God?

Family Action:

Talk with your kids about how God gives different convictions, and remind them not to force those convictions on others.

Specifically, here speaking of the laws God gave Israel and “doing” them.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Guide the children to [Romans 15:1-13](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Say: We are going to continue through Paul's letter to the church of Rome.
- We will learn that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, and we should never be ashamed of Jesus.
- Read aloud. (Ask kids to see their pointers on V1)

Review:

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises & Our relationship with God

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts

vv. 12:14-21 Our Relationship with Unbelievers

vv. 13:1-14 Our Relationship with Governing Authority

vv. 14:1-23 How we can show Grace to Jewish Believers (Liberalism - Freedom)

vv. 15:1-13 How Jews show grace to Gentiles (Legalism- Laws/ Rules)

Opening Question

Have you ever had to give up something you wanted so you could help someone else? → How did it feel?

Notes:

In Romans 12–15, Paul teaches us how to live in response to God's mercy—like a target, starting with our relationship with God, then others, the world, and society. As we grow in God's Word, our lives change to reflect Jesus. In chapter 14, Paul explains that even when believers have different convictions (like food or

special days), we should treat each other with patience, love, and kindness, remembering that we are all still growing.

In this chapter, Paul continues teaching how believers should treat one another, especially when they have different convictions. He reminds us that we should respect each other, not judge, and not force our personal rules on others.

Paul has already explained that we are saved by grace, not by following rules, so the Law no longer controls us. Because of this, the biggest focus is not about rules, but about loving and accepting one another in the church.

Side note: This does not mean that sin should be accepted in the church. Paul is not saying we accept everything—he is specifically addressing differences about old Law-based practices, not sinful behavior.

Remember, Paul is writing to the early church where some Jewish believers still followed parts of the Law and were teaching Gentiles to do the same. In this situation, Paul teaches that believers should not force their personal convictions on others, but instead walk in grace and unity.

Paul teaches that strong believers should be careful to help and encourage weaker believers, not confuse or hurt them. In everything, we are called to live in unity and show Christ's love.

***Some Jews were explaining to Gentiles that “doing” the law made you closer to God. Those Jews and Gentiles who know salvation has nothing to do with “doing” the law must show these believers love and unity. Do not be prideful or arrogant.

Key Theological Term:

Sanctification- The process of becoming more like Jesus in our lives.

[ROMANS 15:1-13 NLT](#)

We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. ² We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. ³ For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, “The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.” ⁴ Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

⁵ May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. ⁶ Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. ⁸ Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. ⁹ He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when

he wrote:

“For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing praises to your name.”

10 And in another place it is written,

“Rejoice with his people,
you Gentiles.”

11 And yet again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.”

12 And in another place Isaiah said,

“The heir to David’s throne will come,
and he will rule over the Gentiles.
They will place their hope on him.”

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- V1-4 The Strong Should Help Others Grow

- Paul teaches that stronger believers should lovingly support and be patient with those who are still growing. Instead of focusing on themselves, they should help others grow in their faith. (v.1-2)
 - This means helping them, not getting frustrated with them.
 - This doesn’t mean we agree with everything— it means we care about people more than our preferences.
- Follow Jesus’ Example (v.3)
 - He didn’t live to please Himself—He suffered to help us.
 - If Jesus gave up His comfort for us, we can give up small things to help others.
- God’s Word Teaches and Encourages Us (v. 4)
 - The Bible helps us learn how to live and love others well.
 - It gives us: Instruction (teach us)
 - Hope (Future Glory)
 - Encouragement
- **Kid Point:** Strong believers honor God by patiently helping others grow

[ROMANS 15:5-6](#) May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- V5-6 Unity Brings Glory to God
 - When believers live in harmony, it brings glory to God.
 - Unity doesn't mean everyone is the same— it means we love each other despite differences.
 - This will lead to worship among the Body of Christ (believers)
 - **Kid Point:** Unity glorifies God

[ROMANS 15:7](#) Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

- V7 Accepting Others like Jesus (summary verse)
 - Paul says we should accept one another just like Christ accepted us.
 - Jesus didn't wait for us to be perfect— He welcomed us first.
 - We didn't earn Jesus' love.
 - We must remember what we were like when Christ came to us:
 - Sinful
 - Different from Him
 - Not perfect
 - But Jesus still accepted us.
 - Instead, we must show grace and love.
 - Acceptance helps people grow
 - People grow best when they feel loved and welcomed.
 - The Father is glorified when His people live in unity and grace.
 - **Kid Point:** We glorify God when we accept others with grace, just as Jesus accepted us.

[ROMANS 15:8-12](#) Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors.
[9](#) He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:
“For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing praises to your name.”
[10](#) And in another place it is written,
“Rejoice with his people,
you Gentiles.”
[11](#) And yet again,
“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.”
[12](#) And in another place Isaiah said,
“The heir to David's throne will come,

and he will rule over the Gentiles.
They will place their hope on him.”

- V8-12 God’s Plan Includes Gentiles for Salvation
 - Paul teaches that God’s plan was always to save both Jews and Gentiles through Jesus. (v.8-9)
 - Jesus came first to the Jewish people to fulfill God’s promises.
 - God didn’t just save one group—He made a way for all people.
 - Gentiles (non-Jews) are included in God’s family too.
 - This is nothing new. The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) showed this plainly.
 - God planned this from the beginning!
 - [Psalm 18:49](#) (v.9b)
 - Jews will praise God AMONG the Gentiles
 - [Deuteronomy 32:43](#) (v.10)
 - Gentiles will rejoice WITH the Jewish people
 - [Psalm 117:1](#) (v.11)
 - ALL people will praise Him together.
 - [Isaiah 11:10](#) (v.12)
 - Gentiles will place their hope in a Jewish Messiah
 - Paul uses Old Testament scriptures to show the Jews and Gentiles in this early church that God has always planned for salvation to be for both Jew and Gentile. This is nothing new.
 - None is better than the other.
 - Our focus should be to unite together, setting aside differences in worship, and this glorifies God.
 - **Kid Point:** God’s plan was always to save people from every nation through Jesus, so we worship Him together as one family.

[ROMANS 15:13](#) I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- V13 Filled with Joy, Peace, and Hope
 - Paul teaches that God gives believers joy, peace, and hope as they continue trusting and following Him.
 - God is the one who gives us true hope—not in this world, but in what is to come. (Hope)
 - When we follow Jesus closely, we experience His joy and peace.
 - Joy and peace aren’t based on our circumstances.
 - Even when life is hard, God can give us: Joy in our hearts & peace in our minds

- These are gifts from walking with Him.
- The Holy Spirit works in us to grow these things.
- As we walk with Christ, our hope grows.
- We begin to focus more on eternal things than temporary things.
- And in turn our walk as a Christian is more confident and strong
- **Kid Point:** When we walk closely with Jesus, the Holy Spirit fills us with joy, peace, and a strong hope that lasts forever.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What are strong believers told to do for weaker believers? (Strong believers are told to bear the weaknesses of others and not just please themselves. v.1)
2. Who is given as the example of not pleasing Himself? (Jesus Christ is given as the example, because He bore our sins, not for Himself but for others. v. 3)
3. What does Paul say God will fill believers with? (God will fill believers with joy and peace in believing. (v.13 - through the Holy Spirit)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why should believers put others before themselves? (Because it helps build others up and follows the example of Christ, who sacrificed for us. v. 2-3)
2. Why must believers accept one another? (Because Christ accepted us by grace, and doing so brings glory to God. v.7)
3. Why does Paul emphasize both Jews and Gentiles praising God together? (To show that God's plan was always to include all people in salvation through Jesus. Still today, there are HUGE disagreements between Jews and Gentiles. Jews claim Jesus is not the Son of God, while Gentiles proclaim that a Jewish man is the Son of God, in whom salvation is found. v.9-12)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you help someone who is still growing in their faith? (By being patient, encouraging them, and putting their needs before your own. v. 1-2)
2. How can you follow Jesus' example in your daily life? (By choosing to serve others instead of always choosing what pleases yourself. v.3)
3. How can a believer experience more joy and peace in their life? (Walk closely with Jesus by trusting and obeying Him daily. v.13)

Activities

1: Game

Build Each Other Up Relay

Supplies:

- Cups or blocks (to build towers)
- Index cards or slips of paper
- Markers

Instructions:

Help students understand that our choices can help or hurt other believers, and we should live in a way that builds others up instead of causing them to stumble.

Step 1 – Set Up Teams

- Divide kids into small teams (3–5 per group).
- Each team gets: A pile of cups/blocks
- A stack of cards

Step 2 – Write Encouragements

- Before the game starts, have kids write encouraging or helpful actions on the cards, such as:
- “Help a friend carry something.”
- “Be patient”
- “Let someone go first.”
- “Say something kind.”
- “Ask a friend for a suggestion.”
- “Give up turn for a friend to go instead.”

Step 3 – The Relay Challenge

- One child from each team runs to the front.
- They draw a card and act out or explain it quickly.
- If the team guesses correctly → they get to add one block to their tower.
- Then the next teammate goes.

Step 4 – Twist (Important Lesson!)

- If a team: Interrupts, laughs at someone, or acts impatient, they must remove one block from their tower.
- This shows how selfishness tears others down instead of building up.

Discussion: After the game, gather everyone and ask:

- Was it easier to build or tear down?
- How did it feel when others were patient and encouraging?

Connect this to the Bible passage. [Romans 15:2](#) We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.

Explain:

- We are called to build others up, not tear them down
- Strong believers help others grow
- Unity happens when we put others first

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 14:19](#) *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.*

- •
- •

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

-
- Strong believers should help and be patient with those who are still growing in their faith. ([Romans 15:1](#)).
- We should put others first and do what helps them grow. ([Romans 15:2](#)).
- Jesus is our example—He didn't live to please Himself but served others. ([Romans 15:3](#)).
- Believers should accept one another just as Jesus accepted us. ([Romans 15:7](#)).
- God fills us with joy, peace, and hope as we trust and follow Him. ([Romans 15:13](#)).

The Ask & Plan

Scripture: [Romans 15:14-33](#)

Big Idea:

God calls us to work together—serving, giving, and praying—so His mission can reach more people.

Call to Action:

How can you support the mission of God - to share the Gospel with others.

OR How can you support others in ministry work?

Family Action:

Encourage your children to pray and ask God where He needs them to support the mission.

This could be volunteering at church, praying for specific ministries, or financially supporting missions.

How can YOU help?

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Review
- Prayer
- Opening question
- Guide students to [Romans 15:14-33](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Read aloud - Ask kids to start their pointer finger on V14 and follow along

Review:

vv. 11:1-27 God is not done with Israel; He is showing kindness towards Gentiles (Israel's Future)

vv. 11:28 — 12:2 God keeps His promises & Our relationship with God

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts

vv. 12:14-21 Our Relationship with Unbelievers

vv. 13:1-14 Our Relationship with Governing Authority

vv. 14:1-23 How we can show Grace to Jewish Believers (Liberalism - Freedom)

vv. 15:1-13 How Jews show grace to Gentiles (Legalism- Laws/ Rules)

vv. 15:14-33 Paul asks for help and shares his plans

Opening Question

Have you ever had to give up something you wanted so you could help someone else? → How did it feel?

Notes:

Paul is finishing his letter to the church in Rome. In this letter, he taught how we are saved by faith in Jesus, explained God's plan for Israel, and showed how believers should live.

Now, at the end, Paul gets personal. He encourages the believers and asks them to respond by helping, praying, and supporting God's work.

Paul reminds them that learning about God isn't just for knowledge—it should lead us to action, love, and serving others. Paul is very strategic in asking for help from this church. These verses can be sectioned as follows:

- Paul Reminds Them of His Mission (vv.14–21)
- Paul Asks for Their Help (vv.22–29)
- Paul Asks for Prayer and Shares His Plans (vv.30–33)

[ROMANS 15:14-33 NLT](#)

14 I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. 15 Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, 16 I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. 17 So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. 18 Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. 19 They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

20 My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. 21 I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says,

“Those who have never been told about him will see,
and those who have never heard of him will understand.”

22 In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places.

23 But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you. 24 I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.

25 But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers there. 26 For you see, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia have eagerly taken up an offering for the poor among the believers in

Jerusalem. [27](#) They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them financially. [28](#) As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain. [29](#) And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together.

[30](#) Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. [31](#) Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God. Pray also that the believers there will be willing to accept the donation I am taking to Jerusalem. [32](#) Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other.

[33](#) And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all. Amen.

• V14-16 Serving God's Mission Together

- Paul begins speaking directly to the church in Rome. He starts by encouraging them in their faith, explaining his mission, invites them to partner in God's work, and shows them how believers work together to spread the Gospel.
- 1. Encourage One Another- Paul says the church is full of goodness and knowledge. (v.14)
 - Living right
 - Learning God's truth
 - Helping each other grow
- Christians are meant to help each other follow Jesus.
- 2. Reminders Help Us Grow- Paul says he wrote boldly—not because they knew nothing, but to remind them. (v.15)
 - Even strong believers need reminders.
 - We grow by hearing God's truth again and again.
- 3. God Gives Each Person a Mission- Paul explains that God gave him a special job—to tell Gentiles about Jesus. (v.16)
 - God gives every believer a role in His plan.
- **Kid Point:** God calls all believers to work together—encouraging one another and supporting His mission to share the Gospel with the world.

[ROMANS 15:17-21](#) So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. [18](#) Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked

among them. ¹⁹ They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

²⁰ My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. ²¹ I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says,
"Those who have never been told about him will see,
and those who have never heard of him will understand."

- V17-21 Sharing the Good News Where It's Needed Most

- Paul explains how God used him to share the Gospel with people who had never heard about Jesus.
 - He talks about the amazing things happening in his ministry—but he makes it clear God did the work, not him. (v.17-18)
 - Paul says people responded to the Gospel by believing, and it's changing their lives (v.19)
 - He chose to go to places where people didn't know about Jesus yet because God called him to share with Gentiles. (v.20)
 - Then Paul reminds them that God always planned to reach people who had never heard. (v.21)
 - Paul quotes [Isaiah 52:15](#)
- **Kid Point:** God uses us to share the Good News, but He does the real work—and He wants everyone to hear about Jesus.

[ROMANS 15:22-24](#) In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places.

²³ But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you. ²⁴ I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.

- V22-24 Following God's Timing and Mission

- Paul explains why he hasn't visited the church in Rome yet—and when he plans to come.
 - Paul wanted to visit Rome, but his mission kept him busy elsewhere. (v.22)
 - Sometimes good things must wait while we do what God has called us to do.
 - Paul had wanted to visit them for a long time. (v.23)
 - Paul next plan is to go to Spain to tell more people about Jesus- then he will stop by Rome.
 - Paul asks the church in Rome to help him on his journey. This would be financial help,

clothing, food, etc. (v.24)

- ****As believers**, God calls us to help each other when in need.
- **Kid Point:** We trust God's timing, stay focused on His mission, and work together to help others hear about Jesus.

[ROMANS 15:25-29](#) But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers there. [26](#) For you see, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia have eagerly taken up an offering for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem. [27](#) They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them financially. [28](#) As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain. [29](#) And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together.

- V25-29 Helping Others and Serving God's Mission
 - Paul now shifts to tell his exact travel plans.
 - He explains why he must go to Jerusalem before visiting Rome. (v.25)
 - The Gentiles of Macedonia & Achaia are helping the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. So, Paul had to take a gift to help poor believers in Jerusalem. (v.26-27)
 - Paul reminds his readers that Gentiles received spiritual blessings from the Jews. And now the Gentiles are looking after the Jews.
 - Paul shows how churches worked together across different places.
 - After Paul delivers the offering to Jerusalem, he will go to Rome, and it will be a great blessing to everyone. (v.28-29)
 - Paul will then travel to Spain after he goes to the church in Rome.
 - **Kid Point:** God calls us to give, help others, and work together so His mission can grow and bless more people.

[ROMANS 15:30-33](#) Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. [31](#) Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God. Pray also that the believers there will be willing to accept the donation I am taking to Jerusalem. [32](#) Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other. [33](#) And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all. Amen.

- V30-33 Praying Together for God's Work
 - Paul asks the church to support him—not just with money, but with prayer.
 - 1. Prayer Is Powerful Support- Paul asks the church to pray for him right away. (v.30)
 - Prayer is not small—it is a powerful way to help God's work.
 - Paul tells them that when they pray for him, they are joining him in his struggles.
 - Just as his journey across nations, on foot, is a struggle, so is it to pray consistently for other brothers and sisters.
 - But when we join in prayer for someone, we are helping them FIGHT!!
 - 2. Pray for Protection and Success- Paul asks for prayer so he would be safe and his work would be accepted. (v.31)
 - We can pray for others to be protected & to succeed in God's work.
 - 3. God Brings Peace and Encouragement- Paul ends by reminding them that God gives peace and joy. (v.32-33)
 - God strengthens us as we serve Him together.
 - **Kid Point:** When we pray for others, we join in God's work, helping His mission move forward with His power and peace.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. What does Paul say about the Roman believers' character and ability? (They are full of goodness, knowledge, and able to instruct one another. v.14)
2. What mission did God give Paul specifically (to share the gospel with a certain group of people? (To share about Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. v. 16)
3. What does Paul ask the church to do for him? (He asks them to pray for him and support his mission financially. v.24,30)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does Paul say he can only boast about Jesus in his work? (Because it was Christ working through him, not his own ability. v. 18)
2. Why had Paul not visited Rome earlier? (Because he was focused on preaching the Gospel where it had not yet been heard. v.20-22)
3. Why were Gentile churches giving to the believers in Jerusalem? (Because they had received spiritual blessings (Jesus & the Gospel) from the Jews and wanted to give back. v.27)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you be involved in God's mission even if you don't travel like Paul? (By praying for others, supporting them, and sharing the Gospel where you are. v.30)
2. How can you give God credit for the good things in your life? (By recognizing that everything we accomplish is through Christ's power, not our own. v.18)

3. How can you support other believers in practical ways? (Volunteering at church, financially supporting a missionary or ministry, praying for others. v.25-27)
-

Activities

1: Craft**Mission Support Challenge**

Supplies:

- Index cards
- Pencils & markers
- Missions & volunteer opportunities info

Teacher TO-DO:

- Look up various ministries or missions that your church may be involved with. Print a short page on them to share with the students.
- Find out where the students could serve in the church, and write them down to share.

Instructions:

- Give each student 3 index cards. At the top of each index card, write:
 - "GO" (share the Gospel)
 - "GIVE" (help others)
 - "PRAY" (pray for missions)
- Help students understand:
 - Everyone has a role in God's mission
 - We support others through giving, going, and praying
 - We work together like Paul and the church

Step 1 – Share the info about the missions and volunteer opportunities

- Ask them what ways they can help support the mission of sharing the good news of Jesus?
- Ask them how they could financially support these missions or the church?
- Ask them how they could be praying for the missions and the church?

Step 2 – Write it down!

- Encourage them to write their ideas and plans on each card corresponding with the title:
 - "GO" (share the Gospel)
 - "GIVE" (help others)
 - "PRAY" (pray for missions)

Discussion:

God's mission grows when we work together—sharing, giving, and praying—just like Paul and the early church.

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves:

[Romans 14:19](#) *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.*

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

-
- God uses ordinary believers to share His message with others. ([Romans 15:16](#)).
- Everything good we do for God is because He is working through us. ([Romans 15:18](#)).
- We can help God's mission by giving and supporting others in need. ([Romans 15:25-27](#)).
- God wants us to work together, not alone, to spread the Gospel. ([Romans 15:24](#)).
- Prayer is a powerful way to help others and be part of God's work. ([Romans 15:30](#)).

The Greeting & Warning

Scripture: [Romans 16:1-27](#)

Big Idea:

God works through people, protects us from wrong teaching, and strengthens us through His truth—so we can live for Him and give Him glory!

Call to Action:

Think of various friends in the Body of Christ.
How do they help you in your walk?

Family Action:

This week, help your students acknowledge those in the body who serve God well.
Thank them this week, in a special way!

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring the Scriptures: (10-20 mins)

- Bible Drills (Memorization of OT & NT Book order)
- Review
- Prayer
- Opening question
- Guide students to [Romans 16:1-27](#) in the Bible. (Help them as needed, NT vs OT)
- Read aloud - Ask kids to start their pointer finger on V1 and follow along

Review:

vv. 12:3-13 Our Relationship with Believers & Serve the Body with spiritual gifts
vv. 12:14-21 Our Relationship with Unbelievers
vv. 13:1-14 Our Relationship with Governing Authority
vv. 14:1-23 How we can show Grace to Jewish Believers (Liberalism - Freedom)
vv. 15:1-13 How Jews show grace to Gentiles (Legalism- Laws/ Rules)
vv. 15:14-33 Paul asks for help and shares his plans
vv. 16:1-27 Paul Encourages others to Greet His friends, warns against False teachers, and says Goodbye!

Opening Question

Do you see people serving around the church you attend? → Discuss the different people you see serving others and serving God in what they do at the church.

Notes:

Paul is finishing his letter to the church in Rome. In this letter, he taught how we are saved by faith in Jesus, explained God's plan for Israel, and showed how believers should live.

Now, at the end, Paul gets personal. He encourages the believers and asks them to respond by helping, praying, and supporting God's work.

Paul had never visited the church in Rome, yet he knew many believers there. He takes time to warmly greet them and encourages the church to love and support them also. Then, before closing his letter, Paul gives one final important warning and brings everything to a close.

****Let the students read the names during the read-through!*

[ROMANS 16:1-27 NLT](#)

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. [2](#) Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

[3](#) Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. [4](#) In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. [5](#) Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home.

Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. [6](#) Give my greetings to Mary, who has worked so hard for your benefit. [7](#) Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did. [8](#) Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. [9](#) Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

[10](#) Greet Apelles, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of Aristobulus. [11](#) Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of Narcissus. [12](#) Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord's workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord. [13](#) Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me.

[14](#) Give my greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. [15](#) Give my greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and to Olympas and all the believers who meet with them. [16](#) Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.

[17](#) And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. [18](#) Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are

serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. [19](#) But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. [20](#) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

[21](#) Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.

[22](#) I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

[23](#) Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.

[25](#) Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time.

[26](#) But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. [27](#) All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

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- V14-16 Greet Pauls Friends - God's Family Works Together!
 - Paul encourages his brothers and sisters in the church in Rome to greet many people in the area, showing how important each person is in God's family.
 - Phoebe, Priscilla, and others served faithfully. (v.1-3)
 - Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives to help Paul. (v.4)
 - Epenetus was the first believer in Asia (v.5)
 - Andronicus and Junia were in prison with Paul (v.7)
 - Rufus' mother was like a mother to Paul. (v.13)
 - Paul mentions people, households, and house churches.
 - Church is not just a place—it's people who love and follow Jesus together. (v.16)
 - **Kid Point:** God's church is a family where everyone matters, everyone serves, and we encourage one another in love. Fellowship is KEY in the Body!

[ROMANS 16:17-20](#) And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. [18](#) Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. [19](#) But

everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. [20](#) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

- V17-20 A Warning to the Church - Stay Wise and Guarding the Truth
 - Paul gives a warning about false teachers and reminds believers to stay strong in truth.
 - Be careful of people who cause division and confuse the body with bad teaching. (v.17)
 - False teachers may sound kind and convincing - BUT STAY AWAY! (v.18)
 - Paul says to be wise in what is good. Know the word of God to protect against these people. (v. 19)
 - When we avoid sin, the enemy has less power over us. Be innocent.
 - Paul reminds us that God will defeat Satan. The battle has already been won! (v.20)
 - No matter what, God is in control and will win.
 - **Kid Point:** When we know God's truth, avoid evil, and stay alert, we can stand strong—because God has already won the victory.
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[ROMANS 16:21-27](#) Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.

[22](#) I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

[23](#) Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.

[25](#) Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time.

[26](#) But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. [27](#) All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

- V21-27 God's Message and Glory
 - Paul ends his letter by:
 - Sharing greetings from his friends
 - Reminding us God's message is powerful
 - Explaining that the Gospel was once a mystery
 - Calling us to obey what we've learned
 - Giving all glory to God

- 1. We Serve God Together (v.21)
 - Paul shares greetings from many people helping in ministry.
- 2. God Makes Us Strong (v.25)
 - Paul reminds us that God is the one who strengthens us.
- 3. God Revealed His Big Plan (v.25-26)
 - The full story of salvation was once hidden, but now it is revealed through Jesus!
 - This message is meant for all nations. (Jew and Gentiles)
- 4. We Obey and Give God Glory (v.26-27)
 - Paul ends by pointing everything back to God.
 - Everything we do, everything we are is because of GOD!
- **Kid Point:** God revealed His plan through Jesus for the whole world—and when we believe and obey Him, we give Him the glory He deserves.

Observation Questions (What did it say?)

1. Who are some of the people Paul mentions in this chapter? (Paul mentions many people like Phoebe, Priscilla, Aquila, Timothy, and others.)
2. What warning does Paul give about certain people? (He warns about people who cause division and teach things against God's truth. v. 17-18)
3. What does Paul say God is able to do? (God is able to strengthen and establish believers through the Gospel. v.25)

Understanding Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does Paul include so many names in this chapter? (It shows that ministry is done in community and that Paul cared deeply for people. 31 names to be exact.)
2. Why is it important to avoid false teachers? (Because they lead people away from truth and harm the church. v.18)
3. What does Paul mean by calling the Gospel a “plan kept secret”? (It means God's plan was hidden before but is now revealed through Jesus. v.25-26)

Application Questions (What should I do?)

1. How can you be a helper in God's work like the people Paul mentioned? (By serving others, encouraging believers, and helping share the Gospel. v.1-2)
2. What should you do if you hear teaching that doesn't match the Bible? (Be careful, avoid it, and stay grounded in God's truth. v.17)
3. How can you give glory to God in your daily life? (By obeying Him, trusting Him, and pointing others to Him. v.27)

Activities

1: Craft

Encouragement Letter Like Paul

Supplies:

- Writing Paper (lined)
- Pencils & markers
- Envelope

Who has encouraged your faith?

Think of someone you see consistently serving in the body of Christ—or someone who has helped you grow, taught you about Jesus, or impacted your walk with Him.

Instructions:

- Write that person a personal encouragement letter, just like Paul did in Romans 16.
- In your letter, include:
 - Something you appreciate about them
 - How they have helped your faith grow
 - The impact they've had on your life
 - Words of encouragement to keep going

Give your letter to them this week, or the next time you see them!

2: Memory Verse

Come up with moves

[Romans 16:27](#) *All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.*

Remind them: What is the Gospel?

Jesus' perfect life paid for the sins of all who believe. Jesus died on the cross as the punishment for sin. But Jesus did not stay dead, three days later He rose to life (resurrection) defeating the power of death. Believe, and you will be saved!

- We are all sinful. We all deserve the consequence of sin- death.
- Jesus is what saves us from the sin we all have in our bodies. And one day, he'll even give us a new body.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp:

- God uses many people to do His work (Romans 16).
- Encouraging others is important ([Romans 16:2](#)).
- We should be careful of wrong teaching ([Romans 16:17](#)).
- God makes us strong in our faith ([Romans 16:25](#)).
- Everything we do should bring glory to God ([Romans 16:27](#)).

