

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Romans: God's Gift to Us*

Lesson Objective:

Today we cover parts of Paul's letter to the Roman church. Our lesson hits on the main points of the Gospel after the introduction. It's important to slow down and spend time on each part. Sometimes theological jargon or terms can escape children's thoughts. Words like sin, sinners, holy, and faith may need more applicable terms for a preschooler to grasp. The overall point is to affirm God's love for each person in Jesus Christ and what Paul tells us one must do to be saved: Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- Paul writes a letter to the church in Rome prior to his arrival in Jerusalem.
- Paul wants to let the Christians in Rome know how excited he was to visit them soon.
- Paul reminds the Christians in Rome of their initial standing before God as sinners. This is universal and everyone is a sinner; no exceptions.
- Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that only God can save them through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Only through Jesus can a person be made right with God.
- Paul tells the Christians in Rome that by confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believing in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you can be saved.

Scripture: Romans 1-3, 5, 10

Story: *The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 272-273, 276-277*

Scripture Memory for March: Acts 17:26-27 (ESV)

God made *(point up for God)*

from one man *(hold up your index finger for the number one)*

every nation of mankind to live on *(sweep both arms out in front of you and to either side like a swimming breaststroke for the motion of every nation)*

all the face of the earth *(put your hand open in front of your face...facing your face and go around in a circle once. That is the motion for on the face of the earth)*

that they should seek *(for seek, put your hands above your eyes and look both left and right like you are searching for something)*

Him *(point up for Him)*

Craft: God's Gift to Us

Supplies: Cardstock picture, cross, verse sticker, magnet, glue

Instructions: 1. Glue cross between "me" and "God"

2. Attach verse sticker to back of picture

3. Place magnet on back



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, Paul had many friends in many places when he was alive. One of those places was Rome! Paul wants his friends there to remember something very important: They are sinners! But Paul has some very Good News for them too. Let's find out more...

The Church Is Growing

The Church was growing. The Bible tells us every day more and more people believed the Good News! They believed that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from our sins and He rose from the dead! This was called the Good News. More and more people believed in Jesus and the Church was growing!

Followers of Jesus went to tell others about the Good News. The Good News was spreading far and wide. Some people, however, did not teach the right things. But the Apostles taught that good works were a result of believing the Good News.

Paul had written the letter to the church in Rome before he visited the people there. Paul had been in Greece and other parts of Asia sharing the Good News, visiting churches, and encouraging other followers of Jesus. He had heard about the church in Rome and planned to visit before going to Spain. Before his visit to Rome, Paul needed to go to Jerusalem to take money to the church there.

Paul wanted the church in Rome to hear some very important things.

Eager to Preach the Gospel

Paul was really excited to visit Rome. He was so glad to know there were followers of Jesus in Rome. And Paul wanted to meet each and every follower of Jesus there. He wanted to visit and encourage them, and for them to encourage him as he traveled. Most importantly Paul wanted to preach the Good News to people in Rome. That is really why he wanted to go to Rome!

We Are Sinners

Paul told his friends in Rome that God is angry with those who are sinful and wicked, especially those who know what is right and true and do not do it. God does not like sin. Every person born sins. Paul wanted to make sure that the church in Rome remembered that we are all sinners.

Paul would tell the church in Rome that being a sinner is missing the "mark" or not measuring up to a certain standard. The apostle was saying that we were not perfect, complete, or blameless. Even the best people sin. The Bible tells us, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

God Is Holy

Paul would tell his friends another truth: God is holy. Holy means pure, without any fault or mistake, and never wrong or doing anything wrong. Because God is holy, He cannot accept anything or anyone who is not holy! It does not matter who that person is; whether they are rich or poor, smart or not, tall or short, funny or not. God does not measure who is holy by those things but by what is in their heart. Even very good, nice, and rule-following people are sinners. Paul told his friends that even if they tried to keep all the rules in the Old Testament, like the 10 Commandments, they could not. They would break every commandment quickly. Paul put it this way, "There is no one without sin. None! There is no one who understands. There is no one who seeks for God. All have turned away. Together, everyone has become evil. None of them does anything good" (Romans 3:10-12).

But God's plan was not for people to stay this way! God's plan is a gift to every person ever born!

God's Gift

Paul would tell his friends in Rome that long ago God made a promise to Abraham. If Abraham trusted God's promise, God would make things right. Trusting, or faith, in God meant to believe what God said He would do He would do. And God always keeps His promises. Abraham did trust God.

God's great promise and plan was His Son, Jesus Christ. Since every person born was a sinner, and God cannot have sin around Him, someone was needed to take away that sin, and make us right with God. That person – that plan – was in Jesus Christ! Paul said it like this: "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (sinners). ... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6, 8). Paul goes on to tell us that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we can be made friends with God and be saved. God's gift to us is His Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul would write later in his letter to his Roman friends that if any person "confesses with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Paul wanted his friends, and us too, to know that trusting in God's promise – Jesus – confessing, or saying it aloud, that Jesus is King will save us. But Paul wanted his friends in Rome to know one more important thing: We should tell others about Jesus too. We can't keep it to ourselves, but we need to go and tell as many people as possible about Jesus. Paul encouraged his friends to go and tell those who did not know about Jesus so they too could trust in God's Promise and confess that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:14-17)!

Questions for Review

Have children answer "yes" or "no."

- The Church is growing – adding more and more people. (Yes)
- The Holy Spirit is growing the Church. (Yes)
- Paul wanted to visit Rome. (Yes)
- Paul told his friends that every person born is a sinner. (Yes)
- Paul told his friends that God is holy. (Yes)
- Paul told his friends that there is nothing they can do to save themselves. (Yes)
- Paul told his friends that only through Jesus can they be saved. (Yes)
- Paul told his friends that they must confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord to be saved. (Yes)
- Paul told his friends that they must believe in their hearts Jesus was raised from the dead to be saved. (Yes)
- Paul encouraged his friends to go and tell other people about Jesus. (Yes)
- What is the Good News?