



Session

1

# GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

FOR THE LEADER

## Romans 1

Paul, one of the first missionaries to the Gentiles, wrote this letter to the churches in Rome. It had been Paul's desire to travel to Rome and visit with the churches and the people he had never met. Several times in the book of Acts, Paul shared this desire.

Having ministered completely to the cities on the eastern side of the Roman territory, Paul sought to move westward to Spain, passing through Rome. After spending time in Ephesus, Paul moved on to Corinth where he likely wrote this letter. The purpose of Paul's writing was to share the truth of the gospel with those in Rome. Since Rome was the seat of government, the city would have had people of many nationalities and faiths.

Paul opened his letter by identifying his credentials. Some people in Rome may not have known who Paul was, and Paul wanted to be sure those reading this letter would know that the words he was sharing were not from him but were from God. As an apostle, Paul had been called by God to share this truth—the truth of the gospel.

The gospel is what Paul takes the next 16 chapters of text to unfold. Knowing the Christians living in Rome were from a heavily Gentile background, Paul took great care to open the gospel to them in ways the Christians would understand. The gospel in a nutshell is what Paul shared in Romans 1:1-5. The gospel is about Jesus Christ, descended from David, crucified and raised from the dead, through whom we have received God's grace. The good news of the gospel was not just for the Jews. It was for all people, and Paul fulfilled his calling to share that gospel with as many as he could.

Paul commended the church for the ways they were growing in their faith. Paul had heard good reports from many believers and wanted to continue strengthening the church's resolve. Paul assured the church of his continued prayer and encouraged the believers by sharing his own unashamed commitment to the gospel—the light by which the righteousness of God is revealed.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus for all people.

### BIBLE STORY

Romans 1

### BIBLE VERSE

Romans 1:16

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The book of Romans affirms that we became sinners through one man, Adam, and we will be saved through one man, Jesus. Through Jesus, sinful man is reconciled to holy God.

### BIBLE SKILLS: Babies and toddlers will . . .

- Hear that people in the Bible told about God.
- Hear that the Bible helps people know what to do.



### CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home (Printable: Music & Print Extras)
- Diaper Bag Card
- Preschool Family Card



## SESSION ACTIVITIES

### BABIES EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Babies are sensory learners and they are relational. They learn best when teachers engage them through conversation and play. Prepare two or three activities for babies to enjoy as they explore the Bible.

#### First hour–

- Play with People Figures
- Look in a Mirror
- Rock & Read

#### Next hour–

- Repeat activities with babies in the next hour.

### TODDLERS EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Toddlers are on the go and ready to learn. They learn best through playful exploration and discovery. Offer three or more multisensory activities to lead young preschoolers to discover and learn Bible truths.

#### First hour–

- Use Blocks & Play with People Figures
- Stick Pictures on Plastic
- Match Items & Pictures
- Roll a Ball

#### Next hour–

- Drive Toy Vehicles
- Call Friends
- Put Together Puzzles

**PLUS Circle Time!**

**TEXT TRUTH**

God sent Jesus for all people.

**BIBLE STORY**

Paul's Good News  
Romans 1

**BIBLE VERSE  
PARAPHRASE**

The good news is for  
everyone.

Romans 1:16

**PACK ITEMS**

- 1 Story Picture: Paul's Good News
- 16 Bible Verse Markers
- 19 Book: *The Good News Is for Everyone*
- 31 Book: *What I See at Church*

## PAUL'S GOOD NEWS

### Romans 1

- *Paul loved God.*
- *Paul told church people that God sent Jesus.*
- *Paul said the good news of Jesus is for everyone.*

## EXPLORATIONS

### PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul's Good News, 4 small toy people figures*

- Lay the Bible on the floor and place the Story Picture next to it. Stand the people figures on the Story Picture.
- Seat or lay a baby on the floor and encourage her to crawl toward the people figures. Guide the baby's hand to pick up and hold a figure.
- Say to the baby: "Look. See the people? You found a boy (or girl). Here's another person." Hand the baby another figure. Say: "God loves people. God sent Jesus for all people."
- Point to the Story Picture and say: "Paul told church people that God sent Jesus. Paul said the good news is for everyone."
- Point to the baby and say: "And God sent Jesus for you."

### LOOK IN A MIRROR

*Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers, small nonbreakable mirror, Music & Print Extras*

- Play music softly in the background. Open the Bible to Romans 1 and lay today's Verse Marker on the page. Place the mirror within reaching distance.
- Sit on the floor and hold a baby in your lap. Hold the Bible in front of both of you. Guide the baby's hand to grasp the Verse Marker.

- Tap the Bible and read the verse to the baby.
- Hold the mirror in front of the baby so he can see his face. Say: “I see (child’s name). You came to church today. You hear good news!” Point to the baby’s nose, eyes, ears, and mouth. Say: “God made you, and He loves you. God sent Jesus for you!”
- Sing this song (tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb”):  
*The good news is for everyone, everyone, everyone. The good news is for everyone, the good news is for \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in child’s name).*

## **ROCK & READ**

*Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, Book: The Good News Is for Everyone, Book: What I See at Church, a few other baby books showing people, shallow basket*

- Open the Bible to Romans 1 and lay the Diaper Bag Card on the page. Place the Bible and books in a shallow basket near a rocking chair.
- Hold a baby in your arms and while rocking him, picture-read the Book: *The Good News Is for Everyone*. Point to the pictures of children as you read.
- Hold the Diaper Bag Card in front of the baby. Say: “Paul told good news to church people. Paul said God sent Jesus.”
- Picture-read other books and relate them to God’s love for people and the good news of Jesus.
- Softly sing the song “Jesus Loves Me.”



### **NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR BABIES)**

- Continue and repeat activities from the first hour. Babies learn through repetition and practice.
- As you cuddle, rock, soothe, and tend to babies’ needs, talk about the Bible. Say Bible words and phrases.
- Use the Bible with babies. Let them see, touch, and turn Bible pages.

**TEXT TRUTH**

God sent Jesus for all people.

**BIBLE STORY**

Paul's Good News  
Romans 1

**BIBLE VERSE  
PARAPHRASE**

The good news is for everyone.  
Romans 1:16

**PACK ITEMS**

- 1 Story Picture: Paul's Good News
- 16 Bible Verse Markers
- 18 Items & Picture Match
- 20 People Cards

**PRINTABLES**

Allergy Sign

**LEADER TIP**

If your church promoted classes this month, be prepared for a new group of toddlers! Help children adjust to a new room, new teachers, and a new experience.

Use a soft voice. Smile often. Allow children to explore the room and resources at their pace. Expect a few tears. Pray for anxious parents.

## PAUL'S GOOD NEWS

### Romans 1

*Paul traveled to many cities to talk to people about Jesus. Paul loved Jesus and knew that God sent Jesus to help people.*

*Paul wanted to visit the city of Rome. There were many churches in Rome, and Paul knew the church people were telling more and more people about Jesus. Paul wanted to tell the Roman friends about his work and ask them to help him.*

*Paul wrote a letter to the church people. Paul told the people that he prayed for them. Paul reminded the church people that God wants everyone to worship Him and know His Son, Jesus. Paul said, "God sent Jesus to help people. This good news is for everyone."*

## EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

### USE BLOCKS & PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES



*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul's Good News, People Cards, small cardboard blocks, clear tape, small basket, 4-6 toy people figures*

- Tape a few People Cards to blocks. Put the other cards in a small basket near the blocks. Prop toy figures on top of the Bible.
- Show toddlers the Story Picture and point to Paul. Say: "Paul talked to people about Jesus. Paul said that Jesus came to help all people."
- Suggest that a toddler build a church using the blocks. Say: "You come to church and learn from the Bible. The Bible helps us know that God sent Jesus to help people. That is good news!"
- Guide toddlers to play with the toy figures and pretend the people are going to church. Say: "I'm glad you came to church today!"

**STICK PICTURES ON  
PLASTIC**

*Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Markers, people picture cutouts, aluminum pie pan, clear contact plastic, wide masking tape, Preschool Family Card*

- Cut a long piece of plastic and tape it to the wall at toddlers' eye level. The sticky side of the plastic should face outward.
- Put the people pictures in a pie pan and put it near the plastic. Put today's marker in the Bible at Romans 1:16.
- Show a people picture to a toddler, then stick the picture to the plastic. Say: "We have more pictures of people. Would you like to put some pictures on the plastic?"
- As the child arranges pictures, open the Bible to the marker and say: "Paul said that the good news of Jesus is for everyone. That is good news!"
- Point to the picture of Paul on the Family Card.

**MATCH ITEMS & PICTURES**

*Tools: CSB® Read to Me Bible, Items & Picture Match, red crayon, yellow pencil, blue blunt-tipped scissors, J alphabet block, 1 or 2 glue sticks*

- Lay the Items & Picture Match page on a table. Place the real items in a pile near the page.
- Invite a child to look at the pictured items and name them. Guide the child to match the real items on the table to the items shown on the page.
- As the child matches items, relate the items to today's session. For example, say: "J is for Jesus. The good news of Jesus is for everyone." Or suggest: "We use a pencil for writing. Paul wrote a letter to church people."
- Tap the Bible and remark: "The Bible has a letter Paul wrote to churches in Rome. Paul told the church people about Jesus. Paul said that the good news of Jesus is for everyone."

**ROLL A BALL**

*Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, beach ball, masking tape*

- Place the Bible and Diaper Bag Card on the floor near a wall. Tape a line on the floor about 4 feet from the Diaper Bag Card.
- Invite a child to stand on the tape line.
- Hand the ball to the child. Tell her to roll the ball across the floor toward the Diaper Bag Card and Bible.
- If the ball touches the Diaper Bag Card, say: "That picture shows Paul. Paul loved Jesus and talked to many people about Jesus. See the people? They learned that God sent Jesus for all people."
- If the ball rolls to the Bible, say: "We read the story about Paul's letter and the good news in the book of Romans."
- Open the Bible to locate Romans 1.

**TEXT TRUTH**

God sent Jesus for all people.

**BIBLE STORY**

Paul's Good News  
Romans 1

**BIBLE VERSE  
PARAPHRASE**

The good news is for everyone.  
Romans 1:16

**CIRCLE TIME TOOLS**

- Bible
- small people figures (1 per child)

**PACK ITEMS**

1 Story Picture: Paul's Good News  
16 Bible Verse Markers  
19 Book: *The Good News Is for Everyone*

**LEADER TIP!**

If this is the first session with a new group of toddlers, keep the Circle Time brief. Remember, a preschooler's attention span is about equal to his age!

**CIRCLE TIME (2-5 MINUTES)**

Your toddlers may be ready for a simple circle time. You decide when and how long to have a group experience.

**GATHER**

- Place today's Bible Verse Marker at Romans 1. Carry the Bible and Story Picture as you walk through the room. Give each child a people figure to take to the circle area.
- Place the Bible on the floor. Tell toddlers to stand their people figures around the Bible.
- Say: "Thank you. Now let's hear a story from the Bible."

**HEAR THE BIBLE STORY**

- Get the Bible from the floor and open it to Romans 1. Place the Bible in your lap.
- Hold the Story Picture for toddlers to see. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- After the story, ask: "Who wrote a letter? Was it Paul? Yes. Paul wrote to church friends."
- Pick up a people figure and comment: "Paul said that the good news is for everyone. God sent Jesus to help all people."
- Picture-read the Book: *The Good News Is for Everyone*.

**PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS**

- Call on a toddler to stand near you. Help the child open the Bible to the marker.
- Say the Bible verse, then lead toddlers to say the verse.
- Sing this song (tune "Mary Had a Little Lamb"):  
*The good news is for everyone, everyone, everyone. The good news is for everyone, the good news is for (child's name).*
- Sing about every toddler at church today.

**PRAY**

- Thank God for sending Jesus for all people.
- Ask God to help us be ready to share the good news of Jesus with all people.

## **NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR TODDLERS)**

Continue activities from the first hour or offer these additional activities to help toddlers explore the Bible.

### **DRIVE TOY VEHICLES**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul's Good News (Pack Item 1), Blocks Play Mat (Pack Item 17), toy vehicles*

- Lay the Blocks Play Mat on a low table with the roads side facing up. Arrange the toy vehicles around the play mat.
- Invite a few toddlers to drive toy vehicles on the roads. While children play, ask them to tell where they are going in their toy vehicles. Suggest driving to church.
- Point to the Story Picture. Say: "Paul talked to people and taught them about Jesus. Paul said that God sent Jesus to help all people."
- Thank God for sending Jesus.

### **CALL FRIENDS**

*Tools: Bible, 2 toy phones and 2 old cell phones (batteries removed), Book: The Good News Is for Everyone (Pack Item 19)*

- Picture-read the book to a few children. Talk about the good news: God sent Jesus to help people. Jesus came for everyone!
- Encourage toddlers to choose phones to make calls to friends.
- Say: "You may call someone and tell him the good news. Tell your friend that Jesus came to help him and everyone."
- Encourage toddlers to make pretend calls to friends, siblings, or parents and to tell them that God sent Jesus for all people.

### **PUT TOGETHER PUZZLES**

*Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, scissors, 2 or 3 wooden puzzles featuring people, church, or alphabet letters*

- Use the scissors to cut the Diaper Bag Card into 3 or 4 pieces (depending on the age of your children). Lay the pieces on top of the Bible and arrange the wooden puzzles around the table.
- Encourage a toddler to choose a puzzle to put together. When a child puts the Diaper Bag Card pieces together, talk about Paul.
- Say: "Paul wrote a letter to church people. Paul reminded the people to know and worship Jesus. Paul said that the good news about Jesus is for everyone."
- Relate the other puzzles to today's emphasis. Tell children that God loves everyone and He wants all people to know and love Jesus.

*Look for printable  
Next Hour helps in  
Music & Print Extras.*