



Session

1



GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

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: Preschoolers will . . .

- Open the Bible to a marked (*specific*) verse or passage.
- Hear that similar books in the Old and New Testaments are grouped together.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

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

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

MISSIONS ACTIVITY: PLAY WITH TOY BOATS



Tools: Bible, several toy boats, large blue paper to represent the ocean, toy people figures, Missionary Photo: Adoniram Judson (Music & Print Extras)

- Lay the paper on the floor and place the boats nearby. Open the Bible to Romans 1:16.
- As children play with the boats, show them the photo of Adoniram Judson. Say: “This man and his wife wanted to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. Mr. and Mrs. Judson traveled on a ship to a country called Burma. The trip took a long time, but the Judsons were eager to tell the people about Jesus. When they arrived in Burma, the Judsons began their missionary work.”
- Read today’s Bible verse to the children. Say: “Mr. Judson cared about the people in Burma. Mr. Judson learned the language the people spoke. Then Mr. Judson told the people in their language that the good news of Jesus was for them, too.”

LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus for all people.

BIBLE STORY

Paul's Good News
Romans 1

BIBLE VERSE

The good news of Jesus is for everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16

LEADER TIP!

Display the Fall Bible Books Poster (Item 17) near the door of your room. Tell families that their children will be exploring the book of Romans for the next few weeks.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

PAUL'S GOOD NEWS

Romans 1

Growing up, Paul went to synagogue school and learned about God and the laws God gave to His people, the Israelites. Paul studied and studied the laws until he could even say the laws without thinking.

But one day Paul discovered something more important. Paul learned the truth about Jesus: Jesus is God's Son, the One God had promised to send to help people. Paul learned that Jesus loved him and all people.

Paul wanted to tell the whole world about Jesus. Paul began to travel. He went to cities and towns and taught people about Jesus. Paul helped people know that God wanted all people to know Jesus and love Him.

The city of Rome had many churches, and Paul wanted to visit the churches in Rome and teach the people. But first, Paul wrote a letter to the people in Rome to prepare them. Paul told the church people about his work and journeys. Paul asked his friends to help him tell people about Jesus.

Paul said, "I am glad to hear that you love Jesus and help others know about Him. I pray often for you, and I want to visit you soon."

In Paul's letter, he talked about the good news. "The good news is for everyone. God sent Jesus for all people, not just some," said Paul.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes. Romans 1:16

Paraphrase:

The good news of Jesus is for everyone who believes. Romans 1:16



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

GATHER

- Play the song “Tell All the World” (track 1) and invite preschoolers to move to the Circle Time area.
- After children are seated, hold the globe for preschoolers to see. Ask preschoolers to identify the object.
- Say: “This is a globe. It is a map of our world.” Point out your location and a few other countries on the globe.
- Continue: “People live in all of these places. People everywhere need to hear that Jesus loves them.” Play the song again and encourage preschoolers to sing or clap to the music.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Paul traveled to many places to tell about God’s love for all people. Before Paul visited churches in the city of Rome, he wrote them a letter. Our story today comes from the letter Paul wrote.”
- Place the Bible in your lap. Open it to the marker placed at Romans 1. Prop the Story Picture in a chair near you as you tell the story in your own words.
- Remark: “Paul wanted everyone to believe in Jesus. Paul knew that what God said was true, and Paul wanted to tell the world this good news.”
- Point to the Text Truth Poster. Read today’s Text Truth. Ask children to say the Text Truth with you.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “The Bible is God’s Word. The Bible tells us the good news that Jesus came to rescue all people.”
- Play music as you pass the Bible around the circle. Stop the music. Invite the child holding the Bible to open it to today’s verse marker. Lead the child to say the verse. Resume the music and give other children turns to open the Bible and say the verse.

PRAY

- Thank God that He sent His Son, Jesus, for all people. Ask God to help people who travel all over the world sharing the good news of God’s love.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Music & Print Extras
- globe

PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: Paul’s Good News
- 15 Text Truth Poster
- 16 Text Truth Poster Cards
- 23 Bible Book Markers
- 28 September Verse Markers

LEADER TIP!

Display the Text Truth Poster in the Circle Time area. Each week, attach the session’s Text Truth Card to the poster. Move the previous session’s Text Truth to the wall area near the poster.

LEADER TIP!

Show preschoolers where the book of Romans is located on the Bible Timeline for Kids.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus for all people.

BIBLE STORY

Paul's Good News
Romans 1

BIBLE VERSE

The good news of Jesus is for everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16

PACK ITEMS

1 Story Picture: Paul's Good News
28 September Verse Markers
31 Letters of Paul Matching Cards

PRINTABLES

Bible Book Pages

LEADER TIP!

Use the Bible Book Pages printable as desired this quarter to help children begin to recognize names of books of the Bible. You will find a page for the six Bible books children will learn about.

Preschoolers can decorate the pages and use them as guides for spelling and locating Bible books.

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers. Use the Bible in every exploration.

PAINT PAPER "GLOBES"

Tools: Bible, small globe, white coffee filters, blue and green washable markers, spray bottle with water, permanent marker

- Show children the globe. Point to water and land masses.
- Say: "Paul wanted all people to know that God sent Jesus for everyone. Paul traveled to many places to tell about Jesus."
- Invite children to make paper globes. Give each child a coffee filter and a blue and green marker. Tell children to cover as much white space as possible.
- Next, help children lightly spray the filters with water. Watch the colors blend to create the appearance of a world globe. Lay filters aside to dry.
- Open the Bible to Romans 1:16 and help children say today's Bible verse.

WRITE A GOOD NEWS LETTER

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul's Good News, copy paper, envelopes, crayons, stickers

- Print the statement *God sent Jesus for all people!* on each paper.
- Invite preschoolers to decorate papers with crayons and stickers. When done, tell children to fold the letters and place them in envelopes.
- Show the Story Picture. Say: "Paul wrote a letter to tell church people in Rome that God sent Jesus for everyone." Show children Paul's letter in Romans 1.
- Encourage children to share the good news of God's love by giving their letters to people they know.

USE COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Tools: Bible, September Verse Markers, toy phones, old cell phones (without batteries), computer keyboards, clipboards with paper, notepads, pencils

- Put today's Verse Marker in the Bible at Romans 1:16.
- Invite children to use the items to communicate with others.
- Suggest that children pretend to send emails on the computer and invite friends to church. Suggest that children write messages on the paper and call friends on the phones.
- Say: "Paul told people about Jesus. Paul said that God sent Jesus for all people. That is good news that we can give to others, too!"
- Open the Bible to the marker and point to the words.
- Tell the Bible story, then help preschoolers repeat today's Bible verse.

MATCH & FIND BIBLE BOOK NAMES

Tools: Bible, Letters of Paul Matching Cards, Activity Page

- Spread the cards facedown on a table or the floor.
- Invite a child to choose two cards. If the cards match, help the child locate the book in the Bible. If the cards do not match, turn them facedown again. The child may continue until all cards are matched and Bible books located.
- Say: "We just found six of Paul's letters. Paul wrote many letters to tell people about Jesus. Paul's letters are in the New Testament part of the Bible."
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page and point to Paul.
- Say: "Paul cared about people and wanted them to know about Jesus and love Him. Sometimes Paul talked to people in person, and sometimes he wrote letters to people."

PACK SUITCASES

Tools: 2 or 3 Bibles, 2 small suitcases, various clothing items

- Place clothing and Bibles on a table. Put the suitcases on the opposite side of the room from the clothes.
- Form two teams of preschoolers. Say: "Paul was a missionary. He traveled to many places to tell about Jesus. Let's pretend we are missionaries traveling somewhere to tell people about Jesus."
- Remark that missionaries often pack suitcases with clothing and teaching supplies they will need on their trip.
- Tell one child in each line to go to the opposite side of the room, choose a clothing item, and return it to his team's suitcase. Remind children to pack a Bible as well!

TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus for all people.

BIBLE STORY

Paul's Good News

Romans 1

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

The good news of Jesus is for everyone who believes.

Romans 1:16

PACK ITEMS

1 Story Picture: Paul's Good News

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in Music & Print Extras.

CREATE PUPPET FACES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Paul's Good News, wide craft sticks (3 to 5 per child), circles cut out of copy paper (3 to 5 per child), crayons, tape or glue

- Show children the Story Picture and review the Bible story. Comment: "Paul talked to many people about Jesus. Paul also wrote letters telling churches that God sent Jesus for all people."
- Open the Bible to Romans 1 and note that Paul wrote the letter to people living in the city of Rome.
- Give each child some craft sticks and paper circles. Suggest that the children draw faces on the circles, then attach them to craft sticks.
- Say the Text Truth as preschoolers move or wave their puppet faces.

MOVE CARS ON ROADS

Tools: Bible; masking tape; toy cars, trucks, boat; toy road signs (optional)

- Create masking tape roadways on the floor. Put the cars near the roads.
- While preschoolers drive the vehicles, talk about Paul traveling to many cities and countries to tell the good news about Jesus. Say: "Paul wanted people to know that God sent Jesus to help them. Sometimes Paul walked, and sometimes he rode in boats."
- Open the Bible to Romans 1 and continue: "When Paul was unable to travel to cities, he sometimes wrote letters to people. Paul's letters are in the Bible."
- Summarize the Bible story while children continue to drive the vehicles.

DRIVE PLACES

Tools: Bible, paper strip marking Romans 1:16, classroom chairs, set of keys, map, sunglasses, tote bag, Activity Page

- Put the items in the tote bag. Arrange four chairs to resemble a car, and lay the bag in the "front seat."
- Invite two or three children to get in the "car" and drive somewhere. Tell preschoolers to look in the bag for some things they might need.

- When the “car” arrives at a destination, ask a child to show his friends the picture on the Activity Page. Remark that Paul went to many places to teach people about Jesus.
- Ask a child to open the Bible to the marked verse. Say the words that Paul wrote in his letter to the people living in Rome.

PLAY GOOD NEWS TAG

Tools: Bible, square sticky notes, marker

- Print the statement *Jesus loves you!* on sticky notes, making two notes per child. Give each child her two notes.
- Open the Bible to Romans 1. Say: “The book of Romans is a letter written by Paul to the churches in Rome. In this letter, Paul tells the people that God sent Jesus for all people, no matter who they are or where they are from. Paul wanted to share the good news of Jesus with everyone.”
- Invite preschoolers to play a game of tag. Tell boys and girls the goal is to stick their two notes on other children.
- Tell children to say the statement “Jesus loves you!” whenever they successfully stick a note on a friend. When a child is tagged with a sticky note, he can then stick the note on another friend.

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music to get children’s attention. Invite them to travel to the Circle Time area as if traveling in a boat, plane, train, or car.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Ask children to name the man in the picture.
- Say: “Paul cared about people and taught them about Jesus.”
- Help children recall what Paul told the people in Rome. (God sent Jesus for all people.)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open a Bible to Romans 1:16. Say today’s Bible verse in short phrases, inviting preschoolers to repeat the phrases after you.
- Sing (tune “If You’re Happy and You Know It”): *If the good news is for you, clap your hands. If the good news is for you, clap your hands. If the good news is for you, then you should share it, too. If the good news is for you, clap your hands.*

PRAY

- Thank God that the good news of Jesus is for everyone who believes.

LEADER TIP!

Continue with other actions such as stomp your feet, turn around, pat your head, and so on.