

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

Session

1



GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

Romans 1

Paul, as 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 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 they 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 them by sharing his own unashamed commitment to the gospel—the light by which the righteousness of God is revealed.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE

Romans 1

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 1:16

MEMORY VERSE PARAPHRASE

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

TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus for all people.

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.

PAUL'S GOOD NEWS

Based on 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 and asked them 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.

WELCOME AND SING

- Write the numbers 1 through 10 on insulated cups, one number on each cup. Place the cups on their sides around the room.
- Place a small piece of masking tape on 10 cars. Print the numbers 1 through 10 on the pieces of tape.
- Play the song “Tell All the World” as the preschoolers come into the room. Lead the boys and girls to sing along with the song.
- Distribute the cars to the children. Lead them to drive their cars “home” into the cups with the matching numbers. Redistribute the cars and encourage them to drive their new cars home.
- Ask: “How did you travel to church today?”
- Mention: “Today we will learn about how Paul traveled from place to place to tell people about Jesus. Paul told people that **God sent Jesus for all people.**”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Cut two 2-inch strips of construction paper. Place one strip in the Old Testament and one strip in the New Testament part of the Bible.
- State: “The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.” Invite the children to repeat “Old Testament” and “New Testament.”
- Continue: “The Old Testament is at the beginning of the Bible. The New Testament is at the end of the Bible.”
- Play the song “Help One Another in Love.” Pass the Bible around the circle. Stop the music at various intervals. Instruct the child holding the Bible when the music stops to open the Bible at one of the strips of paper. Challenge her to determine whether she opened to the Old Testament or New Testament.
- Display the “Romans” Bible Book Card.
- Mention: “The book of Romans is in the New Testament. It is in the second part of the Bible.” Distribute a Bible to each pair of children. Help them to open the Bibles to the book of Romans.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Invite the preschoolers to sit in a circle. Roll the toy vehicle to a preschooler. Make a beeping sound as you roll the car. Direct the child to roll the vehicle to another child while making a beeping sound. Continue until all the children roll the vehicle.
- Comment: “Sometimes we ride in vehicles to travel to another place. Listen to hear where Paul traveled to.”

TOOLS

- Welcome and Sing: Preschool Music & Print Extras, 10 toy vehicles, 10 insulated cups, masking tape
- Practice Bible Skills: Bibles, Preschool Music & Print Extras, “Bible Book Cards” (print item), construction paper, scissors
- Tell the Bible Story: Bibles, Story Picture: “Paul’s Good News” (print item), toy vehicle
- Pack a Suitcase: clothing items, laundry basket, suitcase
- Worship: Preschool Music & Print Extras, offering basket
- Learn the Memory Verse: Bibles, “September Bible Verse Markers” (print item), parachute or bed sheet
- Listen and Pray: none

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament.

- Open the Bible to Romans 1. Keep the Bible open in your lap as you tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Display the Story Picture. Ask: “What did Paul study? Whom did Paul visit? What did Paul teach the people?”

PACK A SUITCASE

- Place the clothing items in the laundry basket at one end of the room. Place the suitcase at the other end of the room.
- Instruct the children to line up behind the laundry basket in two lines.
- Guide the first child in each line to choose an item from the basket, hop to the other side of the room, pack the clothing items in the suitcase for a trip, then skip to the back of their lines.
- Continue until all the clothing items have been packed.
- Say: “Paul wanted everyone to know that **God sent Jesus for all people**. He traveled to different places so he could teach in the churches.”

WORSHIP

- Remark: “**God sent Jesus for all people**. We can praise God and thank Him for sending Jesus when we worship Him. We can worship Him by giving our offerings and singing songs of praise to Him.”
- Pass the offering plate around the room. Play the song “For One Another” while the offering is being collected.
- Play the song “Sing! Sing!” Encourage the boys and girls to clap their hands as they sing along with the song.

LEARN THE MEMORY VERSE

- Place today’s Bible Verse Marker in the Bible at Romans 1:16. Invite a preschooler to open the Bible at the marker. Read the verse. Guide the boys and girls to say the verse with you.
- Lead the children to hold on to the edge of the parachute. Instruct them to say the verse again. Direct them to raise the parachute over their heads when they say the word *everyone*. Encourage them to lower the parachute after they say the word *believes*.

LISTEN AND PRAY

- Comment: “**God sent Jesus for all people**. That means God sent Jesus for you and for me and for everyone!”
- Lead the preschoolers in prayer. Thank God for sending Jesus.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

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

EXPLORE GLOBES

Tools: globes, maps, tape, pieces of yarn

- Invite the preschoolers to explore the globes and maps.
- Tape one end of a piece of yarn to the globe where you live. Encourage the children to name other places they would like to travel. Place the other end of the yarn on that location to show the distance between where you live and the other destinations.
- Show the children where the Holy Land and Rome are on the globe or map. Mention that Paul traveled around this area.
- Mention: “Paul traveled from town to town telling people about Jesus. He told people that **God sent Jesus for all people.**”

BUILD A TOWN

Tools: wooden blocks, cardboard blocks, toy vehicles, toy people

- Lead the preschoolers to build a town. As they build, guide the boys and girls to think of different buildings that are in towns such as grocery stores, libraries, schools, and churches.
- Encourage the children to drive the cars to the different buildings. Suggest they use the people figures to play in the town.
- Remark: “Paul wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. He traveled from town to town. Sometimes he also sent letters to the churches. The book of Romans is a letter Paul sent. Paul taught that **God sent Jesus for all people.**”

PLAY OUT SCHOOL

Tools: rulers, calculators, paper, pencils

- Guide the preschoolers to pretend to play out school.
- Suggest they use the rulers to measure things around the room. Demonstrate how to use the ruler to make a straight line on the paper.
- Encourage the boys and girls to play with the calculators.
- State: “We study and learn at school. Paul studied the laws God gave the people. Then he learned the good news about Jesus. Paul began to travel from place to place to teach people. He told people that **God sent Jesus for all people.**”

PLAY A GAME

Tools: “Travel Game” (print item); blue, brown, and white paper; gift bag

- Print out a copy of the “Travel Game.” Cut the cards apart. Place the cards in the gift bag. Place the three pieces of paper on the table.
- Instruct a child to choose a card. Guide the child to place the card on the blue paper if it shows a vehicle that goes in the water, to place the card on the white paper if the vehicle goes in the air, or to place the card on the brown paper if it goes on the road. Continue sorting all the cards.
- Mention: “Paul wanted people to know that **God sent Jesus for all people.** Paul traveled from place to place to teach people. Sometimes Paul traveled by riding a boat!”

MAKE A COLLAGE

Tools: newspaper, glue sticks, child-safe scissors, crayons, long piece of paper, tape

- Tape the long piece of paper to the wall.
- Guide the preschoolers to use the scissors to cut different shapes from the newspaper. Encourage the boys and girls to use the crayons to color the newsprint shapes.
- Lead the children to glue the shapes to the paper on the wall. Suggest they overlap the shapes on the paper to make a collage.
- Say: “We read the news in the newspaper. Paul wanted to share the good news about Jesus. Paul sent letters and visited churches. He wanted everyone to know that **God sent Jesus for all people.**”