



Session

2



RECONCILED TO GOD

Romans 4:13–5:21

If the gospel is the light that illuminates the righteousness of God, Paul wanted the church to understand that all people have access to that light through faith. Paul began Romans 4 by using the father of many nations, Abraham, as an example for the church to follow. As a case study in faithfulness, Abraham was the perfect example to help the church understand Paul's point.

Certainly, Jewish believers would have been well versed in the story of Abraham, but for the Gentile believers hearing Paul's letter, Paul clearly identified who Abraham was and why Abraham was so important. Paul attested that Abraham understood the gospel, though he might not have recognized his belief as such. Abraham believed what God said even if it didn't make sense to him, and God credited Abraham's belief as righteousness.

Paul contrasted Abraham's righteousness with a worker who is paid for his work. While wages are an expectation for work completed, the righteousness of God cannot be bought or earned. Righteousness is a free gift, offered by God, through faith in Jesus Christ. So, what does that faith look like? Abraham again serves as the example of this faith.

Many Jewish believers in the early church incorrectly believed that circumcision was necessary for Gentile believers who came to faith in Christ. Paul clearly stated that God recognized Abraham as righteous through faith alone. The gospel isn't faith and some other things; it is only faith. Abraham understood that, and God credited it as righteousness.

Faith like Abraham's was not reserved for Abraham alone but to all those who believe in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus. Believers today are justified in the same way as Abraham—through faith in God's Word and works. When believers trust that what God said is true, they can have peace with God. God loves people so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. While we continued in sin, God saw fit to send Jesus to live a sinless life then die in our place as a sacrifice for sin. Because of this, we, too, can have the righteousness of God.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 4:13–5:21

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:4-5

BIBLE VERSE: Romans 5:8

TEXT TRUTH: Even though we sin against Him, God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to die for us.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Locate from memory key passages and Bible verses in a limited time frame. Know and recite all the books of the Bible in order in a limited time frame.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *Item 15: “Objects: Delamotte Painting” (Printables), Item 13: “Romans Definitions” (Poster Pack)*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, Item 4: “Text Truth 2” (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *Item 1: “Ephesians 2:4-5” (Poster Pack)*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Review:** *Bible Timeline for Kids*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *“Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters)*
- Move:** *Item 36: “Romans 5:8” (Printables), 2 baskets*
- Make:** *Item 14: “Cross Layout” (Poster Pack), different colors and lengths of string, an 8-by-11-inch wood board (around 1-inch thick), nails, hammer*
- Explore:** *Item 17: “Thank-you Note” (Printables), scissors, crayons, markers, pencils or pens*

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RECONCILED TO GOD

Romans 4:13–5:21

Paul wanted to explain to the Romans that justification can only happen by faith alone. Justification is when we are declared righteous by God. After you trust in Jesus as Savior, instead of your sin, God sees Jesus' sinless life and His sacrifice on the cross for your sin when He looks at you. We are not justified by anything we do. Instead, we place our faith in what Jesus did for us. Paul used Abraham as an example to help the Romans understand that we can only be justified by faith.

Paul wrote, "God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was one of grace, not law. The promise is given by righteousness through faith. The promise of faith, given by grace, is guaranteed for all who believe—Jews and Gentiles. Abraham believed that God created from nothing and can bring the dead back to life. Although it seemed humanly impossible for Abraham to become the father of many nations, Abraham had hope and faith. He did not waver in his belief. Instead, Abraham gave glory to God because he fully believed that God would fulfill the promise God made to Abraham. Abraham believed and it was credited to him as righteousness. Like Abraham, if we believe that Jesus died to pay for our sin and was raised to provide us justification, it is also credited to us as righteousness."

Then Paul continued, "Those who have been declared righteous by faith have peace with God. We can have access to God by faith. And we can rejoice when we face tough times. Tough times help us grow in our endurance. Endurance produces character. Character produces hope—a hope that will not disappoint us. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Remember, when we were helpless in our sin, Christ died for us. God has proven His love for us because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now we are declared righteous and saved from God's wrath. Once we were enemies of God, but through the death of Jesus, we have been reconciled to God. We can rejoice because we are reconciled to God."

Paul continued, "Do not forget that sin and death entered the world through one man—Adam—and spread to all people. The good news is that salvation entered the world through one man—Jesus. God gave Jesus as our atoning sacrifice. Jesus was perfectly righteous. The law has helped us see our sin and our need for grace. Through Jesus, we can receive eternal life."

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The book of Romans illuminates the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sin entered the world through one man—Adam—and spread to all people. The good news is that salvation also entered the world through one man—Jesus. This is how God showed His great love to us: God sent Jesus—while we were still sinners—to die for our sin. Through faith in Jesus, we can receive His righteousness and be reconciled to God.

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: Item 15: “Objects: Delamotte Painting” (Printables), Item 13: “Romans Definitions” (Poster Pack)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, Item 4: “Text Truth 2” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: “Ephesians 2:4-5” (Poster Pack)
- Prayer: Family Cards

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Welcome children as they arrive.
- Display the “Romans Definitions” poster, then ask: “Have you ever had a relationship with someone that had to be *reconciled*? Reconciled means to restore or make whole again. Maybe you did something to hurt another person and needed forgiveness. When that person forgives you, your relationship can be reconciled.” (*Give the children time to answer.*)
- Say: “Sin keeps us from God. Because of Adam and Eve’s original sin, we were separated from God. But God loved us so much that He made a way for us to be reconciled to Him forever.”
- Display the “Delamotte Painting.”
- Ask: “What word do you see in the middle of this painting?”
- Say: “The picture shows us the word *faith*. Did you know we are reconciled to God by faith in Jesus?”
- Say: “That’s right, Jesus’ death on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice, and that’s how He showed love to us. We show our love back to Jesus by repenting of our sin and trusting Him as our Savior and Lord, and, therefore, we are reconciled to God.”
- Say: “In Romans, Paul was trying to help the Christians understand as much about Jesus as he possibly could so they could know how their lives could be reconciled to God.”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask the children to open their Bibles to Romans 5. Remind them that Romans is in the New Testament and that it comes right after Acts and before 1 Corinthians.
- Say: “We learned last week that Paul is the author of Romans and that he was writing to the church in Rome. Paul was a missionary and a follower of Jesus, and he wanted the Christians in Rome to grow in their faith.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Say: “Paul made it clear that he wanted people to know the sacrifice that God made for us through His Son. It is because of this sacrifice that we can have *justification*.” Read the definition from the “Romans Definitions” poster.
- Ask a volunteer to read Romans 5:8-11.
- Ask: “What did Paul say Christ did for us in verse 8?” (*He died for us, even though we were sinners.*)

- Say: “These verses teach us that Christ died for us. We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son. If Jesus had not lived a sinless life, died on the cross, been buried, or risen three days later, then we would be eternally separated from God.”
- Say: “I am always so amazed at what Christ did for you and for me. I don’t know anyone who would go that far to make sure that I could be forgiven of my sin and spend eternity with God. We are so thankful that God wanted us to be reconciled to Him forever!”
- Display the Text Truth: **even though we sin against Him, God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to die for us.**

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 2 video.
- Ask: “What was your favorite way that Joel tried to use to cross Chasm Creek? What has separated us from God? What is the solution to our sin problem that has separated us from God? Who is the bridge that reconciles us back to God?”

MEMORY VERSE

- *Bible Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Ephesians 2:4-5. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bible Verse. This week’s Bible Verse is Romans 5:8.*

- Display the “Ephesians 2:4-5” poster.
- Create groups or teams to create motions for the verse.
- Give each team time to come up with the motions and then present them.
- Say the verse again and remind the children that these verses help them remember what Christ did for them.

PRAYER

- Distribute the Family Cards.
- Say the Text Truth: **“Even though we sin against Him, God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to die for us.”**
- Ask a volunteer to pray and thank God for loving us even though we have sinned against Him.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: *Bible Timeline for Kids*

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages.
- Review today's object, the "Delamotte Painting."
- Lead girls and boys to examine the information in "Through One Man."
- Help kids complete the "Circle Up Gospel Review." (*Answers: everything, disobey, only, forgiven, Jesus*)
- Instruct kids to read "Faith Like Abraham."
- Guide kids to complete the activity "Think About It."

REVIEW

- Say: "Paul was called by God to share the gospel. Let's look at the timeline to see where the book of Romans fits in the Bible."
- Show kids the timeline and ask kids where the book of Romans falls on the timeline.
- Say: "Paul's letter to the Roman church was so important because he wanted them to know he was thinking about them and praying for them."
- Ask: "How can we live more like Paul did in our day-to-day lives?" (*Give the kids time to respond.*)
- Say: "Paul wrote many things to the Christians in Rome because he wanted them to understand how to live a full life in Christ. Let's try to live like Paul instructed us to live so that we, too, can lead others to Christ."

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CLAP

Tools: "Bible Books" (Books of the Bible Posters)

- Display the "Bible Books" poster for kids to reference as needed.
- Form a circle with the group. Kids will stand with one palm up and one palm down. Kids will then clap over to their friends' hand and say a book of the Bible.
- Say: "We are going to go around the circle and say the books of the Bible in order. If you don't know the next book, then you are out."
- Continue play until you only have one person left.
- Option: If this is too hard for your group, you can let them call out any book of the Bible. If someone repeats a book that was already said, then they are out.



ROMANS 5:8 RELAY

Tools: Item 36: "Romans 5:8" (Printables), 2 baskets

- Print 2 copies of "Romans 5:8." Cut up each copy with one word on a strip of paper. Put each copy of the verse in separate baskets for the kids to race to.
- Put the words in baskets at the end of the room.
- Create two teams.
- Say: "We are going to do a relay where you are going to run down, grab a slip of paper, and run back. Then the next person on your team will go. Both teams will be going at the same time. The team that wins will be the first team to gather all the slips of paper and arrange the verse in the right order."
- Let the kids play the relay.
- Remind them of the Text Truth: **even though we sin against Him, God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to die for us.**



ON THE CROSS

Tools: Item 14: “Cross Layout” (Poster Pack), different colors and lengths of string, an 8-by-11-inch wood board (around 1-inch thick), nails, hammer

- This is a group craft project.*
- Place the “Cross Layout” page over the wood plank. Hammer the nails into place using the dots as a guide.*
- Say: “We learned that Christ died for all of us and through His death and resurrection, we are able to spend eternity with Him.”
- Say: “I want each of you to take a piece of string and wrap it around the cross.” Let each child take a turn choosing a string and wrapping it around the nails of the cross.
- When everyone is finished, hold up the cross and show how beautiful it is with everyone’s strings on it.
- Display the Text Truth: **even though we sin against Him, God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to die for us.**
- Say: “This is just a visual reminder of what Christ did for all of us. Let’s find a place to display this in our room as a weekly reminder of what Christ did for us and how we can be reconciled to Him.”



THANK-YOU NOTES

Tools: Item 17: “Thank-you Note” (Printables), scissors, crayons, markers, pencils or pens

- Print one or more copies of the thank-you note for each child.*
- Say: “Remember that Adoniram worked many years to translate the Bible into the Burmese language. Did you know there are approximately 7,000 languages in the world today? Everyone needs to be able to hear about Jesus and read the Bible in his own language.”
- Remind the kids that people are working all over the world to translate the Bible into languages of people who possibly have not heard about Jesus in their languages. Point out that words are important, and sometimes we can encourage others with our words.
- Distribute a “Thank-you Note” to each child. Read some of the “thank you” words in other languages. Lead kids to practice saying “thank you” in other languages to a friend. Then encourage the kids to color, cut out, and fold their “Thank-you Notes.” Ask the kids to write a note inside to thank someone who is helping others learn about Jesus. Children may want to write a thank-you note to a pastor, children’s minister, Bible study leader, or their parents. Instruct kids to tell the person they are thankful for him and the work he does to tell others about God and His Son, Jesus.
- Ask volunteers to take turns saying a prayer to thank God for these people who help others know about Jesus. Close the prayer, asking God for opportunities to tell people about Jesus wherever the kids go. Thank God for those who work to learn new languages so they can tell people of all languages about Jesus and for those who work to translate Bibles in other languages.