



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: God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Understand that the Bible teaches people how God wants them to live.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

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

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Review:** *Item 8: “Review Questions” (Printables), 2 paper plates, 2 feathers, 2 paper cups*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *Item 7: “Bible Book Cards” (Printables), 3 shoe boxes, copy paper, tape, scissors, marker*
- Move:** *Item 11: “Demonstrate the Love” (Poster Pack), Item 23: “Happy or Sad” (Printables), construction paper, scissors, tape, basket*
- Make:** *construction paper, tape, scissors, bucket*
- 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 having a relationship with God can only happen by faith alone. 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 cannot have a relationship with God because of 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 have a relationship with God when we have faith.

Paul wrote, "God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was a promise of faith, given by grace, and secured for all who believe. Abraham believed that God created from nothing and can bring the dead back to life. Although it seemed impossible for Abraham to become the father of many nations, Abraham had hope and faith. He did not stop believing. Instead, Abraham praised God because Abraham believed that God would keep His promise. Abraham believed and he was forgiven of his sin. Like Abraham, if we believe that Jesus died to pay for our sin and was raised three days later, we can also have a relationship with God."

Then Paul continued, "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 forgiven and saved from God's wrath. Once we were enemies of God, but through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been reunited (reconciled) with God and now we can rejoice."

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 the sacrifice for our sin. Jesus was perfectly righteous—He never sinned. God's 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 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)
- Examine the Text: Item 4: “Text Truth 2” (Poster Pack), Bibles, Item 5: “The Gospel” (Printables)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: “Ephesians 2:4-5” (Poster Pack), index cards
- 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

- Greet the children and let them know you are happy they have joined you for Bible study.
- Display the “Delamotte Painting.”
- Ask: “What do you notice about today’s object?” (*Allow time for responses.*)
- Explain that this is a watercolor painting done by a British artist.
- Ask: “What is the point of the painting?” (*Give kids time to respond.*)
- Point out that the artist wanted us to focus on the word *faith*.
- Explain that the word *faith* must have meant something to the artist.
- Continue: “What is faith?” (*Allow children time to respond.*)
- Suggest that faith is “belief that what God told a person about Himself and people in the Bible is true.”
- Elaborate: “Today, I sat in this chair because I had faith that it would hold me up.”
- Say: “Paul continued his writings in Romans to explain that we must have faith to have a relationship with God.”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Invite children to open their Bibles to the book of Romans. Encourage them to help each other and to use the table of contents.
- Display the Text Truth.
- Read the text aloud and invite children to follow along as you read: **“God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.”**
- Explain that God gave up His Son for us by sending Jesus to die for us. Remind kids how big God’s love is for Him to have done that for us.
- Inform the kids that you are going to tell them today’s story in your own words. Use the Bible story page as a guide.
- Ask: “What did God promise Abraham?” (*He would be the father of many nations and have lots of children.*)
- Continue: “Why could this have been hard for Abraham to believe?” (*He was very old.*)
- Explain that most people have children when they are young. Expound by telling the kids Abraham believed God would keep His promise. Abraham believed what God told him—even if he did not completely understand how everything would happen. Paul was telling the Christians in Rome that they needed to have faith like Abraham.
- Invite a willing child to read Romans 5:8 aloud. Remind kids that sin is when we disobey God.
- Say: “Even when people were disobeying God, He showed us how much He loved us by sending Jesus to die for us. If we have faith and believe, we can live forever with Him. Isn’t that a wonderful promise?”

- Share “The Gospel” with boys and girls using the printable as a guide. Provide kids with an opportunity to respond or ask more questions by speaking with an adult.

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 2 video.
- Ask: “What was your favorite way that Joel tried 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.*
- *Write the Memory Verse in sections on index cards. Make 2 or 3 sets, depending on the size of your group.*
 - Display the “Ephesians 2:4-5” poster and guide the kids to read it aloud.
 - Form 2 or 3 groups and give each group a set of the index cards.
 - Say: “Let’s see who can put the verse in order the fastest!”
 - After each group has completed the verse, allow groups to say their verse as a team.
 - Complete the activity by guiding the whole group to recite the verse together.

PRAYER

- Distribute Family Cards.
- Ask: “Who remembers what faith means?” (*Allow time for kids to respond.*)
- Continue: “Who did Paul use as an example of someone who showed great faith in God’s promise?” (*Abraham*)
- Remind kids that God always keeps His promises because He is always faithful and true.
- Conclude: “God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for our sin—just as God promised throughout the Old Testament.”
- Close by asking each child to pray silently, asking God to forgive them for any sin they can remember. Pray, thanking God for His forgiveness and for sending Jesus.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 8: “Review Questions” (Printables), 2 paper plates, 2 feathers, 2 paper cups

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today’s pages.
- Review today’s object, the “Delamotte Painting.”
- Invite a volunteer to read aloud “What Is Faith?”
- Help kids complete the “Gospel Matching.”
- Instruct kids to read “Faith Like Abraham.”
- Guide kids to complete the activity “Think About It.”

REVIEW

- Form two teams at one end of the room. Give the first person on each team a paper plate with a feather on top.
- Explain that each team member will race to the paper cups you have placed on the opposite end of the room. They must walk to the cup without dropping the feather and then place the feather into the cup. Say: “If you drop the feather, you can pick it up but you have to back up one step before moving further.”
- The first team member who reaches the cup with the feather gets to answer a “Review Question.” If they answer correctly, that team receives a point and the players take the plate and feather to the next team member for the next round.
- Continue as time allows.
- Conclude: “Sometimes our problems or sin can feel like a heavy weight like our backpacks for school or trips! But when God sent Jesus for us, He took that weight away from us when Jesus died on the cross! Our burdens can become as light as a feather if we give them to Jesus and let Him carry them.”
- Congratulate the kids on a job well done.

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

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



LOVE, GIVE, LIVE

Tools: Item 7: “Bible Book Cards” (Printables), 3 shoe boxes, copy paper, tape, scissors, marker

- Print out the “Bible Book Cards” and cut them apart.
 - Label one box Old Testament and another box New Testament.
 - Place the “Bible Book Cards” in the third shoe box. Label three sides of the box with the words Love, Give, and Live.
- Introduce the activity by teaching that the Bible is the most treasured book we can own.
 - Say: **“God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.”** Display the Love side of the box.
 - Continue: “The Bible teaches us how to love.”
 - Display the Give side of the box.
 - Teach: “God gave His only Son for us! The Bible also teaches us how to give.”
 - Conclude: “God sent Jesus so we could be forgiven of our sin and live with Him forever.” Show the Live side of the box. Say: “The Bible teaches us how to live our lives in ways that honor God.”
 - Choose kids to come up and pick a card out of the shoe box and place it in the proper shoe box marked *Old Testament* or *New Testament*. Continue as time allows and congratulate the kids.



SHOW THE LOVE

Tools: Item 11: “Demonstrate the Love” (Poster Pack), Item 23: “Happy or Sad” (Printables), construction paper, tape, scissors, basket

- Before the session, display the “Demonstrate the Love” poster on the wall.
 - Print and cut apart the “Happy or Sad” sentence strips from the printables. Place the strips in a basket.
 - Cut six hearts from the construction paper for each team and fold them in half.
- Ask: “What does the word *demonstrate* mean?” (Give time for responses.)
 - Continue: “How does Paul say God demonstrated His love to us?” (He sent Jesus to die.)
 - Form two groups. Give each group six hearts.
 - Explain that a member of each team will choose a strip from the basket and read it aloud. The group will decide if it is demonstrating love or not. If it shows love, the team member will tape the open heart under the happy face. If it does not, a team member will place the heart still closed under the sad face.
 - Once all the strips are gone, ask each group how they could turn the closed heart strips into open hearts.
 - Teach: **“God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.”** Remind kids to show God’s love to their friends.



SPREAD THE WORD

Tools: construction paper, tape, scissors, bucket

□ Before the session, cut strips of construction paper of equal size to be used for a paper chain. Be sure there is enough for each child. Write the word Jesus on each strip and place the strips in a bucket.

- Ask: “What are some things we do not want to spread or share with others?” (*germs, sickness, sin, hate, anger*) “What are things we do want to spread or share with others?” (*love, our toys, kindness, Jesus*)
- Teach: “There is one thing that we should spread to everyone we meet! Does anyone know what that is?” (*the gospel*)
- Continue: “We should always want to tell people about Jesus. Paul was encouraging Christians to share the good news of Jesus.”
- Form a circle. Give a child the bucket with the paper chain links. Ask the child to form one link with a piece of tape. (*Tear off tape for each child as the bucket goes around.*)
- Ask the child to pass the bucket and the link to the next person. The next child will add on to the link as you continue to pass the tape and so on.
- Once the chain has reached the last child, say: “Wow! Look how long our chain is! Just because I shared with one person and then that person shared, the news of Jesus spread all around the circle. And we are all linked together as children of God!”
- Conclude: **“God showed us His love when He sent Jesus to die for our sin.** Since God loved us so much to send Jesus, we should always remember to spread the love of Jesus to others!”



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.