



Session

3



THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8

Building on his prior teaching, Paul assured the Romans that once they were reconciled to God, they would choose a new way of life. That new life comes through the Spirit, who guides believers and warns of sin. Following the sacrifice of Christ and His resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell people. The Holy Spirit provides victory over the old sin nature and leads to a new nature that desires the things of God.

Paul began this chapter by offering the dichotomy of our flesh versus the Spirit. Paul shared that the flesh is that part of a human that desires things that are contrary to God's desires and wishes. The Spirit expresses characteristics that line up with the will of God and seek to do His will. Paul told the Romans that God sent His own Son in human form. The difference in Jesus and other humans, as Paul had already addressed, was that Jesus lived a sinless life and fulfilled the law.

The law was something the people were very familiar with. The *law* referred to the rules set down by God, through Moses, of how people should act in their relationship between God and others. Paul said that because of Jesus' sacrifice, the people were now free from the burden of the law. Obviously Paul did not mean that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, people could now live any way they wanted. Paul meant that believers now don't measure their righteousness to the standard of keeping the law but to the standard of faith in Christ.

While believers are still tempted by the flesh, the Spirit provides release and guidance to submit to God's will instead. God provided the Holy Spirit to help believers know when their choices and actions do not line up with God's will. Sensitivity to the Spirit enables believers to grow closer to God and to seek His will above their own. God is always with us, and God has a great plan. All of God's plans are good, and God works His plans for good to those who live according to His will.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 8

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:4-5

BIBLE VERSE: Romans 8:14

TEXT TRUTH: The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and leads them to live sanctified lives.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Know the Bible teaches God's gift of salvation came through Jesus' sinless life, death, and resurrection. Pronounce most of the names of Bible people, places, and things mentioned in the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *Item 15: "Objects: Stone" (Printables)*
- Examine the Text:** *Bibles, Item 5: "Text Truth 3" and Item 13: "Romans Definitions" (Poster Pack)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *Item 1: "Ephesians 2:4-5" (Poster Pack), dry erase board and marker*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Review:** *Item 9: "Review Questions" and Item 11: "Christ in Context: Romans" (Printables), tennis ball, empty basket or bucket*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *clothespins, clothesline, bucket, permanent marker*
- Move:** *2 jump ropes, 2 hoops, 2 beanbags*
- Make:** *perler/fuse beads, square or heart-shaped pegboards, ironing paper, iron (for adult use only), Bibles*
- Explore:** *Item 18: "Myanmar Flag" (Printables); yellow, green, red crayons or markers; pencils or pens*

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THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8

In his letter to the Romans, Paul also wrote about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a special gift from God to those who have repented of their sin and trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Paul wrote, “There is no condemnation for those who follow Jesus. God sent His own Son as a sin offering to pay the price for sin. The law has been fulfilled, and believers no longer obey their sinful desires. Now believers follow the Holy Spirit. When you follow the Holy Spirit, you think about the things that are important to God like life, peace, and righteousness.”

Paul continued, “Those who believe in Jesus are led by God’s Spirit. God has adopted you, and the Spirit reveals that you are children of God. The Holy Spirit helps you not to fear because you can always call out to God, your Father. If you suffer because of your faith in Jesus, you can remember that one day Jesus will return and you will be glorified with Him. Creation eagerly awaits Jesus’ return.”

Paul also explained to the believers that the Holy Spirit helps them when they are weak. The Spirit will pray for them when they do not know what to pray. The Holy Spirit will pray for them according to God’s will.

Finally, Paul said, “All things work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are called for His purpose. God has known His people from the beginning. He chose you and called you. He justified you, and He will glorify you. Remember during tough times that God is for you. Jesus died and was raised. He is sitting at the right hand of God interceding (praying) for you. Who can separate God’s people from God’s love? Not death. Not life. Not angels. Not rulers. Not height. Not depth. Nothing created can separate God’s people from His love that was given through Jesus’ death and resurrection.”

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: Stone” (Printables)
- Examine the Text: Bibles, Item 5: “Text Truth 3” and Item 13: “Romans Definitions” (Poster Pack)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: “Ephesians 2:4-5” (Poster Pack), dry erase board and marker
- 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

- Display the “Stone” visual.
- Ask: “What do you see in the middle of this stone?” (*Give kids a chance to respond.*)
- Say: “The dove has been a symbol used to represent the Holy Spirit since the baptism of Christ. We have learned a lot about Paul and his letter to the Romans, and today we are going to talk about the Holy Spirit and His role in our lives.”
- Ask: “Tell me something you know about the Holy Spirit.” (*Give kids time to respond.*)
- Say: “The Holy Spirit is God. God reveals Himself to us as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (*the Trinity*). The Holy Spirit lives within believers as a special gift for those who trust in Jesus Christ.”
- Say: “Let’s open our Bibles to Romans 8 to learn more about the Holy Spirit.”

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Ask: “What book comes before Romans, and what book comes after Romans?” (*Acts, 1 Corinthians*)
- Say: “Paul revealed so much about Jesus and God to the church in Rome, but he also wanted them to understand the work of the Holy Spirit.”
- Say: “As you listen to the Bible story today, pay close attention to the role of the Holy Spirit and what He helps us do.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you as a guide. Invite kids to follow along in their Bibles by turning to Romans 8.
- Ask: “Who does Paul say that those who believe in Jesus are led by?” (*the Holy Spirit*)
- Ask: “How does the Holy Spirit help us when we are fearful or weak?” (*He allows us to cry out to God, and He will pray for us when we don’t know what to say.*)
- Display the “Romans Definitions” poster and select a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *intercession*.
- Ask a volunteer to read Romans 8:26-28.
- Say: “Romans 8:26-27 reminds us that God has given the Holy Spirit to those who are saved and that the Spirit helps us to pray even when we don’t have the words.”
- Say: “Romans 8:28 reminds us that everything we walk through in this life—if we are saved—will work together for our good. Sometimes we don’t see or understand the good. *Good* here really means that our ultimate good is a life with God that brings glory to Him.”

- Say: “The Holy Spirit becomes a part of our lives when we repent and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit help us with our daily struggles and joys in this life. I hope that if you don’t know God, you will talk to an adult in this room or a pastor, who will help you find answers to any questions you have about becoming a Christian.”
- Show the Text Truth and read it out loud together: **the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and leads them to live sanctified lives.**
- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *sanctification* from the “Romans Definitions” poster.

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 3 video.
- Ask: “What did Joel want to purify and transform today? How can we be purified from our sin? Who helps believers transform to live more like Jesus?”

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 8:14.*
- Write the verse on the dry erase board.*
 - Display the “Ephesians 2:4-5” poster.
 - Say: “We are going to practice saying the verse a few times and then I am going to take the poster down. We will keep repeating the verse, and I will erase a few words at a time until the board is blank.”
 - Say the verse twice and then take down the poster. Let the kids start repeating the words and erase 2-3 words at a time. Keep repeating until the board is clear and they are saying the verse from memory.
 - Say: “I am so proud of you all for learning your verse today! Remember that God loves us, and we have the Holy Spirit within us if we are saved.”

PRAYER

- Distribute Family Cards.
- Say: “**The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and leads them to live sanctified lives.**”
- Say: “As we pray today, let’s remember that the Holy Spirit helps us to pray to God and even helps us when we don’t know what to say to Him. Let’s thank God for the Holy Spirit today.”
- Pray and thank God for the kids and for giving us the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Guide.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 9: “Review Questions” and Item 11: “Christ in Context: Romans” (Printables), tennis ball, empty basket or bucket

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today’s pages.
- Review today’s object, the “Stone.”
- Guide kids to find a friend and share with their friend their thoughts to one of the situations in “More Like Jesus.”
- Invite two volunteers to take turns reading “Who Is the Holy Spirit?”
- Lead kids to examine “The Space Between.”
- Help boys and girls solve the puzzle in “What Can Separate?”

REVIEW

- Display the “Christ in Context” statement and choose a volunteer to read the statement aloud to the group.
- Say: “We have spent three weeks studying Paul’s letter to the Christians in Rome.”
- Form two or more teams and place the empty basket across the room from the two teams.
- Invite kids to play a review game. Ask one team to select a number from 1–10, then ask kids the corresponding “Review Question” from Session 1, 2, or 3. If the team answers the question correctly, award them five points. Then select one player to try to toss a tennis ball into the basket for an extra point. Repeat the process with the other team(s).
- Continue playing as time allows or all 30 questions have been asked.
- Say: “Paul taught us so many things about how to live in Christ. Let’s not forget the things we learned in Romans. We need to live our lives in a way that brings honor and glory to Christ.”

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

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



NEW TESTAMENT CLOTHESLINE

Tools: clothespins, clothesline, bucket, permanent marker

- Write each book of the New Testament on a clothespin and mix them up inside the bucket. Display a clothesline in the room.
- Say: “The book of Romans is in the New Testament. Today we are going to practice putting the books of the New Testament in order. Grab a clothespin from the bucket and attach it to the clothesline. Make sure you are putting your pin in the right order of the books that come before and after yours.”
- Line the kids up and allow them to draw a clothespin from the bucket to put on the line; keep going until every clothespin has been used. Let them repeat if time allows.
- Say: “It’s important to know our books of the Bible. This helps us to know where important stories from the Bible take place. Keep practicing to learn your books of the New Testament.”
- Ask: “What book did we study today? What book comes before Romans in the Bible? What book comes after Romans? In what division is Romans in? What genre is the book of Romans a part of?”
- Say: “Name one thing Paul taught in the book of Romans.” Allow kids to respond.
- If no one names it, mention the Text Truth: **the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and leads them to live sanctified lives.**



WHO’S THE STRONGEST?

Tools: 2 jump ropes, 2 hoops, 2 beanbags

- Option: If you lead a child who has physical disabilities, add a task they can do. (Examples: cheer the loudest, clap with enthusiasm, smile the brightest, receive the most high fives)
- Tell the kids that you are going to have a competition to see who is the strongest. Each child will get a turn trying three tasks: jump roping, hooping, and beanbag tossing.
- Form pairs and allow each group to take turns competing in each event. Celebrate the person who jump ropes the most rotations, the person who hoops the longest without stopping, and the person who tossed the beanbag the farthest.
- Say: “It’s fun trying to be strong. Today we tried different physical strength events, but strength can be physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.”
- Continue: “Even people that we see as spiritually strong need the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is always our strength. When we are weak, He is there to help us. He prays for us and guides us. He helps us obey God—even when it’s hard. **The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and leads them to live sanctified lives.**”
- Remind kids of the definition of sanctification.



LOVE OF GOD

Tools: perler/fuse beads, square or heart-shaped pegboards, ironing paper, iron (for adult use only), Bibles

- Select a volunteer to read aloud Romans 8:35.
- Invite kids to name difficult things that people may experience in their lifetime. *(Possible answers: hurt, loss, sickness)*
- Ask: “Can any of those things separate us from God’s love?”
- Choose another volunteer to read aloud Romans 8:38-39.
- Say: “Nothing can separate a Christian from God’s love. One way we can be reassured of God’s love is through the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives. **The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and leads them to live sanctified lives.** Let’s create some art to remind us of God’s love.”
- Provide each kid with a pegboard and challenge kids to design a heart. Kids can create any color pattern they desire.
- Assist kids in covering their designs with ironing paper. Iron for about 30 seconds using a circular motion while gently pressing the beads to fuse them together.



PRAYING FOR MYANMAR

Tools: Item 18: “Myanmar Flag” (Printables); yellow, green, red crayons or markers; pencils or pens

- Print a copy of the flag for each child. Color a sample flag using the directions below.*
- Remind the boys and girls that even though there are many Christians in Myanmar now, especially among the Karen tribe, the country is still predominantly Buddhist. Missionaries continue to work in the country to help people understand that God sent His Son, Jesus, to be their one and only Savior.
- Distribute a copy of the flag to each child. Provide the crayons or markers. Point out that this is the flag of Myanmar and the star should be left white while the top section is colored yellow, the middle section green, and the bottom section red. When kids have completed coloring the flag, ask them to list on the backs of the flags prayer requests related to the country of Myanmar, such as: the specific work of Christians and missionaries in the country, the personal health and strength of the missionaries, that the people living in Myanmar would be open to hear the good news about Jesus, and so forth.
- Allow volunteers to pray for some of the prayer requests they listed. Close the prayer, praying that the gospel continues to be taken to people groups around the world.