



Session 3



ALWAYS WITH US

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 do not 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

TEXT TRUTH

God is always with us.

BIBLE STORY

Romans 8

BIBLE VERSE

Romans 8:39

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 . . .

- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.
- Understand that the Bible teaches us what God and Jesus are like.



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: MAKE DOOR WREATHS



Tools: Bible, colored paper plates, hole punch, yarn, tissue paper, glue, washable markers, mailing labels with Psalm 56:3 printed on them

- Put the items on a table for children to use to create door wreaths.
- Say: “Sometimes when families are going through a difficult time, they need to know that God is with them and will help them.” Mention times when someone has been sick, storms have damaged homes, families have had to move to new homes, and so on. Recall a personal experience when you felt sad or lonely.
- Read Psalm 56:3 to preschoolers. Remark: “This verse helps us know that when we are afraid or sad or lonely, we can trust God to be near us and help us. Let’s put this verse on our door decorations to remind someone of God.” Give each child a verse label.
- After children glue tissue pieces to their plates and add the verse label, punch holes in each plate and tie a yarn loop for a hanger.

LEADER TIP!

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

TEXT TRUTH

God is always with us.

BIBLE STORY

A Reminder of God's Love
Romans 8

BIBLE VERSE

Nothing can separate us from
God's love.
Romans 8:39

LEADER TIP!

If you notice a child struggling to sit still during Circle Time, invite him to sit beside you, hold the Bible, or hold the Story Picture while you tell the story.

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.

A REMINDER OF GOD'S LOVE

Romans 8

Paul had encouraged church friends in many places to collect offerings to help the church in Jerusalem. Many of the people in Jerusalem who loved Jesus were poor and needed help.

Before Paul went to Jerusalem to deliver the offerings, he wrote a letter to church people in Rome. Paul had not met these people, but he knew about them. The church people in Rome had helped many people hear the good news about Jesus. Paul thanked the church people in Rome for their work.

Paul wanted the people in Rome to be sure of God's power and love. In his letter, Paul said that everyone who loves God and believes in Jesus will have hard times, but God is always there to help. "Nothing and no one has the power to separate you from God. You are God's children, and He is your father," Paul said.

Paul told the church people not to be afraid or worried. Paul explained that God has a plan, and it is perfect. Everything that happens is because it is part of God's plan. And good things always come out of God's plan.

Paul loved the church people, and he wanted them to know that God was always with them and provided for them.

Paul helped the people in Rome know how God wanted them to live. "If God is for us, who can be against us? No one!" exclaimed Paul. "We can do everything because God is always with us."

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

No created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:39

Paraphrase:

Nothing can separate us from God's love. Romans 8:39



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

GATHER

- Ask preschoolers to gather in the Circle Time area after they complete activities and put away materials.
- Ask: “What does it mean if something is together? What does it mean if something is separated?” Allow preschoolers to respond. Explain more about being separated. (See Leader Tip.)
- Say: “If something is together, it is not by itself. If something is separated, it is apart. It is not together. Today we will hear that nothing can separate us from God’s love.”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Point to the Text Truth Poster as you say today’s Text Truth. Invite preschoolers to repeat the truth together.
- Say: “We have been learning about a letter Paul wrote to the church people in Rome. Paul had many things to tell the people. Let’s open the Bible to Romans 8 and hear more of Paul’s words to the people in Rome.”
- Open your Bible to the marker placed at Romans 8. Display the Story Picture as you tell the story.
- Say: “Paul wanted the people in the church to know that God would always be with them, no matter what. In good times and hard times, God would never leave the church people. The promises Paul shared with the Romans are still true for us today!”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to the verse marker placed at Romans 8:39. Read the verse aloud.
- Teach preschoolers the Bible verse paraphrase by using the following motions:
Nothing (*make an X with arms*) can separate (*spread arms far apart*) us (*point to yourself*) from God’s (*point to sky*) love (*place hands over heart*)
Romans 8:39 (*open hands like a book*).

PRAY

- Thank God for always being with us. Praise God that nothing can separate us from God’s never-ending love.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Music & Print Extras

PACK ITEMS

- 3 Story Picture: A Reminder of God’s Love
- 15 Text Truth Poster
- 16 Text Truth Poster Cards
- 23 Bible Book Markers
- 28 September Verse Markers

LEADER TIP!

You can use a number of different visual aids to demonstrate the meanings of together and separate. Examples include showing a large heart cutout that can be separated or put together, a stack of plastic interlocking blocks that can be taken apart or put together, or even having two preschoolers stand next to each other and then stand apart.

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

God is always with us.

BIBLE STORY

A Reminder of God's Love
Romans 8

BIBLE VERSE

Nothing can separate us from
God's love.
Romans 8:39

PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: A Reminder
of God's Love
21 Bible Journey Gameboard
22 Color Cube
23 Bible Book Markers
28 September Verse Markers
35 Heart Cards

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

MAKE HEART BRACELETS

Tools: Bible, chenille stems, plastic beads (include heart shapes), electrical tape

- Place the items on a table with the Bible open to Romans 8.
- Invite children to use the materials to make bracelets. Guide children to thread beads on chenille stems. Twist the ends together to make a bracelet. Cover the joined section with tape.
- As children work, touch the Bible page and say: "In the book of Romans, Paul wrote that God is always with us, and nothing can separate us from God's love. This is a wonderful promise that shows us more about who God is."
- Read Romans 8:39 from the Bible. Suggest that the bracelets can remind us of this great truth.

SORT HEARTS

Tools: Bible, September Verse Markers, Heart Cards, foam heart shapes (opt.), Activity Page

- Put today's marker at Romans 8:39.
- Spread the Heart Cards on a table or the floor. Invite preschoolers to place the hearts in order based on their size, smallest to largest. If using the foam heart shapes, preschoolers can sort them by color.
- Say: "Hearts remind me of love. We know that God's love for us is great. It is never-ending! God promises that He will always love us, no matter what we go through."
- Show the Activity Page and tell the Bible story.

STACK WORD BLOCKS

Tools: Bible, Bible Book Markers, square foam blocks, permanent marker, paper strip with the Text Truth written on it, tape

- Mark the book of Romans with the book marker.
- Write individual words of the Text Truth on blocks. Tape the paper strip to the wall.
- When children show interest in using the blocks, encourage them to look for blocks with words written on them.
- Read the words as children discover them. Help children find the same words on the paper strip.
- Lead children to arrange or stack the blocks in sequence to match the Text Truth strip.
- Say: "God is always with us, and He will always love us. Thank You, God."
- Open the Bible to Romans 8 and recall the Bible story.

SHAKE WATER & OIL

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Reminder of God's Love, clear plastic bottles, water, oil, food color, funnel, tape

- Prepare water and oil bottles ahead of time. See the Leader Tip.
- Show a child a bottle. Ask her to identify the liquids. Ask: "Are the liquids in the bottle together or separate?"
- Say: "Yes! They are separate. They are not mixed together."
- Tell the preschooler to shake the bottle to allow the liquids to mix.
- Comment: "When you shake the bottle, the different liquids join together. However, they do not stay together for long. They separate again."
- Show the child the Story Picture. Say: "Paul told people that nothing can separate us from God's love."

PLAY A BOARD GAME

Tools: Bible, Bible Journey Gameboard, Color Cube, small objects to use as game pieces

- Lay the gameboard on the table with the New Testament side facing up. Place game pieces at the starting line.
- Invite two or three children to play the game. Follow the directions printed on the gameboard.
- If the player lands on a Bible book name, say the name and repeat it together.
- Continue playing until players reach the end of the gameboard.
- Say: "The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Today's Bible story is found in the New Testament book of Romans."
- Say and locate a few New Testament Bible books.

LEADER TIP!

Prepare sensory bottles prior to the session. Fill plastic bottles with ½ amount of water and ½ of oil. Add a few drops of food color to the liquid. Tightly close the cap and add tape for extra security.

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

TEXT TRUTH

God is always with us.

BIBLE STORY

A Reminder of God's Love

Romans 8

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

BIBLE VERSE

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8:39

PACK ITEMS

3 Story Picture: A Reminder of God's Love

22 Color Cube

23 Bible Book Markers

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

TOSS A CUBE & MATCH COLORS

Tools: Bible, Color Cube, colored construction paper (should match colors of Color Cube), washable marker, scissors

- Cut the paper into long strips. Print the Text Truth and Bible verse on individual strips. Place the strips around the room.
- Invite a child to toss the cube and identify the color. Tell the child to find a paper strip that matches the color.
- Read the words to the child. Remark that God is always with us and nothing can keep us from God's love.
- Ask the child to return the strip to a different location in the room for other children to find later.
- Open the Bible to Romans 8:39 and point to the Bible verse. Help the preschooler say the Bible verse with you.

SPELL THE BIBLE BOOK

Tools: Bible, Bible Book Markers, Activity Page, letter tiles to spell Romans, plastic bowl

- Lay the *Romans* marker on a table with the bowl of letters.
- Read the word on the marker for a child and call out the letters. Then say: "The same letters are in the bowl. Can you match them to the ones on the marker? You will spell the name of a Bible book Paul wrote."
- When the child successfully creates the word *Romans*, help him locate the book in the Bible.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story. Say: "Paul told people that God is always with them."

WALK TO THE MUSIC

Tools: Bible, masking tape, Activity Page

- Make a large masking tape circle on the floor. At one point on the edge of the circle, make a large X. Put the Bible and Activity Page in the center of the circle.

- Tell children to walk in a circle as you sing (tune “London Bridge”):
Do you know who God is with, God is with, God is with? Do you know who God is with? God is always with people.
- At the end of the song, tell the child standing on the X to move to the center and hold the Bible.
- Repeat the song and change directions. This time at the end of the song, tell the child standing on the X to exchange places with the first child.
- Ask the second child to show the Activity Page and point to the people.

CARE FOR BABY DOLLS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Reminder of God’s Love, 2 or 3 plastic baby dolls, baby doll items

- Open the Bible to Romans 8 and lay it beside the Story Picture.
- Point to the people in the picture and ask a child to tell what the people might be doing.
- Say: “Paul wrote a letter to the people in Rome. In the letter, Paul shared God’s promise that He will always be with people. We are never alone.”
- Invite children to care for the babies. As children play, remind them that just as they take care of the babies, God will always take care of them.
- Say: “We do not have to worry or be afraid. God is always with us. Nothing can keep us from God’s love. God will take care of us.”

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Pass a heart cutout around the circle as music plays.
- Stop the music and tell the child holding the heart cutout to name something he knows about God. Assist as needed with truths from today’s session. (See Leader Tip.)

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Today’s story is from the book of Romans. Paul wanted to encourage people to remember that God is always with them.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Help children say today’s Bible verse and use motions:
Nothing (*make an X with arms*) can separate (*spread arms far apart*) us (*point to yourself*) from God’s (*point to sky*) love (*place hands over heart*) Romans 8:39 (*open hands*).

PRAY

- Thank God for always being with us, no matter where we go or what we do. Thank God for His unending love for each of us.

LEADER TIP!

Truths from today’s session:
God is with us.
God loves us.
God provides for us.