

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP

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 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

Romans 8:39

MEMORY VERSE PARAPHRASE

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

TEXT TRUTH

God is always with us.

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.

A REMINDER OF GOD'S LOVE

Based on 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."

WELCOME AND SING

- Give each child a high five or a thumbs-up as they come into the room. Let them know how excited you are to see them.
- Play the song “For One Another.” Guide the children to move around the room as they sing along with the song.
- Play the song “Sing! Sing!” Lead the preschoolers to move around the room some more. Link arms with a child. Encourage that child to link arms with another child. Continue moving around the room until all the children are linked together with you. Drop arms and separate when the song ends.
- Comment: “We were all linked up with one another. Today we will learn how **God is always with us**. He loves us and will never leave us. Nothing can separate us from God.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Write the following letters on individual index cards: *R, o, m, a, n, s*. Hide the cards around the room.
- Challenge the preschoolers to find the cards. Play the song “Tell All the World” while the children search.
- Display the “Romans” Bible Book Card. Guide the boys and girls to put the cards in order to spell *Romans*.
- Comment: “The book of Romans is in the New Testament. It is in the back of the Bible. This book is actually a letter that Paul wrote to some of his church friends in the city of Rome.”
- Distribute a Bible to each pair of preschoolers. Assist them in opening the Bibles to the book of Romans.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Lead a preschooler to close his eyes.
- Give the coin to another child to hide in her hands.
- Direct all of the other children to pretend to be holding the coin.
- Instruct the first child to open his eyes and guess who has the coin. Encourage him to keep guessing until he finds the coin.
- Give several children the opportunity to close their eyes and hide the coin.
- Mention: “You were holding money. Listen to hear how the church in Rome gave some of their money for offerings to help other people.”
- Open the Bible to Romans 8. Vary the tone and volume of your voice as you tell the Bible story in your own words.

TOOLS

- Welcome and Sing: Preschool Music & Print Extras
- Practice Bible Skills: Bibles, Preschool Music & Print Extras, “Bible Book Cards” (print item), index cards
- Tell the Bible Story: Bibles, Story Picture: “A Reminder of God’s Love” (print item), coin
- Sort Hearts: Preschool Music & Print Extras; blue, red, orange, green, and yellow construction paper; scissors; 5 paper lunch bags
- Worship: Preschool Music & Print Extras, offering basket
- Learn the Memory Verse: Bibles, “September Bible Verse Markers” (print item)
- Listen and Pray: none

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT

- Begin to recognize names of books in the Bible.
- Open the Bible to a Bible book.

- Display the Story Picture. Ask: “How was the church in Rome trying to help the Jerusalem church? Why did Paul tell the people not to be afraid? Can anything separate us from God?”

SORT HEARTS

- Cut several hearts from each color of construction paper. Glue one heart of each color on the lunch bags—one heart on each bag. Place the bags open on the ground.
- Hide the remaining hearts around the room.
- Guide the preschoolers to find the hearts. Play the song “What God Wants Us to Do” while they search. Lead them to sort the hearts in the bags with the matching colors.
- State: “Hearts remind me of love. Paul wanted the people to remember God’s love for us. He wanted them to know that **God is always with us.**”

WORSHIP

- Mention: “**God is always with us** wherever we are. We can thank God for keeping His promises and being with us when we worship Him. We can worship Him when we give our offerings and sing songs of praise to God.”
- Continue: “The church in Rome gave their offerings to help people in Jerusalem. When we give our offerings, we are helping other people, too.”
- Invite a few preschoolers to pass the offering basket around the room. Play the song “We Will Obey God” while the offering is being collected.
- Play the song “Help One Another in Love.” Lead the boys and girls to sway back and forth as they sing along with the song.

LEARN THE MEMORY VERSE

- Place today’s Bible Verse Marker in the Bible at Romans 8:39. 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 preschoolers to say the verse again. Direct the children to shake their heads “no” and make an X with their arms as they say the verse.

LISTEN AND PRAY

- Remark: “**God is always with us.** We can talk to God when we pray anywhere and anytime.”
- Lead the preschoolers in prayer. Thank God for always being with you.

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.

CLEAN COINS

Tools: plastic container, small vegetable brushes, towels, coins

- Fill the container with two inches of water. Drop the coins in the water.
- Guide the boys and girls to use the vegetable brushes to scrub the coins. Encourage the children to use the towels to dry the coins.
- Comment: "Paul asked his church friends to give money to help the people in Jerusalem. Paul wanted everyone to know that **God is always with us**. He told the people not to be afraid because God had a plan for them."

EXPLORE PLAY DOUGH

Tools: play dough, rolling pins, coins

- Give each child a small amount of play dough. Suggest they use the rolling pins to roll out the dough.
- Demonstrate how to stamp the coins into the play dough, and how to roll the coins on their edges to make patterns in the dough.
- Guide the boys and girls to place a coin in the middle of their play dough. Lead them to roll the play dough into balls around the coins. Suggest the children trade play dough balls with each other. Challenge them to find the coins in play dough.
- Remark: "People gave money to Paul to help the people in Jerusalem. Paul told the people that **God is always with us**."

MAKE COIN RUBBINGS

Tools: coins, copy paper, crayons, tape

- Roll a few pieces of tape. Stick the tape to the table. Place the coins on the tape.
- Instruct the children to place their papers on top of the coins. Guide the boys and girls to rub their crayons on the paper over the coins. Point out the pictures of the coins on the papers. Encourage the children to notice how the pictures are different.
- Mention: "Paul wanted people to help other people who did not have enough money. The church in Rome helped people. Paul wrote them a letter. He told them that **God is always with us.**"

PLAY A MATCHING GAME

Tools: "Fear Matching Game" (print item), gift bag

- Print the "Fear Matching Game" and cut apart the cards. Place one set of cards in the gift bag. Place the other set faceup on the table.
- Invite a preschooler to choose a card from the bag. Lead her to find the matching card on the table. Continue until all the cards have been matched.
- Mix up the cards. Place them facedown on the table. Encourage the children to play a memory game.
- Say: "Sometimes people are afraid of the things on these cards. Paul told the people not to be afraid. Paul taught that **God is always with us.**"

BUILD A PLAYGROUND

Tools: blocks, cardboard tubes, people figures

- Guide the boys and girls to use the blocks to build a playground. Suggest they use the tubes to make slides. Encourage them to use the people figures to play in the playground.
- State: "**God is always with us.** He is with us at home, or church, or even the playground. We do not have to be afraid because God has the perfect plan for us."