

Our Choices

Romans 1:18-32

May Memory Verse: Psalm 56:3 “When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.”

NOTE: New verse, new month! Commit to memorizing this one with your kids, but keep practicing Romans 1:16 and other verses they’ve memorized. Young kids are like a sponge when it comes to Scripture memory – take advantage of that!

Opening Activity: Choose one or two that seem most appropriate for your children to start the lesson. Alternatively, feel free to work one or two into the lesson if your kids start getting antsy and losing focus (like ours do).

- Practice saying Psalm 56:3 together. Say it in funny voices, say it as loud or as quiet as you can. When kids express fear throughout the week, remind them of the verse and continue saying it together.
- Pick two spots in your house (for example, the front door and your dining room table). Ask your child to walk from one place to another. Then, ask them to find another way to get there. Help as needed! Keep going until they’ve found all the different ways to get from point A to point B. Ask, “Which way was the fastest? Which way took the longest? Which way do you think was the best? How come?” Talk about how God made one way to get to heaven – Jesus. People want to try lots of different ways to get to heaven, but they won’t work.
- Have each person in your family draw a stick person of yourself. Ask, “Who would you rather spend time with – me or my stick picture?” Talk about how we’d rather spend time with each other, not our drawings. Explain that in today’s lesson, we’re going to talk about how people would rather spend time with the things God made rather than with Him. But God wants us to spend time with Him and worship Him!
- Ask your children who or what they want to thank God for and pray for. Pray together as a family.

NOTE: We believe that all Scripture is profitable for teaching and training in righteousness. But today’s passage can be sensitive for kids – it talks about how people rejected God, so He gave them over to their wrong desires. Preview the passage before teaching the lesson and feel free to recap or summarize parts of the passage, as appropriate for your children. We want teaching to be Truthful but understandable for our kids’ current levels of development and understanding. Don’t throw them a spiritual steak if they’re still drinking milk!

Lesson:

- Provide a quick recap to your kids: “We are learning about the book of Romans, written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus. So far, we have learned that we are called to obey, to belong to Jesus, and to be holy. We also learned about how Paul loved his friends in Rome and wrote them a letter because he wanted them to know about Jesus.”
- Introduce the passage: “Today we are going to read about people who kept making bad choices! These bad choices are called sin and they separate us from God. What is an example of a bad choice or sin?” Wait for answers. Talk about why those are sin, how God feels about those, and what a good or righteous choice would be instead.
- Read Romans 1:18-32, as appropriate. For example:
 - Read verses 18-23
 - Summarize verses 24-32 in an age-appropriate way. Sample phrases are below:
 - Even though people knew God, they kept choosing to sin instead of choosing to love and obey Him.
 - Because of that, God let them keep on sinning.
 - The people knew that they were sinning, but they didn't care.
 - They wanted to do things their way instead of God's way.
- Relate it to your kids: “Sometimes, mommy and daddy ask you to do something (give a concrete example, like putting their shoes away), but you don't obey. That's called sin. We asked you to do that (put your shoes away) because it (helped keep our house clean and showed that you want to be a helper). When you disobeyed, were you thinking about yourself or others? Did you want to do things your way or God's way?” Talk about how, if we love God, we want to please Him and serve Him. One way we do that is by not sinning, making good choices, etc.
- Explain the Gospel: The Bible says, though, that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). The first step to pleasing God is asking Jesus to forgive your sins. We are all sinners. But God sent His son Jesus to earth. Jesus lived a sinless life. He was put to death on the cross, taking the punishment of our sin and guilt. He rose to life three days later, showing that He won over sin and death. If we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He will. Then we can know Him, be part of His family, serve Him, and spend eternity with Him in heaven.
- “This week, we are going to practice making righteous or good choices!”
- Pray, then do a couple of the activities, as appropriate for your family.

Activity Ideas: These are designed for use at the end of the lesson or throughout to break up the “sitting still” if needed.

- Help your kids learn to decipher between a righteous (good) choice and sinful (bad) choice. Ask your child to go get an item (such as their pillow, a shoe, etc.). If your child obeys, praise them for making a righteous or good choice. If they disobey, ask, “Did you make a good choice or a sin choice?” Talk about what a righteous or good choice would have looked like instead.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Random household items.

- Show your kids the effect of sin. Use dominoes (or books, blocks, DVD cases, etc.) to make a path on a flat surface. After all the pieces are set up, have your child knock the first one over. Watch all the other pieces fall. Talk about how one sin leads to another and pretty soon, it's hard to stop sinning. Our sins also affect other people: every item was affected by the very first one falling over.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Dominoes (or books, blocks, DVD cases, etc.), Flat surface

- Place two pieces of masking tape far enough apart that it would be impossible for your child to jump from one to the other. Allow kids to take turns attempting to jump from one mark to the other. Explain that this is exactly what it means to sin and fall short of God's glory. No matter what we do, we can't be good enough. Our sin keeps us from God's perfect standard. Read Romans 6:23. Explain that the Bible says we deserve to die and not go to heaven because we can't reach that mark. But God gives us the gift of eternal life when we trust in Jesus.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Tape

- Take two cups – one with hot water and one with cold water. Pour a packet of hot chocolate powder into each cup and stir. The cup with cold water will remain clumpy and gross. The cocoa will dissolve into the cup with hot water. Ask kids which one they want to drink and why. Just like the cold cocoa looks gross, sin makes our hearts gross and separates us from God.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Cups, Hot Water, Cold Water, Cocoa

- Print the coloring page on the following page (or make your own) to practice the May memory verse.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Coloring page/White paper, Crayons, Markers, etc.

“When I am
afraid, I put
my trust in
YOU.”

Psalm 56:3

