

Our Judgment vs. God's Judgment

Romans 2:1-4

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

NOTE: Commit to memorizing this one with your kids, but keep practicing Romans 1:16 and other verses your family has 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.
- Have a plate of various snacks (cut up fruits, veggies, candy, crackers, etc.). Have kids taste them, then ask, "Which one tastes the best? Which one tastes the worst? Why?" Listen to their responses. Talk about how they *judged* the snacks to pick the best one. If kids didn't agree on which one was best or worst, talk about how we don't always see things the same way. What we think about something may or may not be true. But what God thinks about something is ALWAYS true. God judges based on truth (Romans 2:2).
- Play Simon Says. When "Simon doesn't say" to do something, demonstrate it anyway (i.e., if you say, "Touch your toes," demonstrate touching your toes). Talk about how sometimes we get upset at people for doing something (like touching their toes when Simon didn't say) even when it's something we do, too!
- Ask your children who or what they want to thank God for and pray for. Pray together as a family.

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. 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. Last week, we talked about how people often choose to do what they want instead of what God wants."
- Introduce the passage: "Today we are going to read in Romans about judging people. What does it mean to judge someone?" Wait for answers. Talk about how judging means you are making a decision about that person, what they're doing, etc.
- Read Romans 2:1-4, stopping to repeat verses, explain words, and ask questions, as appropriate for your kiddos. For example:
 - "Who is Paul writing to" His friends in Rome who keep on sinning.

- “While we read, let’s count how many times you hear the word “judge/judging/judgment/etc.”
- “What is God’s judgment based on?” Truth
- Relate it to your kids: “Paul is writing to his friends in Rome about how we sometimes get upset when people do something, even if we do it, too.” Share an example that is relevant to your family, such as, *Sometimes, I forget to put my plate in the sink after dinner. But then I get angry when you forget to do that, too!* “The Bible says to be careful that we don’t judge people when we do the same things we are doing. Why do you think that is?” Listen to their answers. Talk about how God is not pleased when we judge other people. That’s called sin.
- Explain the Gospel: God created everything, including people. But the first people – Adam and Eve – chose to do their own thing instead of obeying God. Now, everyone sins. Sin separates us from God forever. 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.
- “Instead of judging people, the Bible says that we should do something else: we should be kind, patient, and help them repent. What does being kind look like? What does being patient look like? What does repentance look like?” After each question, pause so kids can answer. Help them if they need it. Talk about how repentance is turning 180* away from sin and doing something that pleases God instead.
- “This week, let’s practice being kind, patient, and repenting so that we can be close to God.” 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.

- Find Your Kind. Ask, “Who is someone we can be extra kind to this week?” Help your kids think of someone you can bless as a family this week. Maybe that means taking them a handmade card and cookies, Facetiming them, or sharing a meal together. Talk about how, as a family, we are choosing to Find our Kind and encourage someone else instead of judging them.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Whatever you need to Find Your Kind!
- Write a poem or song about being kind, patient, and repentant. Feel free to substitute in other words that your kids understand (such as “turn away” instead of repentant). Practice saying or singing your poem or song together. Then, throughout the week, continue to practice it, especially when you or your kiddos need that little reminder.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: None
- Print the coloring page on the following page (or make your own) to talk about something kind you can do this week.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Coloring page/White paper, Crayons, Markers, etc.

