

We are all Sinners

Romans 3:1-20

June Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

NOTE: We know it is almost the end of June, but do not despair in memorizing scripture! Try to memorize Philippians 4:13 with your kids, if you do not know it already. When you (or they) run into hard things this week, practice the verse together. Contextually, the verse is talking about being able to endure in persecution because of Christ's strength – remember the hardship He endured on the cross! He gives us His strength when our weakness seems overwhelming. We are working on this verse with our own children this month. As we walk through hard things ahead of us, we know we can do it because of Christ... not because of us.

Opening Activity: Choose one or two that seem most appropriate for your children to start the lesson. Feel free to work them into the lesson if your kids start to get antsy and lose their attention span... like ours do!

- Practice saying Philippians 4:13 together, along with other verses you have memorized. Say it in funny voices, say it as loudly or as quietly as you can, say it while standing on one foot. If your kids are writers, have them write it down on a pretty or cool piece of paper to hand in their bedroom.
- Pray together as a family for any needs you or others have. Remember to thank Him for His blessings and what He is doing in your lives, too.
- Define *sin*: Anything we say, think, or do that displeases God. Give examples.
- Define *righteous*: Acting in a right way. Give examples.

Lesson: The goal here is not to teach a perfect lesson, but to remember that the word of God never returns void (Isaiah 55:11). Our job is to teach His word regularly and faithfully, trusting that He will take care of the rest.

- Provide a quick recap to your kids, especially since it's been a few weeks: "We are learning from the book of Romans about how to live in a way that pleases God. Romans was written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus and wanted others to love Him, too. We have learned that we are called to obey, to belong to Jesus, and to be holy. We've talked a lot about making righteous (or good) choices instead of sinful (or bad) choices. God rewards righteous choices and punishes sinful choices. Obeying in our hearts matters more than obeying with our hands."
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading Romans 3:1-20. Paul is talking about how everyone is a sinner; we all make bad choices."
- Read Romans 3:1-29, stopping to repeat verses, explain words, and ask questions, as appropriate for your kiddos. Focus especially on verses 10-11.
 - *Key concept: There is nothing we can do to become righteous on our own. We are sinful through and through, as the law reveals to us.*
 - This passage explains that all of us (Jews and Gentiles) are sinners. None of us seek God apart from Him drawing us in (vs. 11-12).
 - Our unrighteousness shows how righteous God is (vs. 5) but can never make His faithfulness void (vs. 3). He is constant and does not change based on what we do or don't do.
 - The law (what is written in the 10 Commandments and throughout Scripture) show that we have broken God's commandments. They reveal to us that we are sinners (vs. 20).

Consider reading the passage in The Message or NIV, which are often the easiest to understand. Countless versions of the Bible can be found online at www.biblegateway.com.

- Review the passage:
 - Vs. 3: God is always faithful! Nothing we do can make God stop loving us.
 - Vs. 9: But we are all sinners – both Jews and Greeks.
 - Vs. 11-18: Some ways we sin include:
 - Not seeking God (vs. 11)
 - Turning away from God (vs. 12)
 - Not doing good things (vs. 12)
 - Saying mean things (vs. 13-14)
 - Hurting people (vs. 15)
 - Breaking things (vs. 16)
 - Not being peaceful (vs. 17)
 - Not fearing God (vs. 18)
 - Vs. 20: God's word shows us that we are sinners.

- Connect the Gospel: "God created everything, including people. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God. Now, everyone in the world is born with a sin nature. That means we all sin. The punishment of sin is death and separation from God forever. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth so that we don't have to be punished forever for our sins. Jesus lived a sinless life. He was put to death on a cross, taking the punishment for 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. Eternal life with Jesus is our best reward for following and obeying Him."
- "We are all sinners, but Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. Let's pray and thank Jesus for making salvation and forgiveness possible."
- Pray, then do some of the activities below, as appropriate for your family.

Activity Ideas: These are designed for use at the end of the lesson or throughout it to break up the "sitting still" times.

- Show how sin is all over in our hearts. Flatten a couple of disposable coffee filter and cut a heart out of each one. Have your kids draw a black circle in the middle of one of the hearts and color it in. Talk about how the heart is like our own hearts and the black dot is sin. Just a little bit of sin in our hearts separates us from Jesus. Pour some water in the middle of the dot and let your kids see how the black ink spreads across the whole coffee filter. Talk about how our sin spreads into every part of our hearts and lives. Show them the clean coffee filter heart. Talk about how Jesus forgives our sin and gives us a clean heart when we ask Him to.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Coffee Filters, Scissors, Black Marker, Cup of Water
- Show how sin permeates everything. Get a cup of white milk. Ask your kids what color it is. Add a couple drops of food coloring and stir the milk. Ask what color it is now. Talk about how even just one sin (such as lying, disobeying, or using unkind words) makes our whole heart sinful. But Jesus came so that our sins could be forgiven. Dump out the colored milk and pour a fresh glass. Explain that when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He makes our hearts clean again.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Milk, Cup, Food Coloring
- Start making discussions about sin an everyday thing. When your child disobeys, is mean, or sins in another way, explain that what they did is sin. Sin separates us from God so that we can't be near Him. Because of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven. Jesus gives us a new heart that wants to obey God. Help your child pray and ask for forgiveness from God, then apologize to whomever was hurt by his/her sin.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: None
- Print the following memory verse coloring page (or create your own).
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Printer, Paper, Crayons/Markers/etc.



I can do
all things
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Philippians 4:13