

Death to Life

Romans 6:1-14

July Memory Verse: Psalm 34:14 "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

NOTE: What a simple, yet powerful reminder to kids *and* to us! As believers, we are to turn from evil and do good. We are to seek and pursue peace. Try to weave this verse into your everyday life this month.

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 you kids start to get antsy and lose their attention span... like ours do!

- Practice saying Psalm 34:14 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.

Lesson: The word of God never returns void (Isaiah 55:11), so rest assured that regardless of how well you think the lesson goes, God will accomplish His purposes in it. 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: "We are still 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. It is our faith in God that makes us righteous, not the things we do, just like Abraham's faith made him righteous. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can have peace with God and be reconciled to Him. Our faith in Jesus makes us righteous, not the things we do."
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading Romans 6:1-14. It talks about how, just like Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we are to die to our sin. By choosing to follow Jesus, we are choosing life with Jesus!"
- Read Romans 6:1-14, stopping to repeat verses, explain words, and ask questions, as appropriate for your kiddos. After reading the passage, point to your word posters from the intro activities and talk about the context for each word.
 - *Key concept: Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. Rather than continuing to sin because we can, we should die to sin, meaning that we don't want to sin anymore. Now we can live for Jesus.*

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. 1-4: Our faith in Jesus makes us righteous, not what we do... but that does not mean we can do whatever we want! We are called to live a new life as we follow God.
 - Vs. 5-7: We are not slaves to sin anymore. We have freedom from wanting to do bad things and make bad choices.
 - Vs. 8-14: Since we are not slaves to sin, we are free to follow God however He calls us to. He can use us in really cool ways as we obey Him.
- Connect the Gospel: "God created everything, including people, to be good. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God when they ate fruit God told them not to eat. 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. If we have faith in Jesus, we are declared righteous. That makes us want to make good choices and follow Him."
- "I'm so thankful that I am not tied to sin anymore! Jesus declared us righteous (or good before God) so that we can follow Him."
- 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.

- Get two pieces of paper – one dark (gray or brown) and one light (white or yellow). Have your children help you think about examples of sin, bad choices, etc. and write them on the dark paper. Together, think about good choices and write them on the lighter paper. Compare the two pieces of paper. Which one has things that are pleasing to God? Tear up the dark piece of paper as you discuss how God wants us to turn away from those things so that we can make right choices that please Him. Pray together that God will help you make good choices.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Dark Paper, Light Paper, Markers/Crayons/Pens
- Find a dark room in your house and make sure the lights are all off. Ask what your kids can see. Can they tell what anything is? Is it scary sitting in the dark? That's how sin is: it is dark and can be scary. Turn on a flashlight. Explain that Jesus came as the light of the world – He made everything good and right again. As we follow Him, we become lights that shine, too. We make good choices, not bad choices; we turn away from darkness and into the light! Let your kids shine the flashlight around the room to see what they can see.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Dark room, Flashlight
- Go on a nature walk outside. Look for plants or leaves that are dead and others that are alive. Take them back home. Discuss how just like some of the plants are dead, we need to turn away (or die to) sin. That means we no longer make bad choices or want to do bad things. Some plants are alive! When we turn away from sin, we are able to live how God wants us to, following Jesus and obeying Him.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Dead Plants, Living Plants
- Write “Sin” and “Life” on separate pieces of paper. Put them on the floor, across from each other, with space for your child to stand between them. Have your child stand up on the floor facing “Sin.” Tell them, “God wants us to turn away from sin and follow Jesus instead.” Have your child turn away from “Sin” so that he/she is facing “Life.” Talk about how following Jesus is the only way that we can have eternal life or a life of blessing here on earth.
SUPPLIES NEEDED: Paper, Pen/Marker

Word Find

G R K L A W E R R O J P A U L
L O M B N U I R O H B V C O M
R S D T L N E A M I U L O P J
K I R F S A L V A T I O N P W
I D H U Y V C E N D U V I O B
E A E A B W E U S J R E S T I
L G R A C E N K E R S A I U B
S S Q W T M N B V C X Z J L L
K J H G F H D S A Q W E E R E
T Y U I O S I N P L M N S K O
I J B V G H U Y F T C R U D X
Z S E W A Q I J C H O O S E I
L I F E J W S E R C T P L M N

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE ABOVE!

BIBLE
CHOOSE
DEATH
GOD

GRACE
JESUS
LIFE
LOVE

PAUL
ROMANS
SALVATION
SIN

