

Delivered from Sin Nature

Romans 7:1-25

August Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

NOTE: What a great truth to teach our children and preach to ourselves as well! Because of our sin, we have earned death. But God's gift to us through Christ is eternal life.

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 this month's memory verse 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 hang in their bedroom. Come up with motions that you can do while saying the verse, too.
- 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.
- Remind kids of the definition of *sin*: anything we say, think, or do that displeases God.
 - Ask for examples of sin.
 - Ask, "How do you know that is sin?"
 - We know things are sin because God's word says so and the Holy Spirit convicts us.
- Review the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) with your kids. Talk about how we can never follow all the commandments perfectly.

Note: We are looking at a long passage today that covers lots of topics. We are no longer bound to the law, but to Christ. The law (the Bible) teaches us what sin is and points it out in our lives. Even when we desire to follow God, we can (and do) still sin. God can help us have victory over sin. *Focus primarily on how we are tempted to sin, but we can have victory over sin in Jesus.*

Lesson: As you teach God's word this week, remember that He is using your faithfulness to accomplish His good purposes... whether it seems like it in the moment or not! Don't lose heart and don't give up. The seeds you are planting NOW will yield fruit.

- 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. Jesus gives us life so that we can serve Him."
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading a long passage from Romans 7. Let's find it in our Bibles together. While I read, listen for the word *law*. The law in this passage refers to the 10 Commandments God gave Moses in Exodus 20 and all of the other laws that helped the Israelites know how to live."
- Read Romans 7:1-25, stopping to explain concepts or verses as you go. Ask questions to keep your kids engaged. Consider reading from The Message to make it more understandable to kids. Alternatively, read a few key verses and explain the rest of the passage.
 - *Key Concept: The law shows us we are sinners, but Jesus can give us victory over sin.*
- Review the passage:
 - Vs. 1-6: When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, we are no longer bound to the law. Instead, we are bound to Christ! Our goal is no longer to follow the law perfectly, but to follow Jesus.
 - Vs. 7-10: The law (10 Commandments, rules, etc.) are not bad, but they show us how sinful we are. For example, if we know the rule is, "Don't put your feet on the couch," then when we do put our feet on the couch, we know we are sinning because the rule says so. (Use an example that makes sense to your kids.)
 - Vs. 11-13: God uses the law to show us that we need Him.

- Vs. 14-20: Sometimes, even when we know the right thing to do, we don't do it! That's because sin still lives in us. Jesus doesn't take away our sin nature; instead, He transforms our nature over time to be more like His.
- Vs. 21-25: There are two natures at war within us: The nature that Jesus made new that wants to follow Him and our old sin nature that wants to sin or make bad choices. Only Jesus can save us from our sinful nature as we follow Him.
- Connect the Gospel: *"When God created everything, including people, He made us good, without a sin nature. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God when they ate fruit God told them not to eat. They became slaves to sin. Now, everyone in the world is born with a sin nature. That means we are all slaves to sin, too. 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."*
- Close the lesson: *"I'm so thankful my sin nature is not the only nature in me! Jesus gives me a nature that's like His so I 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 to break up the "sitting still" times. Be in tune with what your kids need in order to make this lesson the most effective for them.

- *Go on a Nature Walk:* This lesson talks about how we have two natures (qualities or characteristics that are essential to who we are): a sin nature, which is all things wrong and sinful within us; and the nature of God, who is working in us to make us more like Him. Explain this to your kids, then go on a nature walk together. Look for things to represent our sin nature (dead leaves or plants, broken sticks, etc.) and things to represent the nature of God (beautiful flowers, green leaves, etc.). Talk about how God works in us, in spite of our sin nature, to make us more like Him. Throw away the "sin nature" items and display the "God nature" items in a prominent place for the rest of the day.
- *Color Moses and the 10 Commandments.* Print the following coloring page (or make your own!) and review the 10 commandments from Exodus 20.
- *Talk about the nature of God.* Want to go a little further with discussing how God makes us more like Him? Reference the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. These are the characteristics God develops in us through His Spirit to make us more like Him.

