

God's Love Never Ends

Romans 8:31-39

September Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

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 tend to get antsy and need an activity to regroup.

- 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.
- Before the lesson, superglue two small items together (such as small rocks). Ask your kids to take them apart. Give them different tools to use to try and separate the items (such as a plastic spoon, a cup of water, GooGone, etc.). When they can't get the two items apart, explain that God's love is like that: Nothing can separate us from God's love!

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 victory over sin and be reconciled to God (made right with God). Jesus gives us life so that we can serve Him... and we can be excited about what is going to happen in the future!"
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading from Romans 8:31-39. This passage talks about how God helps us win because nothing can separate us from His love."
- Read Romans 8:31-39, 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: We can never be separated from God's love for us.*
- Review the passage.
 - Vs. 30-34: Because of what Jesus did on the cross...
 - God is for us – He's on our side!
 - God gives us all things (James 1:17)
 - God justifies us; no one can condemn us because Jesus fights for us.
 - Vs. 35-37: Even when hard things happen in life...
 - We can be more than conquerors in Christ!
 - We can have victory over trouble, hard things, danger, fear, and more.
 - Vs. 38-39: Nothing can separate us from God's love, including...
 - Death and life
 - Angels and demons
 - The present or the future
 - Any powers
 - Height or depth
 - Anything in all creation!
- Connect the Gospel: "When God created people, He made us without a sin nature. But the first people God made, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God and became slaves to sin. Now, everyone in the world is born with a sin nature and is a slave to sin, too. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God forever. But God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth so that we could be forgiven. Jesus lived a sinless life. He died 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. The Holy Spirit helps us do that and makes us more like Jesus."

- Close the lesson: "Even though we are all sinners, nothing can separate us from God's love. He will always love us. Let's work this week on making good choices that show we love God, too."
- 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.

- Use water colors (or other paints) to demonstrate how, at salvation, God makes us new. Nothing can separate us from Him after that. Take two primary paint colors (red and yellow; blue and yellow; blue and red). Put a little of each on a plate. Explain that one of the colors represents your kids and the other represents God. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He makes us new (mix the colors together to make orange, green, or purple). After we're made new (after we're a new color), nothing can separate us from God again. Let your kids paint a picture with the new color.
- Take two strings or pieces of rope and tie them together with a tight knot. Explain that this is how we are with God: we are tied together with Him through Jesus. Nothing can loosen that knot!
- Color it in! Print the following coloring page to start practicing this month's memory verse.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

**BE ON YOUR GUARD;
STAND FIRM
IN THE FAITH;
BE COURAGEOUS;
BE STRONG;
DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE!**

