

# For God Alone

Romans 9:1-29

**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.
- Gather different objects from around your house (examples: a spoon, a cup, scissors, a chair, a hat). Hold up each item and ask your kids, "What is this used for?" Have them provide different uses for each item. Then, show a picture of a beautiful sunrise, the Northern Lights, or a pretty flower. Ask, "What is this used for?" Talk about how God created everything to have a purpose... but sometimes, that purpose is just to glorify God and point people to Him. We all have a purpose, but our main purpose is to glorify (or worship) God and point others to Him.

**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. We can be excited about what is going to happen in the future, knowing that nothing will separate us from God's love!"
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading from Romans 9:1-29. God does things so that He is most glorified, and we're going to learn more about that today."
- Read Romans 9:1-29, stopping to explain concepts or verses as you go. Ask questions to keep your kids engaged. Feel free to read a section, then review it using some of the notes below. You could also read from The Message or another kid-friendly translation to make it more understandable to kids.
  - *Key Concept: We don't always understand, but God's plan is for God's glory.*
- Review the passage.
  - Vs. 1-5
    - Paul really wanted all of the Israelites to know God and follow Him.
    - God started to reveal His plan for mankind through the Israelites.
    - Paul didn't want them to miss out on who Jesus was: The Savior!
  - Vs. 6-13
    - The Israelites were God's chosen people, but it isn't just Israelites who are God's children.
    - Anyone who believes in Jesus is part of God's family.
    - God calls us to salvation; we can't do enough good things to be saved.
  - Vs. 14-18
    - God is merciful. That means He forgives sins.
    - Our sins aren't forgiven because we want it or have earned it.
    - Our sins are forgiven because God is merciful to us and so that everyone around the world will know Him.
  - Vs. 19-29
    - God does things so that He can show us how merciful He is.
    - He shows us grace, kindness, and patience.

- 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: "God forgives us for His own glory. He loves us and wants us to be close to Him, but He also wants us to tell others about Him. It isn't all about us... our lives are for God alone."
- 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 and look for things in creation that were made just for God's glory. For example, look for a pretty little flower, a rock shaped like a heart, a giant leaf, and more.
- Paint a picture of nature (such as a sunset, a lake, mountains, etc.). Talk about how those things reflect God's glory. How do they make people think of God? How do they encourage people to worship God?
- Draw your family tree. This passage in Romans talks about how Israel was the chosen people, but we aren't saved if we are descendants of Israel. We have to choose for ourselves to follow God or not. Talk about how even if your parents or grandparents are saved, that doesn't mean you are. Everyone has to choose for themselves whether or not they want to follow Jesus. If your kids have questions about salvation, answer them!
- Color it in! Print the following coloring page about God's glory.

**CREATION DECLARES HIS GLORY!**

