

# Not Rejected

Romans 11:1-10

**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.
- Today's passage refers to an event in 1 Kings 19, where Elijah flees for his life, is cared for by an angel, and God appears to him in a cave. If your children aren't familiar with the event, take some time to review it. You could use toys or drawings of stick figures to act it out, focusing primarily on how Elijah felt very alone, but God reminded him that there are thousands of people who are still following 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 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 so many different things already, but I think it's important to remember that God cares more about our hearts than our hands. He wants us to be kind and obedient in our hearts. Jesus helps us do that!"
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading from Romans 11:1-10. Sometimes, when we sin, it's hard to remember that God still wants us to be in His family. We might be tempted to think that God wants to reject us or leave us alone forever. But that is not what He does! Let's read about what God does."
- Read Romans 11:1-10, stopping to explain words 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: By grace, God keeps His followers!*
- Review the passage.
  - Vs. 1
    - Paul is talking about who he is: an Israelite, from Abraham's family, a relative of Benjamin.
    - Paul reminds the readers that God does not reject His people.
  - Vs. 2-4
    - *If you did not review the event in 1 Kings 19 during the opening activity, do so now.*
    - Paul is reminding his readers about when Elijah felt all alone.
      - Elijah was a man who followed God.
      - He felt like he was the only one still obeying God and he was scared.
      - But God reminded him that there were thousands of people still following Him.
    - As Christians, it is easy to feel alone sometimes. We might think we're the only ones being obedient.
    - But just like God reminded Elijah, we aren't alone!
  - Vs. 5-6
    - We are saved by grace, remember?
    - God will always hold onto His people by grace. God can't let us go!
    - We don't earn it by what we do; God gives that grace freely because of Jesus.
  - Vs. 7-10
    - There are some people who will choose not to believe in Jesus or accept His gift of salvation.
- Connect the Gospel: "When God created people, He made them good and with free will. The first people God made, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God. Now, everyone sins, too. The punishment for sin is separation from God forever. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus lived a sinless life. He died on a

cross, taking the punishment for our sin. 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 spend eternity with Him in heaven."

- Close the lesson: "Even when we feel like we're the only ones following Jesus, God reminds us that there are a lot of other people following Him, too. We haven't been rejected and we aren't 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.

- Keep practicing this month's memory verse. Try putting motions to it to help your kids (and you!) remember each phrase.
- Turn to 1 Kings 19:11-13 in your Bible. Talk about how God told Elijah to stand on the mountain while He passed by. Stand against the wall in your house and have your kids act like a giant wind, an earthquake, and fire. Talk about how those things are big and powerful... but God wasn't in any of those things. They were just big and noisy things! Next, have your kids act like a gentle whisper. Talk about how God was in that gentle whisper. Ask, "What does that mean about God?" Give your kids an opportunity to answer. Talk about how God is big and powerful, just like a giant wind, an earthquake, and fire... but God desires for us to be close to Him. He was in the gentle whisper so that Elijah could be close to Him. God is a gentle whisper to us, too, so that we can be close to Him.
- Print the following page (or draw your own) to give your kids a fun, calming activity to wrap up the lesson.

# GOD IS IN THE STILL SMALL VOICE

