

Grafted In

Romans 11:11-36

October Memory Verse: Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

- Explain to your kids what this verse means. We are to treat one another with love. We are to treat other people like they are more important than we are. Life isn't about us!

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.
- Go on a tree or plant walk in your yard or neighborhood. Talk about the different types of trees and plants you see. What would it be like if two of the plants combined to make one new plant? Use the plants you see to build a silly example, such as, what if a birch tree all of a sudden had raspberry branches coming off of it? What would that be like?

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 11:11-36. This passage talks about how God grafts (or includes) us into His family."
- Read Romans 11:11-36, 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: We are grafted into God's family!*
- Review the passage.
 - Vs. 11-16
 - There were two types of people in Paul's time: Jews (those who followed God's Law; not all the Jews accepted Jesus's gift of salvation) and Gentiles (those who did not follow God's law or know Jesus).
 - Paul was writing to the Gentiles so that they could learn about God. Paul wanted the Gentiles to accept Jesus's gift of salvation.
 - Some of the Jews didn't like that Gentiles could know God, too. They were jealous that God would choose them to be part of His family.
 - But Paul wanted the Jews to want to know Jesus, too. He wanted them to be a little bit jealous so that they would turn to God.
 - It isn't good to make people jealous, but in this case, Paul was using the Jew's jealousy to point them to who Jesus is.
 - Vs. 17-21
 - Paul is using the picture of a tree to show the Gentiles how they are part of God's family.
 - Gentiles (or anyone who doesn't believe in God) can be part of God's family by becoming a branch attached to God's tree.
 - By faith, God connects us to His family. He is the One who supports us all and makes us grow.
 - Vs. 22-24
 - God is so kind to build us into His family.
 - Anyone who believes in Him can be part of His family tree!

- Vs. 25-32
 - God still loves the Jewish people! They are still His chosen people.
 - But right now, not all the Jews believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
 - We can help tell everyone, including Jews, about Jesus' gift of salvation.
- Vs. 33-36
 - This is a little worship chorus right in the middle of Paul's teaching.
 - Paul is so excited about what God has done and thankful to be part of His family that he starts worshiping God here!
 - We can't understand everything about God... but we can still praise Him.
 - *Spend a minute thanking God or singing a short song to Him in praise, like Paul did.*
- 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: "I'm so thankful we can be part of the family of God. We were 'grafted in' and we can't be taken off again!"
- 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.

- Practice this month's memory verse. Try putting motions to it to help your kids (and you!) remember each phrase. Print off the coloring sheet below to color and hang in your house. Reference it throughout the week as you practice your verse.
- Show your kids this video of how an olive branch is grafted into a tree:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2Z9hLNfCaA>. As you watch it, talk about what the man is doing in each step. At the end, he covers the branch so it can grow and become a permanent part of the tree.
- Try drawing a picture of your own family tree. Talk about grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. Remind kids that they are part of your family forever, just like we can be part of God's family forever.

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Romans 12:10