

Paul's Calling

Romans 15:14-33

November Memory Verse: Proverbs 18:10 "The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe."

- Make a contest within your family to see who can memorize this verse first. Offer a prize, such as an ice cream date, a small toy, or a special outing.
- Practice the verse throughout the week, especially when your kids feel scared.

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.
- With your kids, make a map that leads from your child's bedroom to the back door. Draw different pieces of furniture that are on the path, doorways, etc. Talk about how a map is like a plan for how to get from one place to another. Follow the map together to see how it turned out!

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.

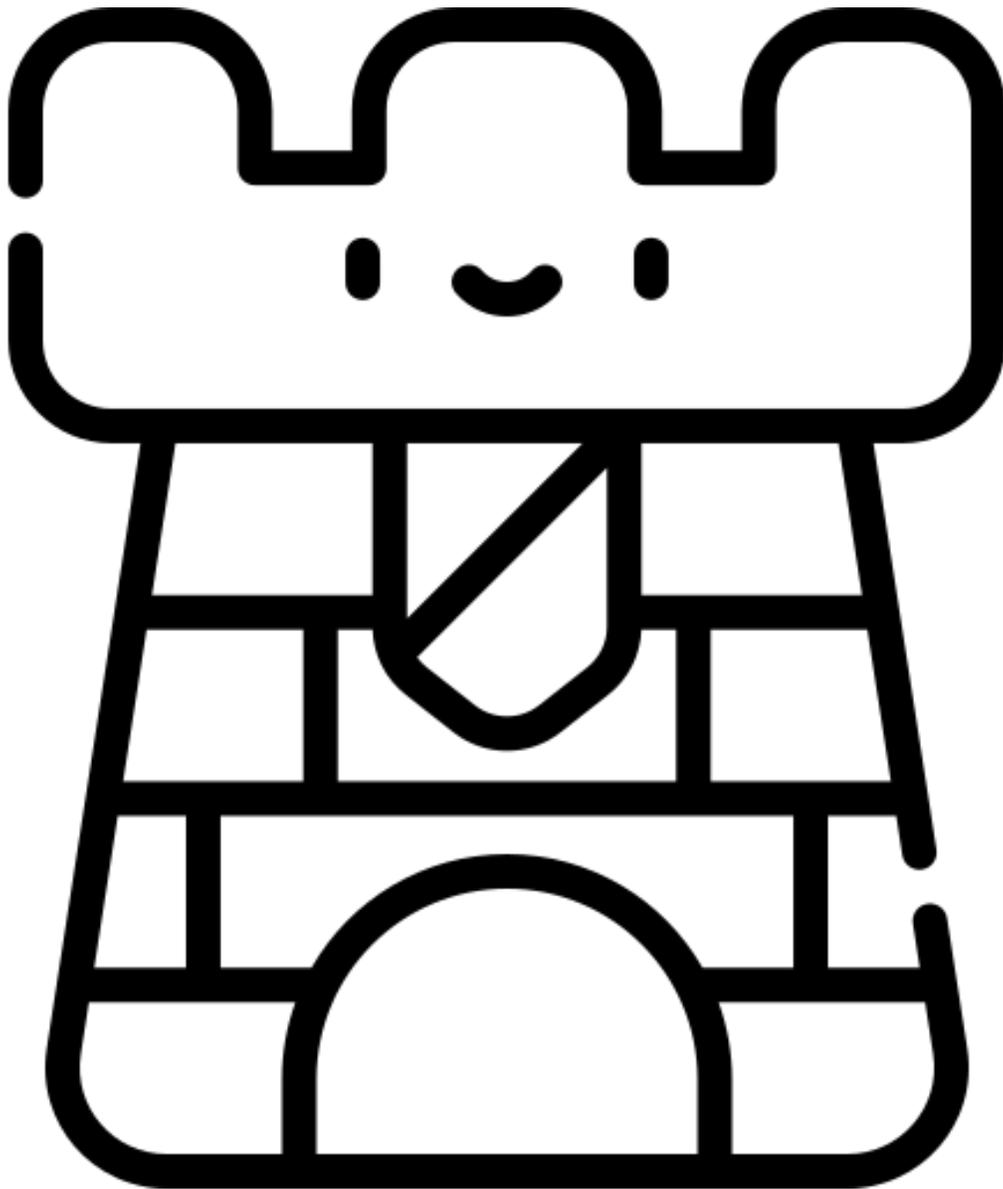
- Provide a quick recap to your kids: "We are learning from the book of Romans about how to live in a way that pleases God. Romans was written by a missionary named Paul who loved Jesus and wanted others to love Him, too. We have learned so many different things already, but I think it's important to 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 15:14-33. This passage talks about the special job God gave Paul to tell people about Him. Paul also talks about his next plan to go to Spain so he can keep telling people about Jesus."
- Read the passage. As you do, pause to clarify words or passages. You could read the passage from The Message or another kid-friendly translation to make it more understandable to kids.
 - *Key Concept: God has a special job for each of us and He helps us do that job!*
- Review the passage:
 - Vs. 14-16
 - Paul explains to his friends in Rome that his special job was to tell the Gentiles about Jesus.
 - Paul trusts that his friends in Rome are able to teach, too! They can help one another learn more about God.
 - Paul wrote a lot of important information to his friends in Rome, and we just studied through all of it... Wow!
 - Just like God gave Paul a special job to do, He gives us a special job, too! Some people are teachers, some are doctors, some are mechanics... but no matter what, we all have a special job to tell people about Jesus.
 - Vs. 17-22
 - Paul traveled all over the place so that he could tell people about Jesus.
 - He went to places where no one had ever heard about Jesus before.
 - Do you think that took courage? Who helped Paul be brave? God helped him!
 - Paul's goal was to preach or tell people about Jesus wherever he could.
 - How can we tell people about Jesus wherever we go?
 - Vs. 23-29
 - Paul shares that his next plan is to visit friends in Jerusalem, go to Rome, and then travel to Spain.
 - We don't know if Paul ever made it to Spain or not. But that doesn't matter! What matters is that Paul did whatever he could to tell people about Jesus, wherever he was.

- Paul was excited to get to visit his friends and share with them about what God was doing around the world.
 - Vs. 30-33
 - Paul invites his friends in Rome to help in his job by praying for him.
 - We can pray for people, too. By doing that, we are helping them do what God calls them to do!
 - Who is working for God right now? How can we pray for them?
- 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: "God gives us each a special job to do. We can tell people about Him wherever we go, just like Paul did."
- 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.

- Color the page below with your kids to start cementing this month's memory verse into your mind.
- Look at a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Talk about all the places he went to tell people about Jesus. Then, look at a map of the world. Ask your kids, "If you could go anywhere to tell people about Jesus, where would you want to go?" Look up facts and information about the places they picked.

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Proverbs 18:10