

The End of Romans

Romans 16:1-27

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

- Continue practicing the November memory verse, using silly voices, actions, etc.

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.
- Show your kids the last chapter in the book of Romans. Help them get familiar with the passage before you read it together. Count how many different names Paul mentions (at least 35!). Point out the last paragraph of instruction (vs. 17-20). Point out Paul's closing note (vs. 25-27) and how it is praise to God.

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: "Today, we are wrapping up our study of Romans! For a long time, we've been learning about how to live in a way that pleases God from a man named Paul. We have learned so many different things already, and today we're reading Paul's final message to his friends in Rome."
- Introduce the passage: "Today, we are reading from Romans 16:1-27. In this passage, Paul greets a lot of his friends, writes a final note of instruction, and praises God. Let's read it together!"
- 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: Paul's letter to Rome might be done, but our work isn't!*
- Review the passage:
 - Vs. 1-16
 - Paul greets a lot of his friends, relatives, and fellow believers by name.
 - We don't know a lot about most of these people, but we know that they all loved God, worked to serve Him and other people, and were an encouragement to Paul.
 - How we live shows other people that we love God and other people.
 - Vs. 17-20
 - Paul warns his friends to watch out for people who aren't teaching the truth.
 - Sometimes people want to do their own thing instead of what God calls us to do. Those people can cause lots of fights and arguments, and instead of bringing unity, they cause division.
 - Paul knows his friends are smart and obedient to God's word, but he wants them to be guard against people who don't follow Jesus.
 - Vs. 21-24
 - Other people who were there with Paul got a chance to send their greetings, too!
 - People didn't get to travel or talk as much back in Paul's time. They didn't have cell phones, FaceTime or email. They could only talk by letter!
 - It was really special for Paul's friends to get to say hi to their friends in Rome.
 - Vs. 25-27
 - Paul ends the book of Romans by praising God.
 - He recognizes that God is able to guide His people, make Himself known, and draw all nations to Himself... and he praises God for that!
 - What a perfect way to end the book of Romans: by praising God!
 - We have lots of reasons to praise God, don't we? One of those reasons is the Gospel.
- 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: "We spent a long time studying Romans and learning how to live in a way that pleases God. Most of all, we please God when we worship Him. Let's thank Him for the opportunity to study His word and praise Him for who He is!"
- 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.

- The last coloring page should be a celebration that even kids can study God's word. Print and color it together, making it a big deal that they've studied through the whole book of Romans with you!
- Have a Rome party! Dress in togas (aka, bed sheets), eat Roman-esque food (such as grapes, cheese, olives, oranges, and bread), and watch this video with your kids (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQMgLxVxsrw>)

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