

LESSON 60

Believe & Confess

ROMANS 10:1-17



BIBLE TRUTH

SALVATION IN CHRIST IS FREE FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Romans 10:1–17 from the Scriptures or read story 138, “Believe & Confess,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Not Good News for the Stubborn

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ chair
- ✓ length of rope
- ✓ an adult helper

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Testimony Time

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a guest to share his/her testimony

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 60—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Beautiful Shoes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an old pair of your shoes
- ✓ gold spray paint
- ✓ sequins
- ✓ glue

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Salvation cannot be earned—In Romans 10, Paul continues to hammer away at the idea that our righteousness cannot be earned. Paul repeats that we are saved by a righteousness that comes by faith and not by our own works (Romans 10:6). He wants to ensure that his hearers know that our righteousness comes from Christ and not from what we do. This is important because some, especially in Paul’s day, rejected the message and insisted on continuing to follow the law as a means to justify themselves before God (Romans 10:3–4).

Salvation is near—Paul wants to be sure that everyone understands that the required work of righteousness has been done by God. He suggests that to try and be righteous by the law is like bringing Christ down from heaven by your own power or causing Christ to rise from the dead by your own power. The point is that God has already done these things! There is no more work to be done but to believe the word that is near us. The word is already in our mouths and in our hearts. We simply need to believe what we know and confess our belief and trust in the Lord (Romans 10:8–9). Then we will be saved (Romans 10:13).

Salvation is spread by preaching the gospel—The good news of the gospel message is that all of the requirements of the law have been met in Christ! All the work is done. All across the land, people in Paul’s day were trying to earn their salvation. The same is true today. People try to do good deeds and keep the law to make themselves righteous. By sharing the bad news of the curse of sin upon everyone (Romans 3) we have the opportunity to share the good news, that through the sinless life of Christ, the work is done. The righteous life of Christ is available to everyone who believes by faith. That is surely “good news” (Romans 10:15)!

It sounds simple, but Paul was aware that not everyone who heard the message accepted the message. Many of the Jews refused to believe, just as the prophets had predicted. However, many Gentiles accepted the message of the gospel.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Romans chapter 10 is filled with gospel truth. We learn that we cannot work our way to heaven but need a righteousness that cannot be earned. We learn that if we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths, we will be saved. There is no more encouraging verse than Romans 10:13: "*Everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (italics added). It doesn't say that *some* who call will be saved, or *most* who call will be saved. It doesn't say that God will put a slip of paper in a bowl for each person who calls upon his name and then pick out five to be saved. It says that *everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This, of course, must be considered in light of the verses that came before it. The calling on the name of the Lord is a desperate call based on a realization that we cannot save ourselves, and only the Lord's work on the cross and his resurrection can bring hope. But, then, if we have that faith, if we believe in the gospel and trust in Jesus, we have this promise: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"!

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Romans 10:1–17 from the Scriptures or read story 138, "Believe & Confess," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 **15 MIN**

Not Good News for the Stubborn

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ chair
- ✓ length of rope
- ✓ an adult helper

The object of this lesson is to show just how stubborn we can be.

Your helper interrupts just as you start to teach the class.

HELPER: *(coming up to you carrying the rope)* Hey, can I show you an escape trick. If you tie my hands behind my back I can break free on my own, no matter how hard you tie them.

TEACHER: *(hesitating)* You know, this really isn't a good time. I'm trying to teach the class about righteousness and sin.

HELPER: *(taking a seat)* I have a way to work this into your lesson if you would only let me.

TEACHER: *(after some hesitation, reluctantly getting to work at tying the helper's hands behind the chair)* Well...OK.

HELPER: Do you see how this relates to the lesson? The rope represents sin and my breaking free represents how God helps us break free from sin. *(Tied up securely, the helper starts straining to break free, offering excuses as to why it's taking so long.)*

TEACHER: Can I get you started by loosening the knot?

HELPER: Absolutely not, just give me a little more time.

For the next part of the class teach about how our righteousness is a free gift and how the Jews insisted on earning righteousness themselves. Every so often, turn to the struggling helper and ask if you can help free him. He should get rather obstinate, saying he will do it himself.

Thank your helper for doing such a good job of illustrating your lesson. The rope is sin and it has him all bound up. He can't free himself—become righteous—on his own. Salvation is near at hand; he needs to accept your help. But like stubborn Israel, he rejects salvation.

Finally, have your helper ask for your help in doing what he is unable to do—free himself from the rope—the bonds of sin.

Ask the class how the skit illustrates those who refuse the gospel.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 15 MIN

Testimony Time

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a guest to share his/her testimony

Review the gospel with your children and make sure they all know what the message is. (Don't assume they know it.)

Invite a guest to share their testimony of becoming a Christian. Make sure that you choose a person who didn't grow up in a Christian home. Invite the class to ask questions about how the guest's life has changed.

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 60—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why is there a cross on the person's heart?**
(The cross represents his belief that Jesus died and was raised from the dead.)
- **Why is there a drop of blood in the heart?**
(To remind us that Jesus shed his blood on the cross to cover our sins.)

- Who helps a person go from having a sinful, unbelieving heart to a trusting, faith-filled, believing heart?

(God changes our hearts by the power and work of the Holy Spirit.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Beautiful Shoes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an old pair of your shoes
- ✓ gold spray paint
- ✓ sequins
- ✓ glue

Spray paint the old shoes and glue sequins to them—the gaudier they look, the better. Wear them to class.

Use this object lesson to bring out the correct meaning of Romans 10:15.

Have a volunteer ask you about your shoes. Tell him that they are gospel shoes. When he asks you what gospel shoes are, tell him that the gospel is spread more effectively when you wear these shoes.

Puzzled, the volunteer should ask if they are working. Reply that they are not working; in fact, you have not spoken to a single person. Explain that as soon as people see your shoes they walk away thinking you're a little strange.

Play out the silliness of the misunderstanding for awhile. Then have your helper ask you what gave you the idea to decorate your shoes like that. Take him to Romans 10:15 and just smile. Your helper can read the verse aloud and then explain that it's not beautiful shoes that make the gospel, it's the gospel that makes beautiful shoes. In other words, the gospel is such good news that those who share it are beautiful for they bring the message of salvation.

Include the class in the conversation and then explain why the gospel is the best news of all.

