

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 10 MIN

Everyone

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pretzels—one for each student

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Mean What You Say

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large cloth sack or pillowcase stuffed with crumpled newspaper
- ✓ waiver (Print out as follows: “If I die, or am injured, or get very sick, I promise that neither I nor my parents will take _____ (Insert your name) to court.”)

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Preach the Gospel

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

“How Good Are You?”

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ gospel tracts—one for each student

TOTAL 75 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Good News

The “good news” is another name for the gospel. Literally gospel means the “good message.” Jesus called the message of the kingdom good news and commissioned the disciples to take

it to the nations (Mark 16:15). In Greek, there is only one word that in English is translated “the gospel was preached.” In English we add the verb preached to the noun gospel, but in the Greek they are one. That seems appropriate, for the gospel demands proclamation. Too often we hold the gospel to ourselves and do not proclaim it as good news for others.

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 10 MIN

Everyone

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pretzels—one for each student

Tell the class that you have a snack for EVERYONE who calls to you and asks you for some. (It is important that you use the word EVERYONE because that’s the word Paul uses in Romans 10:11 and 10:13.) Then start talking about how wonderful pretzels are as a snack in a classroom. (Say, for example, “The salt enhances the toasted flavor of the light brown crust on the outside of the pretzel.”)

Give a pretzel to each child who asks for one. Use this exercise in your teaching to help the children see how the gospel is available to EVERYONE who calls upon the name of the Lord. There are other parallels that you could make to this object lesson.

The children didn’t ask you for pretzels; you knew their need for a snack and brought them of your initiative when they were not asking.

The children didn’t do anything to earn the pretzels; they were a free gift.

The children couldn’t earn the pretzels by their own works.

Not only did you bring the pretzels, but you also encouraged them to eat them by explaining how good they were.

Go back to this illustration as you teach through the lesson.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESON 2 **10 MIN****Mean What You Say****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a large cloth sack or pillowcase stuffed with crumpled newspaper
- ✓ waiver (Print out as follows: “If I die, or am injured, or get very sick, I promise that neither I nor my parents will take _____ (Insert your name) to court.”)

Tell the children that it is very easy to say something without really meaning it. Many people say they want to follow Jesus. Many people say they want to give their lives to him, but then they go on to live their lives very differently. Words are cheap compared with actions.

Pick up the sack and ask, “Who is not afraid to put their hand in this sack?” (Wait for a response by a show of hands.) Continue by saying, “I’ve got a bag here with something I brought from my camping trip. Who’d like to put their hand in and feel it?”

Then say, “Before I pick someone to put their hand in this bag, I think it’s important to let you know that of the ten deadliest snakes in the United States, a few of them live around here. For instance, the timber rattler is small but has a deadly bite. The copperhead, though not deadly, has a painful and poisonous bite. I just don’t want you to put your hand in without being properly warned about what might be in my bag. Does anyone still want to put their arm inside and feel what’s in there?”

Continue, “Some of you still do? Well before you do I should warn you that we also have some ugly, large, poisonous spiders in this area. The brown recluse and black widow both carry very potent venom. Is there anyone who is still not afraid to put their hand in my sack?”

Pick a volunteer and then interview them, asking if they are certain they are not afraid. Then show them the waiver.

“Before you put your hand in, I have a waiver that I’d like you to sign. It says, ‘If I die, or am injured, or get very sick, I promise that neither I nor my parents will take _____ (Insert your name) to court.’ Are you still certain you want to put your hand in the bag?”

Assuming they are still willing and you don’t need to pick another volunteer, hold the sack away from your body and open it a little. As soon as their hand gets close, shout “Be careful”

and shake the bag. The person—maybe the whole class—will jump. If the person jumps, ask for another volunteer who is really not afraid and repeat the process. The second person might still jump.

Use this exercise as an example of how easy it is to say something with our words that might not be true in our hearts. It is easy to say you believe God with your mouth; the real question is what is going on in your heart. It's easy to say something and not really mean it. In the same way many people may say Jesus is Lord, or sing songs to Jesus like we are doing here this morning, but as life gets hard or they get tempted, they don't keep following Jesus because they haven't really been changed on the inside. We need to ask God to change our hearts.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

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

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Preach the Gospel

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of a person preaching the gospel.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

"How Good Are You?"

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ gospel tracts—one for each student

Walk the class through an evangelistic tract like “How Good Are You” (available at <http://www.sovereigngracestore.com>) to help them know how to share the gospel. Feel free to enlist the help of someone who is more familiar with the tract. Also, make sure that you don’t assume that everyone in the class is already a Christian. Make a point to explain that the first person we need to see evangelized is ourselves. Remember, you cannot be an ambassador for a country of which you are not yet a citizen.