

# *The Grace of God*

## TEACHING NOTES

### KEY VERSES

Romans 1:14, Romans 1:17

### KEY THEMES

The Gospel is the power of God to save everyone who believes

Boldly living by faith

### Grace and peace

### The power of the Gospel to save everyone

### Building on a firm foundation

### The new covenant

### Christ died for the whole world (Romans 1:14)

The obligation to preach to the whole world

*But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required. – Luke 12:48*

 **Biblical community (Romans 1:15)**

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. – Hebrews 10:25*

 **The power of God to save every one that believes (Romans 1:16)** **Not ashamed (Romans 1:16)**

The message changed our lives

The message has power

The need of those without it

The confident faith we have in God

 **Righteousness revealed (Romans 1:17)**

God is righteous

God demands righteousness

God provides righteousness

**By faith**

*"It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes." – Martin Luther*

**Lesson Objective:**

*To see the full effect of the power of the Gospel in our lives and the lives of others*

## ROMANS OUTLINE

### **1. The power of God to save (1:1-17)**

### **2. Everyone is guilty and deserves death (1:18-3:20)**

### **3. Salvation (3:21-8:1)**

#### a. Penalty of sin

i. Justification: salvation by grace, through faith in the work of Christ on the cross (3:21-5:21)

#### b. Power of sin

i. Sanctification: walking with God by grace, through faith in the work of Christ on the cross (6:1-7:25)

#### c. Presence of sin

i. Glorification: a secure eternity in God's presence

### **4. God's merciful sovereignty (9:1-11:36)**

### **5. The transformed life of a maturing believer (12:1-15:33)**

### **6. Closing (16:1-27)**



**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Before beginning the personal study, pray. Take time to focus on God and what He has for you during this intentional time with Him.

**More than words, more than a story**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God...”* –Romans 1:16a (NIV)

The Gospel is good news. However, it is more than words on a page. It is more than a heart-grabbing story at the beginning of the six-o-clock newscast. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says that the Gospel is the power of God. Power is one of the most misunderstood concepts in our world. We tend to think power is displayed by those with the gold and the guns. The truth is that Jesus revealed the power of God by dying for the salvation of everyone who believes. The power that raised Jesus Christ on the third day is the same power that saves every one who believes. It is the same power through which the risen Christ rightfully claimed, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”* (Matthew 28:18) And it is the same power that brought life out of death and made you a new creation. Finally, it is the same power by which the Holy Spirit is actively working in you moment-by-moment as you yield to being conformed and matured in Christ.

Reflect on your life and then write down some ways you could complete this sentence:

The Gospel is the source of my \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identity crisis**

Verse 16 stands out when Paul says *“I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ...”* Why should anyone think Paul would be ashamed? Possibly, he might be afraid because the Gospel challenged the power of the Emperor in Rome. There is also evidence that rumors had been spread about Paul and the Gospel he shared (Romans 3:8). Another option is that Paul could mean, “I am very proud.” It would fit with what we know about Paul’s boldness. Overall, the fact

that he is unashamed relates to Paul's identity in Christ. As he introduces himself to the Romans, Paul is communicating who he is. In the same way, he is showing us what it looks like to find your identity in Christ.

Last week's personal study helped give a bird's eye view of Paul's life. We saw who he was before conversion and who he was after. Some would say his life was turned upside down. The educated, successful Pharisee gave up every earthly achievement to become a champion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Salvation allows all your weaknesses to become a reason to boast about God's strength. And all your accomplishments get redefined in light of Christ's death & resurrection. Consider your sense of calling, what you pray for, what you are thankful for, your loved ones, your plans and goals, your weaknesses, your successes, and what you have in Christ.

Write out an introduction (maybe 5-10 sentences) highlighting the essential things that make you who you are.

**Key verse**

*This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."*

Using the provided scripture card, put to memory Romans 1:17.

**Prayer time**

Spend some time thanking God for His power revealed in Christ who died and rose again. Thank Him for His indwelling Holy Spirit. Thank Him for loving you and making you His child.

## Study 2

### Prepare your heart and mind

Open your time with God by asking Him to help you focus on what He has for you. God desires that we would pursue him personally.

### Furthering God's plan

From the beginning of time and up to this present day, God's plan for people has always been the same. He desires for His creation to find their life through Him, depend on Him for their needs and be in close relationship. As we look closely at the book of Romans we want to see where Paul draws our attention.



### Read Romans 1:1-17

*This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name. And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world. God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son. One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles. For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."*

Now go back through and highlight or underline any reference to what Paul is doing or planning to do to further God's plans and purposes.

Read back through what you identified in this passage. What are 2-3 things Paul is focused on in his ministry efforts?

Read Romans 1:14. Why do you think Paul had “*a great sense of obligation*” to share the Gospel message all over the world? (See Matthew 28:18-20 and Luke 12:48b to shed further light on why Paul was so focused on the mission of spreading the Good News.)

Paul’s sense of obligation came from his gratitude for what Jesus had done for him. Jesus has done the same for you. How motivated are you to be intentional with building relationships and making opportunities to share what God has done for you through Jesus Christ?

What are some things that might be keeping you from a greater sense of urgency to join God in seeing people reached with the gospel?

**Key verse**

Continue to work on memorizing Romans 1:17. Attempt to write it out from memory.



## PARENT GUIDE



### Read Romans 1:1-17 together

What are some things in life that you would consider good news? (*It's your birthday, you received a special award, you excelled in school/sports, etc.*) Usually we want to share good news with everyone.

What does the word "gospel" mean? (*The word gospel means "good news." To share the Gospel means to share God's Good News about Jesus Christ.*)

Paul wanted to share the good news about Jesus Christ with others. As you read the passage together, you can see the excitement that Paul feels in sharing the Gospel.



### Read verses 1-5 again

What do we learn about Paul from these verses?

What do we learn about the Gospel in these verses?

Paul says in Romans 1:16 "*For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes...*"

Who does God save?

It is our faith in what Jesus has done for us that saves us. It's not because of the good things we do.

Because Paul was an apostle ("one who is sent"), he felt the most important thing in his life was to preach the Good News about Jesus to everyone. Think about people in your life whom you feel you could share the Good News with.

What are some steps you can take to talk to them about Jesus Christ? (Think about your life. You could share with someone in class, the lunchroom, the playground, after school, sports, etc.)

Pray together as a family. Ask God to use Romans to help give you Paul's attitude toward the Gospel and those who need its message.

**ADDITIONAL STUDY****Read Romans 1:18-3:24****Observation**

*(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)*

**Interpretation**

*(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)*

**Application**

*(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)*