

# *The Need for a Savior*

## TEACHING NOTES

### KEY VERSES

Romans 1:18-3:24

### KEY THEMES

The holiness of God  
The sinfulness of all people  
Our need for a Savior



### **The irreligious world is condemned (Romans 1:18-28)**

Wrath = answer to all that is evil

Our natural tendency is to move away from God



### **How good is good enough? (Romans 2:1-4)**

*The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. – 2 Peter 3:9*

 **What about God's chosen people? (Romans 2:17-29)**

 **For all have sinned and fallen short (Romans 3:9-24)**

We are not as bad as we could be, but as bad off as we could be

**Lesson Objective:**

*To see that scripture is clear that all people, regardless of morality, are sinners in need of a savior*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1**

*Note: This session's personal studies will be based on reading Andy Stanley's book How Good is Good Enough? This book is short, but these personal studies might take longer than normal. You should have received a copy of the book in class. If not, contact WCC to get a copy.*

**Prepare your heart and mind**

Take time to focus on God and what He has for you during this intentional time with Him.

**Before you read**

In one sentence, explain what God's holiness means to you.

What do you need to do to get into heaven?

Finish this thought: "A good person is someone who..."

**Read chapters 1-8 in *How Good is Good Enough?*****After reading**

What did these chapters say that might help you better understand God's holiness?

What did this book say about sin in the first eight chapters?

From what you've read, does our conscience help us? Why or why not? (See chapter 4)

What did people get for following the Ten Commandments in Old Testament times? (See chapter 5)

In what ways did Jesus' teaching contradict the "good people go" view? (See chapters 6-8)

**Key verse**

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. (Romans 3:23)*

Using the provided scripture card, put to memory Romans 3:23. Place the card somewhere you can see it throughout the day.

**Prayer time**

These chapters might raise some additional questions. Pray and ask God your questions. Feel free to share with Him any frustrations you had while reading. Thank God for sending Jesus Christ to die for your sins.

*Note: You might find a more mature friend to discuss the book and your additional questions with.*

## Study 2

### Prepare your heart and mind

Take time to focus on God and what He has for you during this intentional time with Him.

### Before you read

The alternative to the view that “good people go to heaven,” is “forgiven people go to heaven.” In one sentence, explain what this means to you.

### Read chapters 9-11 in *How Good is Good Enough?*

### After reading

In Chapter 9, four options are given for who Jesus was (a liar, crazy, a good guy with good things to say, or actually the Son of God). Identify how you would describe who you think Jesus was.

In Chapter 10, you read how “Christianity is the fairest possible system in a world that is irreversibly unfair.” How would you describe what is meant by “But the good news is that God opted for grace and mercy over fairness?” (page 86)

In your own words, expand on what this week’s themes mean:

The holiness of God

The sinfulness of all people

Our need for a Savior

**Key verse**

Continue to work on memorizing Romans 3:23. See if you can write it out from memory below.

**Prayer time**

Take a few moments to reflect on the Good News of Jesus Christ. Ask God to reveal someone you could give *How Good is Good Enough* to as a way to open a conversation about what the Gospel has done in your life.

## PARENT GUIDE

Supplies needed: a hard-boiled egg and a sharpie marker

Ask your children to explain sin. *(For younger children, sin can be defined as anything that we do, say, or think that goes against what God has told us in the Bible to be truth. It is something that makes God unhappy. For older children, sin can be defined as something that goes against God's perfect standard.)*

Ask them to share some of the things that we do that go against God and make Him unhappy.

Write the sins mentioned in your discussion on the egg with a permanent marker. Write them on top of each other so that the egg starts to look really black.

Pass the egg around and have your kids describe what it feels and looks like. *(Possible answers: hard, smooth, maybe a little rough, colored, dark, messy)*

Explain to your children that this egg is a reminder of our hearts before we know Jesus. Before we know Jesus our hearts are hard and messy and far from perfect.

Name some of the things on the egg. *(Examples: lies, being unkind, disobeying, etc.)* Ask your children what we call those things. *(Sin. Our sin keeps us from knowing God and following Jesus.)*

Start peeling the egg and share with your children how Jesus died on the cross for our sins. But He didn't stay dead. After 3 days, He rose again and is now in Heaven with God. Jesus died on the cross for us and if we trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins, then He can take away our sins just like we took off the dark, hard peel of this egg.

When you are done peeling the egg, ask your children to describe what it looks and feels like now. Have your children feel the egg as they answer. *(Possible answers: soft, no spots, clean)\*\**

Share with them that this is what happens to our heart when we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, the things that make Him unhappy. Our heart changes from messy, dark, and hard to being clean, soft, and forgiven.

Take a moment to pray together and thank God for what He has done for us through Jesus.

\*\* If the egg doesn't peel smoothly, it's okay. Talk about the fact that we do still sin and we aren't perfect, but we are clean and soft and ready to follow Jesus.

**ADDITIONAL STUDY****Read Romans 3:24-4:25****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?)*