

# *Saving Faith*

## KEY VERSES

Romans 9-11, 10: 13-17

## KEY THEMES

The faithfulness of God  
Salvation by faith

### TEACHING NOTES

#### Israel's past unbelief (Romans 9)

#### The what, not the when or the how

#### Israel's present condition (Romans 10)

#### Israel's future restoration (Romans 11)

God's faithfulness

Timeline

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVT. PROMISE LAW GRACE

 **The process of coming to faith (Romans 10:13-17)**

Christ **sends** His messengers. These messengers **preach** the Gospel. People **hear**. Some **believe**. Those who believe **call** on the name of the Lord. Those who call are **saved**.

 **What is the Gospel? (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)****Saving faith**

**Lesson objective:** *To clearly see what the Gospel is and how a person comes to saving faith*

## PERSONAL STUDY

### Study 1

#### Prepare your heart and mind

Open your time with God by asking Him to help you focus on what He has for you.



#### Read Romans 10:13-17

*For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “Lord, who has believed our message?” So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

#### Personalize the process

The process laid out in this passage can easily seem intimidating or daunting. There are a lot of steps that all layer upon each other. We can easily handle a multi-step process if we're talking about making lasagna or changing the oil in a car but when a multi-step process deals with evangelism, we don't feel as confident. Sharing our faith can seem a bit scary and that's what makes this passage so overwhelming.

But the best way to begin to understand the process and to become more comfortable with it is to look back on your own life. The process laid out in Romans 10:13-17 took place in your life as you came to know the Gospel and began a relationship with Jesus. So take some time to look back on your life and your salvation story and then reflect on the following steps and how they were fulfilled.

#### Someone is sent

*And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? (Romans 10:15)*

Who shared the Gospel with you? What was your relationship with them like? Who equipped and sent the person who shared with you?

**The Gospel is shared**

*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)*

How was the Gospel shared with you? Did the person sharing with you tell you their testimony? If so, how did that impact you? What do you remember from their explanation of the Gospel? If you were already familiar with the Gospel, what made this time different?

**Person hears and chooses to believe or not**

*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?... But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "Lord, who has believed our message?" (Romans 10:14, 16)*

After you heard the Gospel why did you choose to believe? If you'd heard the Gospel before and didn't choose to believe then, why was that the case? And what made this time different?

**Person responds by believing God and is saved**

*For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? (Romans 10:13-14a)*

What was the truth that you chose to believe? Now that time has passed and you've matured in your faith, how has that belief solidified? How would you define the Gospel and/or share your testimony in just a few sentences?

In the next Personal Study we're going to look at how we can personally apply God's plan in sharing the Good News.

### Key verse

Put to memory Romans 10:14.

*But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?*

### Prayer time

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for the gift of salvation and your relationship with Him. Thank Him for the various people and situations that helped you along the evangelism process.

## Study 2



### Read Romans 10:13-17

In this passage Paul outlines the steps of how someone comes to place their faith in what Jesus has done for them. Go back through these verses and in the space below list out what needs to take place for a person to have an opportunity to be saved. Hint: start with verse 15 and work backwards to get the correct order.

What an exciting section of God's Word! In just a few verses we have Paul sharing the clear process of how we can participate with God in going and sharing the Good News with people in our daily lives or across the world.

Use the following questions to help you be more aware of how you are engaging personally in these steps of telling others about Jesus.

**Someone is sent (Romans 10:15)**

Where in your life do you actively develop relationships with people to see if God will give you the opportunity to share about Christ? If you aren't currently doing this, list a couple of places where you can begin praying about and start being more intentional.

**The Gospel is shared (Romans 10:14-15)**

People need to understand their need for a Savior and what God has done through Jesus to offer anyone who believes a way to be made right before God. Modeling Christ is very important but we need to come to a place where the words of truth and life are spoken. This takes time and the foundation of a healthy relationship. In your own words, write down the key elements of truth that a person needs to understand and believe to be saved.

Look at these passages for help: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Romans 3:23, John 14:16, Romans 5:6-8, and Romans 10:9

**Person hears and chooses to believe or not (Romans 10:14, 16)**

Once you have shared the truth about God sending Jesus to be the payment our sin deserved, it is up to that person to respond. Some will choose to believe, others will not. If they don't place their faith in Jesus at this time, our job is to continue loving them and modeling Christ to them. God may have a different person or time for them to come to choose Him.

Who are the people in your life that you aren't sure where they stand with Christ?

Pray for them and the opportunity to explore this in more detail with them.

**Person responds by believing God and is saved (Romans 10:13-14)**

If they do believe, we need to try to help them begin to understand their faith in Christ more fully and what it means to walk in the new life God has provided for them. Consider the relationships you currently have where you have shared your faith. Pray, asking God to guide you in how best to support and encourage any of these people to continue growing.

**Key verse**

Continue working to memorize Romans 10:14. Attempt to write it out from memory in the space below.

**Prayer time**

Take some time to thank God for His incredible gift of grace toward us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Ask Him for the courage and wisdom to make the most of the relational opportunities we have around us on a daily basis.

Commit to praying weekly for a missionary who has chosen to go and leave the comforts of home to share the Good News.

## PARENT GUIDE

This week we spent a lot of time identifying some critical steps on the path to faith. We believe because we have heard, but we can't hear unless someone tells us, and someone can't tell us unless they have been sent. These steps are important to know and identify in your own life. They are important because they are part of your story. Someone told you the Good News about Jesus and, now, God might be leading you to tell someone else. We would like you to take some time and share these truths with your children. It will be important that you already have your Personal Study done for this week as it will help you frame and identify these ideas for yourself prior to talking with your children.

Read Romans 10:13 together.

Ask your children what they think it means to *call on the Lord*. Allow your children a few minutes to talk and share about what they think this means.

Share with your children that calling on the name of the Lord is the final step in being saved.

Read Romans 10:17 together.

Share with your children that the passage says faith comes from hearing. Ask them what people need to hear about. *(If they struggle, point them back to Romans 10:17.)*

What is the Good News about Christ? *(You are looking for the core elements about Jesus: that He lived a sinless life, came to save us from our sins by dying on the cross, rose from the dead, and offers us eternal life.)*

Ask your children if they believe this truth.

If they answer yes, ask them to tell their story about when they heard and believed the truth about Jesus. *(Some prompts to help them remember and share their story are: who told them, where they were, how old they were, and what happened after they heard.)*

If they answer no, ask them what is holding them back from believing this truth. If they want to believe and call on the name of Jesus, you can walk them through these ABCs.

- A – Admit that they sin and need to be saved
- B – Believe in their heart that Jesus died on the cross for their sins and rose from the dead
- C – Confess (say out loud) that they want Jesus to come into their heart and be their Savior

It is always good to have a reminder of your faith story so take this opportunity to help your child write down their testimony. Write a little summary of what they just shared with you in their Bible or on a special piece of paper they can keep.

Ask your children who they think are other people in their life that need to hear this truth about Jesus. Remind your children that someone told them about Jesus and now it is their turn to do the same. They need to always be ready to share about what Jesus has done for them.

Spend a few minutes praying as a family. Think of someone who needs to hear about Jesus and pray for them.

**ADDITIONAL STUDY****Read Romans 12:1-2****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?)*

