

LESSON 58

# A Gift of Righteousness

ROMANS 3:10-22



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**BIBLE TRUTH**

EVERYONE IS A SINNER IN NEED OF THE GOSPEL

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** two sheets of white paper; writing implement

2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 136)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:** coloring page for NT Lesson 58—one for each child; markers or crayons

A Righteousness Revealed

**SUPPLIES:** whiteboard and dry erase markers

No One Is Good

7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN

**TOTAL 60–75 MIN**

**THE LESSON**

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today’s lesson the children will learn about God’s free gift of righteousness.

Bring a couple sheets of white paper and a writing implement to class.

Take a sheet of white paper and scribble all over it. Tell the children that our hearts are like that sheet of paper—our hearts are scribbled with sin. That means we are not righteous. If God sees scribble—or sin—in our hearts he will not allow us to go to heaven. We need to have this scribble taken away. Ask the children, “Who can take our sin away?” (Jesus) Then share the gospel, telling them that Jesus died on the cross to take our sin away. (When you say that, rip up the scribbled paper.)

Then explain that Jesus lived a sinless life. He gives his free gift of righteousness to everyone who believes. Show them a perfectly white sheet of paper. Now when we go before God, even though we have sinned, all God sees is the perfect life of Jesus—no scribble, no sin. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven. That is the best gift of all!

Take time to pray and thank God for forgiving all our sins. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 136, “A Gift of Righteousness,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- Who is Paul talking about when he tells us that no one is righteous?  
*(He is talking about all people.)*
  
- What does the word “righteous” mean?  
*(The word “righteous” describes a person who does not sin. It describes a person who is obedient to God and does not rebel against him.)*
  
- Can anyone be righteous?  
*(Only Jesus was able to be perfectly righteous and live a sinless life. It is this sinless life that he gives to us when he changes our hearts. He takes our sin and gives us his righteousness.)*

**Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Romans 3 comprises Paul’s defense of the gospel. Important components of God’s plan appear in verses 24–26. First, God presented Jesus as a sacrifice. Next, Jesus’ sacrifice was an acceptable payment, or atonement, for sin. Last, this sacrifice was required to ensure the justice of God, who had allowed sins to go unpunished.

Earlier in this passage Paul clearly wanted to help us see our total depravity and our utter inability to be righteous apart from God’s grace. In quoting Isaiah he wrote, “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside” (Romans 3:10–12). He left absolutely no possibility that someone might be good apart from Christ.

After giving this convincing argument regarding our sin, Paul goes on to speak the gospel hope: “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe” (Romans 3:21–22). The prophets testified about it and now, Paul tells us, it has come to pass.

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

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

- What happens to the life of a person who places their trust in Jesus and whose heart is changed by the Holy Spirit?  
*(When a sinner is born again and trusts in Jesus, their life begins to change. They go from only being able to sin, to being able to do righteous deeds.)*
  
- What is the law?  
*(The law consists of the commandments of God, such as the Ten Commandments.)*
  
- What does the law teach us?  
*(The law teaches us what sin is.)*
  
- Can anyone keep the law and not sin?  
*(Only Jesus was able to keep God's law and not sin. No one else can keep the law. As Paul said, "none is righteous." That means we are all lawbreakers.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 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.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 58—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

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

- Which of the people in the picture have a heart that God is changing?  
*(The people with a cross covering their sinful hearts are trusting in Jesus and what he did.)*

- Why do some people not have a cross on their hearts?

*(They trust in their own work to be good, not in the work that Jesus did on the cross.)*

- How does a person’s heart change from being full of sin?

*(To have a changed heart you need to turn away from your sinful behavior and trust in Jesus. This means you need to believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and rose again. When God changes our heart and we believe, his righteousness is given to us as a gift. We still make mistakes, but God forgives us because of what Jesus has done.)*

## A Righteousness Revealed

### SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Using the whiteboard, draw simple pictures to represent the sins listed in Romans 3:10–18: faces with frowns, gravestones, snakes, and knives with blood drops coming off them. Explain that sin is evil and that all people are sinners. Then explain that Jesus came to die for the sins of men and women and live a perfect life—a righteous life—so he could give it to us.

Draw a cross in the middle of the board as you speak of Jesus. Then make statements about our forgiveness such as, “Our sins are forgiven,” or “Jesus gives us righteousness,” or “The blood of Christ takes away our sins.” With each statement swipe the eraser across the board, wiping out the sin. Explain to the children that those who believe in Jesus and trust in him receive his righteousness; that is, their sin is wiped clean.

## No One Is Good

Have one teacher read Romans 3:11–18 aloud while another teacher performs the pantomime. Help the children understand this is a pantomime demonstrating the sin in all our hearts.

- No one understands.

*(Point to your head and shake your head no.)*

- No one seeks for God.  
*(Look up to the heavens, then look quickly down to your feet.)*
- All have turned aside.  
*(Turn to the side.)*
- Their throat is an open grave.  
*(Open your mouth and then hold your arms like an "X" in front of your mouth.)*
- They use their tongues to deceive.  
*(Stick out your tongue quickly and close your mouth again.)*
- The venom of asps is under their lips.  
*(Smile with your mouth closed, then suddenly show your teeth like a growling dog.)*
- Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.  
*(Bare and chomp your teeth to make a clicking noise.)*
- Their feet are swift to shed blood.  
*(Run in place.)*
- In their paths are ruin and misery.  
*(Fall to your knees.)*
- The way of peace they have not known.  
*(Hold your head as though it hurts.)*
- There is no fear of God before their eyes.  
*(Shake your fists up to heaven.)*

Make the point that this passage describes who we would be apart from the saving work of Jesus Christ. Try repeating it a few times and have the children join in doing the pantomime.

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

