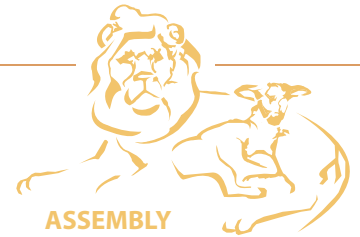


A GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ROMANS 3:10-22



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**NO ONE IS GOOD**

Have one teacher read verses 11-18 aloud while another teacher performs the mime. Help the children understand this is a mime skit 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 apart from the saving work of Jesus Christ, this passage describes who we are in our sin.

A GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ROMANS 3:10-22

A RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

Supplies

white board and dry erase
markers

Using the white board, go through the descriptive list of Romans 3:10-18.

Draw simple pictures to represent the sins: faces with frowns, grave stones, snakes, knives with blood drops coming off them. Explain to the children that sin is evil and that all men are sinners. Then explain that Jesus came to die for the sins of men and live a perfect life, a righteous life, so that He could give it to us.

Draw a cross in the middle of the board as you speak of Jesus. Then read verses 21 and 22. With each statement swipe the eraser across the board, wiping out the sin. Explain to the children that those who believe in Jesus and place their trust in Him receive His righteousness which means their sin is wiped clean.

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

In this passage Paul clearly wants to help us to see our total depravity and inability to stand righteous apart from God's grace and free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. The words, "none is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks God. All have turned aside" are completely conclusive and leave no possibility that someone might be good apart from Christ.

After giving this convincing argument Paul goes on to share one of the best "buts" of Scripture:

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)

Faith is not in Jesus as a good teacher, but in Jesus as the Savior who died on the cross taking the penalty for our sin. We deserve death, yet in exchange for our sin Jesus Christ gives us His righteousness. Jesus was able to live the sinless life that we cannot and He freely gives us His clean, righteous record when we place our trust in His sacrifice for us on the cross.