

A GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: ROMANS 3:10-22



The STORY

Read about God's gift of righteousness through Christ in Romans 3:10-22.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 is a description of 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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: five people standing shoulder to shoulder with their hearts visible. Engage the children by asking:

- Which of the people in the coloring sheet 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 of the people not have a cross on their hearts? (They trust their own work to be good, not the work that Jesus did on the cross.)
- How does a person get from having a sinful heart to having a changed heart? (If you want to have a changed heart, you need to turn away from your sinful behavior and place your trust in Jesus. This means that 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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- 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, his or her 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 is 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 law breakers.)



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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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 worker.

