

# Romans 1:1-16

## The Power Of The Gospel

**Scripture:** Romans 1:1-16

**Memory Verse:** Romans 1:16a *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...”*

**Lesson Focus:** In this lesson we will introduce the book of Romans to the kids. Paul literally begins this letter with a “bang” as he describes the gospel as the dynamite-like power of God to save us from our sins. Our prayer is that this lesson will whet the kids appetite for more of God’s power and truth as we continue through this book.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, New Bring it Home Sheet for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Build Your Own Dice

**Starter Activity:** Ancient Roman Dice Game

We’ll get started by playing a dice game \* that is similar to a game that children played in ancient Rome. We think this will be a fun way to help them enter into the book of Romans! (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade leaders, we will play this in the Summit Room after worship)

We will provide you with several big foam dice to use for this. The game we recommend is [Round the Clock](#). Divide the kids into two groups and have them sit in a circle. They will take turns rolling the dice and each group is racing to roll in sequence from 1 to 12 (or consider 1 to 6 with one die for 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> graders). Each kid will roll once and then pass the dice to the next person. If they can roll the current number in the sequence (starting with 1), then they move onto the next number as a group. Consider writing each number on the white board in sequence beforehand (for each team) and erasing each number as they roll it. \* The kids will continue to roll and pass until the first team rolls every number in sequence. See the link above for some more details. Also, see [here](#) for a few more dice game ideas or bring your own!

Afterwards, transition into the lesson with some questions and discussion below.

Q: What are some dice games you like to play today? (i.e. Yahtzee, Monopoly, etc.)  
Did you know that dice games have been around since even before the time of Jesus? At that time, the Roman Empire controlled most of the world and they were known for playing dice games. In fact, even kids in ancient Rome would play dice games! \*

We are going to start a new book of the Bible today called the book of Romans. Imagine being a little Christian boy or girl playing games with your friends in ancient Rome. This book would have been written to you and your family. Let’s check it out!

## Background:

Important questions to establish context and background of any book of the Bible.

- 1) **What?:** The book of Romans is a letter written to the believers in Rome. \*
- 2) **Who?:** The apostle Paul wrote this letter (see more bio below).
- 3) **Why?:** Instruct believers in Rome in the deep truths of the gospel of grace.

## Bible Study:

**Romans 1:1:** The great apostle Paul identifies himself as the author of this letter. But who is this guy? **Teachers:** Consider using the whiteboard to draw two columns titled BEFORE/AFTER. Read verses below and have the kids help you fill out the columns as you explain who he was BEFORE and AFTER becoming a believer in Jesus (see below).

### BEFORE

**Galatians 1:13** (hater of Christianity)

**Acts 8:3** (Saul, throwing Christians in jail)

### AFTER

**Romans 1:1** (Christian apostle/leader)

**Ephesians 3:1** (Paul, in prison for Jesus!) \*

Q: What brought about this crazy and radical transformation?

A: As **Romans 1:1** says, it was the gospel: The good news of Jesus's death and resurrection that changed his life and has changed people's lives ever since! \*As we spend the next several months studying this book of the Bible, we are going to DIG DEEP into the gospel: what it really means and how it applies to us! \*

**Romans 1:2:** Paul refers back to the things God had promised before Jesus first came. If you were here during the Christmas season, you might remember some of the characters and promises we studied. (**Teachers:** Consider looking at **Genesis 3:15**, **Genesis 12:3**, or **Isaiah 9:6**, and review some of the promises from our lessons in Nov/Dec 2021). \*

**Romans 1:3:** One of the promises that we studied last Christmas was given to David, the most famous King in Israel. God promised that one of his descendants would be a King forever. Jesus was that promised guy! (**1 Chronicles 17:11-12**) \*

**Romans 1:4:** Jesus is the God-man: fully God and fully man and His resurrection from the dead proved he was this promised Savior and Messiah.

Q: Who knows what is at the center of our solar system? A: The sun! All of the planets revolve around the sun. \* In the same way, Jesus Christ is at the center of the gospel, the Christian "solar system". Everything we will learn about the gospel in the book of Romans revolves around Jesus Christ. \*

**Romans 1:5-7a:** Paul describes these believers in Rome as those called to be saints.

Q: What does it mean to be a saint? A: It means "set apart to God". A lot of people think that saints are amazing people who lived amazing lives and are now in heaven. But that is not what the Bible teaches! Here and elsewhere "saints" are simply those who believe in Jesus Christ and through faith become God's children, "set apart" for Him. Paul is writing to ORDINARY believers (like you and me) in Rome and calling them saints. \*

**Romans 1:7b:** What a wonderful greeting! Only saints enjoy and experience the grace and peace of God. You hear these words at church a lot. But what do they actually mean?

**Grace:** Freely getting what you do NOT deserve! People actually deserve hell and punishment because of their sin against God. But **Romans 5:8** says that God proves His love in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us! When we trust in Jesus, we receive the forgiveness and blessing that we do NOT deserve. This is grace! \*

**Peace:** After receiving God's grace, this is what we experience as God's children. We are at peace with God! Our sins past, present, future, are forgiven! We are HIS children now!

**Romans 1:8-10:** Paul has never met these believers in Rome but greatly wishes to visit. \*

Q: Is there a place or people that you would really, really like to visit? Why?

**Romans 1:11-12:** Notice that Paul knows that when he visits they will encourage one another! The church is like this even today. You can visit a church with believers anywhere in the world and experience this! (**Teachers:** Consider sharing a story of when you have visited a church, perhaps out of town, and you were blessed by total strangers) \*

**Romans 1:13-15:** Paul's life mission was to preach the gospel no matter where he goes.

Q: Do you know what a mission is? A: It is an important assignment or goal.

Paul's mission before becoming a Christian was to destroy Christianity. But after coming face-to-face with the risen Jesus Christ, his mission became the opposite. It was to defend and spread Christianity by preaching the gospel! And Christians like you and me are called to this same mission no matter where we live!

**Romans 1:16:** This verse truly captures what this whole letter is about: the gospel. It is the *power of God* to save sinners through belief in Jesus Christ. \*

Q: Do you know what dynamite is? A: It is something used to wreck or destroy something. \* Our English word "*dynamite*" comes from the original Greek word for "*power*" in this verse.

It is only by the dynamite-like *power of God* that our hard hearts and sin can be destroyed so we can become saints and children of God! God "wrecked" Saul by the power of the gospel and thus Paul, the child of God, was born. \*

**Key Point:** This letter that the apostle wrote to this church at Rome is also for you and me today. Instead of "To the saints in Rome" it could read "To the saints at RMC in Colorado Springs". For we have received the same powerful gospel, and believe in the same Jesus that they have received and believed in!

God would have you also believe that by faith in Jesus you are a saint and can enjoy and experience His grace and His peace every day. Do you believe that?

# BRING IT HOME

Paul greets the church at Rome with grace and peace in Romans 1:7.  
What does grace mean?  
What does peace mean?

**Parent Challenge:**  
What are "saints," according to Romans 1:7?

In Romans 1:16, how does Paul describe the gospel?

