

Romans 1:16-21

Don't Suppress the Truth

Scripture: Romans 1:16-21

Memory Verse: Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

Lesson Focus: We will first do a deep-dive into the gospel as the first two verses of our lesson capture foundational gospel principles. Then the rest of the chapter warns of the perils of suppressing the truth about God and His gospel power. We will stop on v. 21 and challenge the kids to *surrender* to the truth rather than *suppress* it.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, New Bring it Home Sheet for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Suppression Spring

Starter Activity: Crab-walk Relay

Consider getting the lesson started with a Crab-walk relay race. We will provide you with a bunch of Scrabble letters for this game. * Break your kids up into at least two groups and have them be on one side of the area. On the other side, put out piles of letters for each group. Have the kids one-by-one [crabwalk](#) back and forth to the other side to fetch letters to spell out the phrase, “**GOSPEL POWER**”. * Make sure their bottoms are off the ground and that they keep the letter on their bellies on their way back! * They will need to fetch the letters in order. (The first child “G”, the second child “O”, etc.) Write the phrase on the white board in big letters so each kid knows which letter to get next. The first team to spell it out wins! We will provide you with two sets of letters that have enough of each to spell it out. As an alternative, introduce the phrase by playing a game of “Hangman” with the kids (or do both!). See below for some discussion Qs which you can use to then transition into the Bible study.

This month we started a new book of the Bible, the book of Romans. This book is all about the gospel.

Q: What does the word “gospel” mean? A: Good news!

And as our relay phrase says, the good news of the gospel is POWERFUL. In fact, we ended our lesson a couple of weeks ago on **Romans 1:16** which said that “*the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...*”

We are going to pick up right where we left off. Let's open our Bibles and learn more about what this means.

Bible Study:

Romans 1:16: There is so much powerful truth packed into this one verse and we are going to spend a few minutes truly dissecting it. * (**Teachers:** Consider writing the whole verse on the board and highlighting the words underlined below that we will dissect)

- Paul first says that he is not **ashamed** of the gospel.

Q: Do you know what it means to be ashamed of something? A: It means you are embarrassed of something or afraid people will know about it. Back in this day, it was very hard and costly to be a Christian. * Paul reminds us that we also are to be unashamed, unembarrassed, and unafraid to let others know that we belong to Jesus. *

- WHY? Because this gospel is the power of God to **salvation!**

Q: What does the word salvation mean? A: It means to be rescued or saved from something dangerous. (**Teachers:** See the pictures of a life-preserver and a fire truck at the end of the lesson. We will have print-offs of these for you. Consider using these and asking the kids how these “save” or “rescue” people) *

Q: But from what does the gospel rescue or save us? A: From sin, death, and hell. Dangerous? You betcha! *

- Notice that this salvation is for **everyone** who believes, Jew and Greek!

Back then people were grouped by their race, Jew or Greek. Today we still sometimes group people by their race (black, white, hispanic. etc.). But God doesn't! He offers salvation to EVERYONE, regardless of race, skin color, or social status. This is wonderful news!

Q: But is everyone saved? A: NO! Only those who **believe!** This takes us into v. 17.

Romans 1:17: Salvation begins and ends with belief/faith: Belief that God is righteous AND belief that you are NOT because of your sin. Sin is anything we think or do that disobeys God. *

Q: What does it mean to be righteous? A: Perfectly good and virtuous, without sin. * God is by nature perfect in His holiness and righteousness. And because He is perfectly holy and righteous, our sin separates us from Him.

Let's try and explain how this all works together:

- 1) The gospel, the message about Jesus's death/resurrection, is preached (v. 16a)
- 2) God moves powerfully to convict people of their sin and need for rescue (v. 16b)
- 3) Realizing they need rescue they believe/trust in Jesus to salvation (v. 16c)
- 4) They then continue to live their lives by faith and trust in Him (v. 17) *

These two verses capture what we pray would happen every weekend at RMC. We always try to preach the gospel message to you hoping that God will move with power to save people and bring them to faith and trust in Him. We rejoice when this happens! But as we will see as we continue our study, not everyone believes.

Romans 1:18: In fact, not only do some not believe, but this verse says that they *suppress* the truth in their unrighteousness and sin.

Q: What does it mean to suppress something? A: It means to push against something. Let's refer back to that life-preserver. What happens if you try to push or *suppress* it under the water? It's going to pop right back up! You would work really hard to *suppress* it, but you will ALWAYS lose, because eventually it is going to re-surface! *

In the same way, people will ALWAYS lose when they *suppress* the truth of the gospel. (**Teachers:** We will leave an inflatable cross in your room and a bowl. * Consider filling it with water and then demonstrating this same point with the cross) *

While this verse is primarily talking about unbelievers, every time we sin, we are also *suppressing* the truth of the gospel! * Instead, as followers of Jesus, we are to turn from our sin and *surrender/submit* to Him, not *suppress* Him and what He wants for us! *

Romans 1:19: People suppress what they KNOW to be true: That God is there and that this is God's world. For He has revealed Himself to all people. *

Q: How many of you know your birthday? Imagine getting into an argument with your Mom over the day you were born. Silly, isn't it? Well, that's kind of like what people are doing when they *suppress* the truth about God.

Romans 1:20: How has God revealed Himself to everyone? In creation! All of creation SCREAMS the truth that there is a God who created all things, including us!

Q: What are some of your favorite parts of nature? Pikes Peak, so many marvelous animals, the oceans, the stars...where did they all come from? Nothing? * Scientists marvel at the tremendous complexity and design in the universe. *

As this verse says, people who deny God's power and existence are without excuse! * They are suppressing what is obviously true, that God created and designed our universe!

Romans 1:21: When people begin to *suppress* the truth about God, they are in danger of falling into a downward spiral where their lives get worse and worse. The rest of this chapter describes this. They want God out of their lives and that is what He gives them. *

Q: You know what this all means? The universe does not revolve around you! (sorry) It revolves around God, for He is the Creator!

Key Point: So every minute of every day we have a choice to make. Are we going to *suppress* the truth about God or will we *submit* and *surrender* to it!

Believer: As Christians, we are to love and obey Jesus. Not just on weekends, but every day. Why? Because of His love for us as proven in the gospel. (**John 3:16**) Follow Him!

Unbeliever: Make today the day you surrender to God and make Him your King. Suppress the truth about God and His GOSPEL POWER no more!

BRING IT HOME

Read Romans 1:20.
What are some things
in nature that help us
remember that God is
Creator?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
In Romans 1:18-20, why are
people "without excuse" when
they suppress the truth?

Read Romans 1:18.
What are some ways
we might "suppress"
the truth?





