

# Romans 5:1-8

## Special Access

**Scripture:** Romans 5:1-8

**Memory Verse:** Romans 5:8 *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

**Lesson Focus:** Kids understand the notion of getting special or privileged access to certain things, especially if those things are really good or exciting. This passage of Scripture talks about how believers have privileged access to God’s blessing and favor. We want the kids to better understand just how special this access is and how much it proves God’s love for us. And in response, we will challenge the kids to not just believe THAT God loves them, but to actively trust IN God.

**Activities and Crafts:** Memory Verse Coloring Picture, 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>: Wordless Gospel Book

**Starter Activity:** Toy Shopping Spree Video

We will keep all of the kids in the Summit Room immediately after worship to watch a quick video that we will use to segue into our Bible lesson. You can preview it [here](#). In this video, a boy named Sam has “special access” into a toy store where he gets 3 minutes to go on a toy shopping spree! Before we introduce the video, we will ask a few questions.

Q: What are some places that you need to have privileged or “special access” to? \*

A: White House, big brothers room, airplane cockpit, Principal’s office

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have “special access” to a toy store for a few minutes where you could have whatever you were able to dump into your shopping carts? \*

***START THE VIDEO!***

Wouldn’t that be so much fun!

Q: Which aisle or area would you have gone to?

As we continue in our study of the book of Romans, we are going to see that believers in Jesus Christ have “special access” to something. And believe it or not, it is much better than a toy store. Let’s take a look!

## Bible Study:

**Romans 5:1a:** There it is again! Our passage begins with “*Therefore*”. We talked about this a few weeks ago when our passage began this way.

Q: What question must we ask when our first word in reading the Bible \* is “*Therefore*”?

A: “*What is it THERE FOR?*” \* To answer that question, we need to review some of what we learned last week in Romans 4.

Last week we learned about cause and effect. The cause of our salvation is God’s grace that we receive through faith. One effect is then good works and living God’s way. This is the GOOD NEWS of the gospel! \* (Teachers: Consider reviewing our Romans 4 lesson and reminding the kids about some of those points) \*

**Romans 5:1b:** Summarizing that we are indeed justified \* or saved apart from our works, Paul then mentions another marvelous effect of our salvation: We have peace with God!

Q: What is going on in Russia and Ukraine right now? A: War! Fighting! Death!

Boys and Girls: Until you are saved/justified by faith in Jesus Christ, your sin is a declaration of WAR against God. Apart from Jesus we are against God and He is against us because of our sin! And this is a battle we cannot win. Our only option is SURRENDER and that is what we do when we receive God’s grace through faith! And then the floodgates of peace and blessing come in! \*

**Romans 5:2:** Here is that “special access” that we referred to at the beginning of our lesson. What do we have “special access” to? God’s grace and favor!

Q: What is grace? A: Getting something good that you DO NOT deserve! God is ALL good and He offers everyone the everlasting, never-ending riches of His grace. \* That boy in the video got all of those toys and I’m sure he was very happy....for a little while.

Q: But what will happen to all of those toys? A: They’ll break, wear out, get boring! God’s goodness and favor, on the other hand, are everlasting! \*

This verse also tells us how we gain this “special access” to God’s grace: by faith. We have been talking a lot about faith the last few weeks, but we need to make sure you all understand what the Bible means when it talks about “faith”. (**Hebrews 11:1**) \*

Biblical faith is more than just believing THAT Jesus died and rose again, but it is also believing IN Jesus. \* A better English word for biblical faith is TRUST. Because we know THAT Jesus died and rose again for us, we actively put our trust IN Him. \*

Teachers: Consider demonstrating the difference between believing THAT and believing IN by inviting a volunteer to fall backwards into your arms. He might believe THAT you will catch him but he doesn’t actually put his faith or trust IN you until he falls into your arms! For an added twist, after she falls into your arms successfully, blindfold her and then invite another leader to sneak up behind her very quietly. You will then move out in front of her and ask her if she is still trusts IN you enough to fall back again! Of course if she does, she will be then be caught by the other leader!

**Romans 5:3a:** Wait, what? We've been talking all about the "special access" or "FASTPASS" believers have to the riches of God's grace and goodness. Yet today we still live in this broken world where we experience tribulation and hardships.

The apostle Paul knew hardships very well. He was thrown into prison, he was stoned, he was shipwrecked, and much more all for the sake of the gospel.

Q: But guess who he trusted IN through it all? Jesus! It was the "special access" that he had to the promises and grace of God that help him respond to life's difficulties with joy. And we, as believers in Jesus Christ, can too! \*

**Romans 5:3b-4:** For God often uses hardship for a good purpose: to grow and strengthen His people! \* We see this pattern in the Bible, in our everyday lives, and even in some of our favorite stories. Let's look at one example. (**Teachers:** See example below from *Frozen*, but consider using something else, or an experience of yours to demonstrate this)

- **Hardship:** Anna was separated from her sister, Elsa, who was her best friend.
- **Perseverance:** Anna continued to show Elsa love by seeking her and finding her.
- **Character:** Anna proved her love for Elsa by being willing to die for her.
- **Hope:** Finally, Elsa's icy heart was thawed and their friendship was restored!

**Romans 5:5:** Just as Anna had help through her hardships \*, so we too have Someone much more powerful that helps us: The Holy Spirit! After we are saved, God Himself comes to live inside of us and walk with us through our difficulties! Not only does God give believers "special access" to His grace, but believers give God "special access" to their hearts!

**Romans 5:6-7:** This describes how heroic it is to give your life to save someone else. But would you give your life for just anyone? Probably not! What about for a criminal?

Q: Going back to *Frozen*, who was Anna heroically willing to give her life for? A: Elsa. And her sacrifice melted Elsa's icy heart. But remember, this is just a made-up story.

Q: In our real world, who did Jesus give His life for? A: EVERYONE! Even the worst of sinners and criminals. God made a way for us all to be saved so that we could have "special access" to His grace. And His sacrifice melts our hardened, icy hearts! But why?

**Romans 5:8:** Because He is a loving God! Could He have proven His love for us anymore than this? Even when we were criminals, Jesus died for us! Even when we had declared WAR with Him, He SURRENDERED His life first!

**Key Point:** Do you truly know how much God loves you? You hear this a lot at church and you might believe THAT God love you. But do you really believe IN God's love such that you will put your TRUST IN Him?

God offers you "special access" to the closest and most amazing relationship you could ever imagine. \* Better than any human friendship, better than unlimited toys is living your life with Jesus. Put your trust IN Him every day this week! \*

# BRING IT HOME

Read Romans 5:8.  
How does this show  
God's love for us?

Parent Signature:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Challenge:  
How can we have  
Peace with God?

Read Romans 5:3-4.  
How might God use  
our hardships?

