

Romans 8 (Part 1)

No Condemnation!

Scripture: Romans 8:1-17

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

Lesson Focus: This famously wonderful chapter of Romans begins with “*No Condemnation*” and ends with “*No Separation*”. In this lesson we will unpack the glorious truth of “*No Condemnation*” and how that is true because God adopts Christians into His royal family. As princes and princesses of God through faith in Jesus, Christians are His forever!

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

Starter Activity: Disney Prince/Princess Challenge

Even though there is a sad culture war going on with Disney right now, the kids should be very familiar with some of the classic stories featuring Disney princes and princesses. Consider getting the lesson started with a trivia challenge. See Qs below or bring your own!

- 1) Q: Which Disney prince defeated Jafar?
A: Aladdin
- 2) Q: Who was the very first Disney princess?
A: Snow White
- 3) Q: Which Disney prince had the most hair? (trick question)
A: The Beast (from Beauty and the Beast)
- 4) Q: Which Disney princess had a best friend named Flounder?
A: Ariel (from The Little Mermaid)
- 5) Q: Which Disney prince had the given name Eugene Fitzherbert?
A: Flynn Rider (from Tangled)

Then transition into the study by asking the kids to imagine being a real prince/princess.
Q: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a prince or a princess? * And I’m not talking about a prince or princess in a fairy tale, but in the real world. *
Q: If you were the prince or a princess of a real kingdom that you were going to inherit, what do you think your life would be like? *

Believe it or not, our passage of Scripture today speaks to this and we are going to talk about this some more! Let’s see what God’s Word has to say!

Bible Study:

Romans 8 is a famous passage of Scripture. This book has been building up to this chapter. As a quick review, we learned about the BAD NEWS in Romans 1-3, that we are all sinners before a holy God, deserving punishment! But then we learned about the GOOD NEWS in Romans 4-5, that we can be saved from the punishment we deserve by God's grace thru faith in Jesus's death/resurrection. In Romans 6-7, we learned that this salvation is the beginning of a life-long battle with sin. * Our faith/trust in God is TO BE CONTINUED! But sometimes sin can get the best of us and when it does we might feel that God doesn't love us anymore. * But then look at what Romans 8 says:

Romans 8:1: There is **NO CONDEMNATION** for those who are in Christ Jesus! Condemnation is a big word that means punishment or consequences for our sin. * Remember Jesus's death on the cross? He took the punishment due us for all of our sins, **past, present, and future** on the cross (if we are united with Him by faith). Memorize this verse! This is a precious truth that helps the defeated Christian get back up and continue in his/her faith! (**Teachers:** Consider having the kids recite or shout this truth out loud here and throughout the lesson as we refer back to this verse) *

Romans 8:2-5: These last verses talk about how the Christian is to walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh. "Flesh" is a word the Bible uses to describe our sinful nature apart from God and before we became Christians (the old person).

Q: What do you think it looks like to live according to the flesh? A: Disobeying or ignoring God; selfishness and pride; lying, stealing, disrespecting parents, etc. *

Q: What do you think it looks like to live according to the Spirit? A: **Galatians 5:22-23** says the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, etc.

Now this might sound like Christians need to work hard to "stay" saved and loved by God, but what did we read at the beginning of the chapter? **NO CONDEMNATION** for those in Jesus Christ! * Remembering God's unconditional love helps Christians continue walking with Him. * But there is another way that God helps His people!

Romans 8:6-11: God the Spirit comes to live inside of all believers to help them walk in love, joy, peace, etc.! God knows Christians can't live His way on their own and therefore gives them His own Spirit to help them!

This is a FACT for all believers: The same powerful Holy Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you and works powerfully through you to live His way! Wow! You might remember from a few weeks ago that we used the card game of WAR to illustrate this. (**Teachers:** See lesson from **Romans 6:1-11** and consider reusing this illustration) When you first believe and receive the Holy Spirit, you are empowered to win this war against sin. This is a war that you cannot win without God's help (v. 8).

And if we sometimes get tripped up by sin, what do we remember? **NO CONDEMNATION!** We remember Jesus paid for those sins, repent, and keep going! *

Romans 8:12-13: Notice the contrast in v. 13. Either sin will kill us, or we, with the Spirit's help, will kill sin! *

Let's be clear that the Holy Spirit is not magic. The Spirit empowers believers, but believers must still take action to put sin to death.

Q: What are some ways that, by the Spirit, you can fight against sin and destroy it?

A1: Pray when you are tempted to sin

A2: Memorize Scripture and recall it when in temptation

A3: Tell another Christian you trust that you are struggling so they can help you

A4: Love Jesus more! As you love Him more, you will love your sin less

(Teachers: Consider bringing in some balloons with some common sins written on them. As you go through each answer, invite a kid to come jump on the balloon to pop it!) *

Romans 8:14: Remember at the beginning of our lesson we talked about being a prince or a princess? Notice how this verse describes those who have the Spirit and follow His lead: As children of God! And if God is the King of the universe, what does that make all believers? Princes and princesses! (sons and daughters of the King)

Romans 8:15: This verse talks about HOW Christians become princes and princesses.

Q: How did Ariel and Rapunzel become princesses? A: They were born that way because their parents were the king and queen! But you and I are not born that way. We are born rebels! We have already learned that until we trust in Jesus our sin completely separates us from God! * But when we trust in Jesus, God doesn't just forgive rebels' sins, He **adopts** us rebels into His royal family and invites us to call Him our Abba, Father! * Abba is a word like Daddy or Papa...how a child talks to his dad that dearly loves him. *

Boys and Girls: This is why there is NO CONDEMNATION for those in Christ Jesus. It is because you are part of God's family now. He might correct you when you sin (as a good parent does), but He does so because He loves you and wants what is best for you.

Romans 8:16-17: Not only are Christians forgiven and not only are Christians called sons and daughters of the King, but then Christians are also heirs, just like a prince or princess is of their father's kingdom! Christians are awaiting a royal inheritance (heaven) earned by their big brother, Jesus Christ!

Key Point: Remember at the beginning of our lesson we asked you what it would be like to be a prince or a princess? While they may have lots of good things, real princes and princess actually have responsibilities!

Boys and Girls: In the same way, if you are a prince or princess of the King of the universe thru faith in Jesus Christ, you have a responsibility to live God's way. The Spirit will help you, but don't be surprised if it is hard sometimes. *

But more importantly, know that as a prince or a princess of the King, you are loved! * And God wants you to live His way because you love Him! And when you make mistakes and fail, what will you remember? NO CONDEMNATION! *

BRING IT HOME

Read Romans 8:1
What does "no
condemnation"
mean?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
What does "Abba"
mean?

Read Romans 8:13,
How can we put sin
to death?

