

Romans 10:1-13

The Gospel ABCs (Part 1)

Scripture: Romans 10:1-13

Memory Verse: Romans 10:13 “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Lesson Focus: This short passage of Scripture clearly lays out the ABCs of the gospel. ADMIT you are a sinner, BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, and CONFESS Him as Lord and Savior. Praise God that He has made such an easy and understandable way for sinners to be redeemed and restored to Him! We will teach the kids through these ABCs using the gospel bridge illustration (see picture on last page of lesson).

Activities and Crafts: The Gospel Bridge Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Sheet for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: ABCs of the Gospel Booklet

Starter Activity: Long Jump Contest

Consider getting the lesson started by picking a few kids to enter into a progressively more difficult jumping challenge. We will give you two ropes that you can set on the floor to be the lines. * To make it a little more interesting, designate the space in between the ropes as hot lava or something fun to engage the kids’ imagination. Set the lines in place so that it is very easy at first, but then after each kid makes the jump you will gradually widen the ropes. If kids are unable to make the jump, have them sit back down until you have a “winner”. Consider bringing in a tape measure to widen the gap at particular intervals (i.e. 1 foot per round or something like that) so kids know how far they are jumping.

After the challenge, ask a few questions to transition into the lesson.

Q: Do you have any idea on what the Olympic record is for the long jump?

A: Almost 30 ft for men and 25 ft for women! (**Teachers:** To provide some perspective, the 1st/2nd grade classrooms are about 24 ft wall to wall!)

That is a long way!

But as we “**jump**” back into the book of Romans today, we are going to be reminded about how LONG the gap is that exists between God and man. It is A LOT longer than 30 ft!

Let’s see what our Bibles have to say about this gap and how God made a way for us to cross it. Though it is not the way that we might have expected!

Bible Study:

Teachers: See the last page of the lesson with the “bridge” gospel illustration that we will use. We encourage you to leverage this throughout the lesson and fill out the detail as you go through the text. Before you begin the Bible study, draw the basic problem we all have: God Almighty on one side, sinful man on the other side, and a huge chasm in between (the portion in **black**). You will fill in the rest as you go thru the lesson.

In our text today, we are going to revisit something very important that we have learned before in the book of Romans: that every single human being has a sin problem before the holy God of the universe. **Romans 3:23** declared that all humans have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 6:23** declared that the wages or payment for our sin is eternal death. As the picture shows, how are we going to cross this chasm to be saved? Our text today provides the SIMPLE solution! * (**1st grade Teachers:** Your kids were just promoted from preschool and this is their first lesson in Romans!)

Romans 10:1-2: In this chapter, Paul is referring to the Jewish people, the nation of Israel. * They have this same sin problem we all have, but his heart is broken that they are not saved. For he is also Jewish so these are his people, his family, his countrymen!
Q: Do any of you have any family members or close friends that are not Christians? Like Paul, be praying for them! *

Notice that Paul says that the Jewish people of his day had a zeal or a sincerity about their religious beliefs. Yet he also says that they were sincerely WRONG! Truth matters in salvation, not just sincerity! *

Romans 10:3: Here is where they are sincerely wrong. They are trying to **jump** over this huge chasm on their own! They are trying to WORK their way across this chasm to God.

Paul wrote this nearly 2000 years ago. Yet this is what most of the world today still believes! Most people in the world, regardless of their religion, would say that salvation or heaven is reached by your own efforts....you gotta cross that chasm on your own!

Q: Now why do people think they can cross it on their own? A: Two reasons.

- 1) They have too LOW a view of God! They underestimate the holiness and righteousness of God thinking God isn't that far off from them. (**Teachers:** Consider modifying the diagram with a dotted-line to bring God closer to man)
- 2) They have too HIGH a view of themselves! They overestimate their own good works thinking they aren't that far off from God. (**Teachers:** Consider modifying the diagram with a dotted-line to bring man closer to God) *

This is where people are sincerely WRONG. * In reality, God is so much more holy and righteous than we think and we are more sinful and broken than we think! Let's take a quick “10 commandments” test to see this. **Teachers:** Consider having all of the kids raise their hands at first. Then pick some of the 10 commandments from **Exodus 20** and have kids put their hands down if they have ever broken one of these commandments (You *SHOULD* have all hands down after just a couple, especially #5). *

Romans 10:4-5: For if people want to establish a righteousness of their own, they need to be PERFECT, as v. 5 says. But as we just saw, none of us are perfect so we can NEVER jump across that chasm on our own. Fortunately, as v. 4 says, Jesus Christ has come and put an end to our futile attempts to keep God's law perfectly! *

Often at RMC you will hear about the ABCs of the gospel and salvation. What we have just learned in these verses is the hardest part of salvation: the "A". We must humbly **ADMIT** that we have a sin problem before God and that we cannot cross that chasm by our own good works! (**Teachers:** Consider adding the **ADMIT** portion of the drawing as below (the portion in **red**) and talk a little about what it means to **ADMIT** something)

Romans 10:6-8: Paul quotes a passage from the Old Testament stating how SIMPLE the gospel of grace is! The solution to our sin problem is not like a scavenger hunt where we have to search high and low, but the simple solution is right here, right in front of us! *

Romans 10:9-10: We simply **BELIEVE** in our hearts that Jesus died for our sins and rose again and **CONFESS** with our mouths that He is Lord! Jesus is Who we need and He is the ONLY way to cross that chasm! This is what makes Christianity unique from all other religions: Instead of trying to jump across the chasm on our own, we trust in Jesus who becomes the bridge for us! (**Teachers:** Add Jesus as a bridge across the chasm as in the picture. Also add **BELIEVE** and **CONFESS** to the picture (the portion in **blue**) and talk a little about what these two words mean) *

Romans 10:11: Paul quotes another Old Testament passage to sharpen his point, but notice something very important.

Q: Who is the invitation to be saved for? A: WHOEVER! EVERYONE!

Romans 10:12: It doesn't matter whether you are a boy or a girl, black or white, rich or poor, old or young. Each one has the same sin problem and God invites each one to ADMIT, BELIEVE, and CONFESS to receive the riches of salvation. The Christian faith is the most inclusive faith in the world for God offers salvation to everyone!

Q: How does it feel to be "included", maybe to a birthday party? A: It feels good! God includes everyone in His offer to be saved!

Romans 10:13: Paul quotes one more passage from the OT to rest his case for the simplicity of the gospel. Again, WHOEVER calls on the name of the Lord will be saved! These thirteen verses have walked us through the ABCs of the gospel. God has made a simple way for us to cross that chasm!

Key Point: While everyone is invited, not everyone **ADMITS, BELIEVES, and CONFESSES**. Such people will remain on the wrong side of the chasm and forever be separated from God in hell. This is what people deserve because of their sin! Jesus is the ONLY way to get to the other side. There is no other way!

How about you? God's gospel of grace is near you today as v. 8 says. Perhaps today is the day you admit, believe, and confess and become a Christian! Make that choice today!

BRING IT HOME

Read Romans 3:23
What is the first step
or "A" of being saved?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
Who does God invite
to be saved?

Read Romans 10:9-10,
What is the "B" and
"C" of salvation?



