

Romans 14:1-9

What's The Big Idea?

Scripture: Romans 14:1-9

Memory Verse: Romans 14:8 *“For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”*

Lesson Focus: While these few verses initially instruct Christians to be unified and not let silly things divide them, there is a BIG IDEA behind this whole passage that is central to the whole Bible and to life: *“That we are not our own, but belong to God”*. This BIG IDEA is radical and not popular in our culture. Therefore, we will focus on it and challenge the kids to live their lives according to this BIG IDEA.

Activities and Crafts: God Made Me Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Sheet for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for ALL Kids: Play-doh Make a Character *

Starter Activity: What's the Big Idea Game

Consider starting out the lesson by asking the kids what the phrase, *“What's the Big Idea?”* means. Typically, it is a phrase that we use when someone does something a little annoying that we weren't expecting. To demonstrate, secretly have a squirt gun or something similar ready and immediately start squirting a few kids. * This is where they are supposed to say, *“What's the Big Idea!”* Afterwards, be sure you give them an opportunity to squirt you back! (or stage it with another leader and have the other leader ask *“Hey, what's the Big Idea?”* as you squirt them).

Afterwards, play a quick *“Big Idea”* game with the kids using a ball that we will provide you. * On this ball will be written several simple big ideas that are age-appropriate (i.e. cars, food, movies, etc.). Sit in a circle with the kids and have them throw the ball around. When each kid catches it, have them pick the first big idea they see and have them share some “details” that support that big idea. These details can be examples or descriptions of these big ideas. For example, if the kid selects “cars”, they can say thing like drive, Ford, freeway, etc. * Play a few rounds with the kids and then transition into the lesson with the following question:

Q: What do you think the “Big Idea” of the Bible is? **Teachers:** Hold up the Bible and let the kids chew on this a little bit. Let several of them answer.

Our Bible lesson today is going to answer this question. As we continue in the book of Romans, we are going to see what is perhaps the “Big Idea” of the whole Bible. This idea is so important that so much of the rest of the Bible are merely “details” that support this basic big idea. Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

Romans 14:1-2: This chapter starts with a call for all believers to be unified! Back in Paul's day, Christians were getting into silly arguments about food.

Q: How many of you guys like bacon? Well, before Jesus came, God had set up particular food rules that prohibited God's people from eating food like bacon! These rules might sound weird now, but they had their purpose at their time. After Jesus came and fulfilled the law, He declared all foods, including bacon, to be OK to eat!

Romans 14:3: So there were some Christians who had grown up their whole lives thinking that eating foods God had forbidden (like bacon) was wrong while other Christians ate bacon like we do today. This caused fighting and divisions within the church and Paul is telling them to cut it out!

Christians don't really argue over foods anymore, but we can still get into silly fights about other things today. Remember masks? **Teachers:** Consider bringing a mask in to show the kids. * We are free to wear masks or not to wear masks and we are not to let our opinions on this stuff divide us as a church! *

Romans 14:4-5: Another issue that divided the church back in Paul's day was the day people gathered for church.

Q: What day is today? A: Saturday or Sunday. Imagine going to the believers who attend church on the other day and saying that you are better than them because you come to church on this day. That is what happened back then! And while it might sound silly, if we aren't careful we can argue and be divided over other silly things today.

Romans 14:6: Now we are finally going to get to the "Big Idea" that we hinted at earlier in our lesson. Let me read through this verse again very slowly and see if you can find what the "Big Idea" is here.

Q: Whether the Christian goes to church on Saturday or Sunday, why should he/she go?

A: For the Lord!

Q: Whether the Christian eats bacon or doesn't eat bacon, how should he/she eat?

A: For the Lord (and with a thankful heart)!

Q: Whether the Christian wears a mask or doesn't wear a mask, how should he dress?

A: For the Lord!

Q: So what do you think the "Big Idea" is here? A: That whatever we do or don't do, we do it for the Lord! God cares about EVERYTHING we do! * The next verse takes this idea even a step further.

Romans 14:7: Whoa! This is so polar OPPOSITE to what we hear in the world. For the world tells us that WE make ourselves, that we live in a "YOU-niverse" that revolves around us (or YOU). *

Don't believe me? * I'm going to read a few words to a song you all know. Listen for the "big idea" in this song. **Teachers:** These are words from Frozen's "Let It Go":

*"It's funny how some distance makes everything seem small
And the fears that once controlled me can't get to me at all
It's time to see what I can do, to test the limits and break through
No right, no wrong, no rules for me, I'm free."*

The "Big Idea" baked into this song is that Elsa is at the center of the universe. SHE makes the rules, SHE is the boss. * Yet, is that what we just read in Romans? NO! We read that we are not our own. That we don't make the rules. We live in God's world! *

Romans 14:8: We belong to God! This is not just something we read in these few verses in Romans, but this is the BIG IDEA of the whole Bible! * We see this cover-to-cover. **Teachers:** To further make this point, consider reading **Psalm 8** and **Isaiah 64:8** as below and ask the kids to be searching for the "big ideas" baked in. Also, we have mini-tubs of Play-doh for each kid and encourage you to use them to reinforce these points either during or after the lesson.

Psalm 8:1-5: What is the BIG IDEA so far? That God is the Creator. That He made all things and we should marvel that He would know us and care about us! In v. 4, the author asks, "*what is man that you care for him?*". The world, however, would teach us to say, "*who is God that we should care about Him?*"

Psalm 8:6-9: Notice the continuation of this same BIG IDEA. Man is special because God has made him so, not because man makes himself so. *

Isaiah 64:8: What is the BIG IDEA? God formed us and made us. Have you ever made something out of Play-Doh? Who owns that lump of play-doh? YOU! Who does with that lump what they want? YOU! Likewise, if God made us, who owns us? GOD does! *

This whole idea of you being not your own, but belonging to God might bother you. Well, Who is this God that we belong to? Let's see what else His Word has to say about Who He is. Again, listen for the BIG IDEA!

1 Chronicles 16:34: God is good! His love and mercy is everlasting!

Psalm 86:5: God is good! He is ready to forgive us our sins!

John 3:16: God is good! He loved us enough to send Jesus, His only Son, for us!

Romans 5:8: God is good! Jesus loved us enough to pay for our sins!

Boys and Girls: This is the great and wonderful God that we belong to! *

Romans 14:9: Jesus Christ, God's only Son, died not only so that we would be saved and forgiven of our sins, but so that we might become HIS forever!

Key Point: Do you truly believe that you belong to God? If so, you will make choices that are pleasing to Him! Go out this week and remember WHO you belong to and WHO you are living for! This is the BIG IDEA for all Christians!

If you're concerned you are just living for yourself, surrender to God today. Talk to your leader and become a child of the great and wonderful God Who made you and all things!

BRING IT HOME

Read Romans 14:8
Who do you belong to?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
What are some BIG
IDEAS of the Bible?

Read Romans 14:19
How can you do this in
your home this week?

