

Romans 15:1-13

Got Hope?

Scripture: Romans 15:1-13

Memory Verse: Romans 15:13 *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Lesson Focus: Hope that is sure, steadfast, and certain is the unique possession of the Christian. This passage gets the eyes of the downcast Christian off of their problems and back onto Jesus Christ, the object and source of this hope. Our prayer is that this last lesson in Romans will help the kids experience the joy, peace, and hope that comes only from God through Jesus Christ.

Activities and Crafts: Jesus is my Anchor Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Sheet for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st and 2nd Grade: Anchor Craft

Starter Activity: Ancient Roman Dice Game

When we began the book of Romans 6 months ago, we played a dice game to help the kids enter into the culture of ancient Rome. Now as we wrap up our study of the book of Romans, we will play it one more time. (3rd-5th grade leaders, we will play this in the Summit Room after worship)

We will provide you with several big foam dice to use for this. The game we recommend is [Round the Clock](#). Divide the kids into two groups and have them sit in a circle. They will take turns rolling the dice and each group is racing to roll in sequence from 1 to 12 (or consider 1 to 6 with one die for 1st-2nd graders). Each kid will roll once and then pass the dice to the next person. If they can roll the current number in the sequence (starting with 1), then they move onto the next number as a group. Consider writing each number on the white board in sequence beforehand (for each team) and erasing each number as they roll it. * The kids will continue to roll and pass until the first team rolls every number in sequence. See the link above for some more details. Also, see [here](#) for a few more dice game ideas or bring your own!

After the game, transition into the lesson by reminding the kids that dice have been around since the time of Jesus. Kids in ancient Rome would play dice games! This is important because in this lesson from the book of Romans, we will better understand the message if we better understand what it was like living as a Christian in ancient Rome. *

It was not easy to be a Christian in ancient Rome. * Believers would meet in secret and would often get jailed or even killed for their faith. Imagine being there! While Paul wrote this book to them, the message still applies to us today too! Let’s check it out!

Bible Study:

If this ancient persecuted church was going to survive, they needed to be unified.

Q: What does it mean to be unified? A: To be at peace with one another. Last week we saw that the church was fighting over silly things like foods or which day they should gather for worship. *

Romans 15:1a: Paul continues with instruction for the stronger believers to help the weaker believers.

Q: How many of you have younger brothers or sisters? Do your parents often have you help them take care of your little siblings? This is why! It is the duty of the strong to take care of the weak, or “bear their burdens” with them. * **Teachers:** Consider inviting a volunteer up for a piggy-back ride. Before you do this though, ask them who should give who the piggy-back ride. Point out how silly it would be for the kid to carry the adult!

Romans 15:1b: This is simple common sense, but we need to be reminded of this because our sinful nature focuses only on SELF. * When we are only thinking about ourselves, we fight with each other and cannot even see the needs of those around us!

Romans 15:2: But when we are not just thinking about ourselves, we will see the needs of those around us and “build up” those in need.

Q: How many of you were at our VBS a few weeks ago? Do you remember what you raised money for? A: Christians in the Ukraine who have lost everything in the war. You VBS kids raised almost \$5000 to “build them up”. Wow! You who are strong are helping build up the believers in the Ukraine who are weak right now because of the war. *

Romans 15:3: And here is why the Christian doesn’t just think of himself: Jesus didn’t just think of Himself (when He could have as God), but He thought of you and me in love when He went to the cross and bore our sins (when He didn’t have to!). * And He wants Christians, His followers, to follow His example especially toward other believers.

Q: What does it mean to follow someone? A: You look up to them and respect them so much that you imitate or “copy-cat” them! **Teachers:** To illustrate this, consider inviting a few volunteers to play a follow-the-leader game. Check out this [video](#) as an example.

Romans 15:4: So far we’ve seen that these persecuted Christians in Rome needed to be unified, helping each other. But here is something else important that they need: HOPE!

Q: What is hope? A: Today we use this word to describe good things that might happen. **Teachers:** Ask the kids to finish the statement, “*I hope....*” (i.e. I hope to get a Nintendo Switch for my birthday. I hope I will have a nice teacher in school.)

Q: But are there any guarantees things like this will happen? A: NO! The Bible doesn’t use the word this way. Rather, the Bible uses the word to describe good things that WILL happen. *

Notice where such hope comes from: the Scriptures, the word of God. * That is why we read the Bible at church. That is why believers in ancient Rome would read or recite the Scriptures. It reminded them and it reminds us of God's good promises! * And God keeps His word! **Teachers:** Consider reading a few of these select verses and asking the kids if these things **might** happen or they **will** happen:

- 1) **1 John 2:25:** Believers **might** have eternal life, or **will** have eternal life?
- 2) **Philippians 1:6:** God **might** finish what He started in believers or He **will**?
- 3) **Romans 12:19:** God **might** avenge wrongs done to His people or He **will**?
- 4) **Proverbs 23:17-18:** God **might** have a future for us, or He **will** have one?

Boys and Girls: This certainty of God's Word keeps the Christian from giving up when life gets hard. * **Hebrews 6:19** says that this hope **anchors** our souls.

Q: What does an anchor do? A: Keeps a ship secure and steady. The sure and certain promises of God found in His word anchors us through the storms of life! (**Teachers:** See the anchor in our coloring picture and craft and consider referencing it here)

Romans 15:5-7: Unified and anchored by this common hope, Christians are to glorify God together! * This is why we sing together, something Christians have been doing for 2000 years!

Romans 15:8: Paul reminds the believers that are Jewish, that Jesus Christ PROVED that God keeps His word. For Jesus was the fulfillment of so many promises God made to the Jewish people about raising up a future Messiah or Savior. But those promises weren't just for the Jewish people!

Romans 15:9a: God also made promises to the non-Jewish Gentiles.

Q: Do you know who the Gentiles are? A: Everyone that is not Jewish (most of us!). In the early church, the fighting was often between the Jewish and non-Jewish believers. But this shouldn't be!

Romans 15:9b-12: Because it has always been God's plan to welcome all people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, black and white, young and old, boy and girl, into His kingdom. These quotes from the Bible prove that!

Q: But how do people become Christians? A: By faith/belief in Jesus!

Romans 15:13: And when we believe, we experience the joy and the peace that ONLY comes from Him, the God of all hope.

Key Point: Do you have this joy and peace inside of you? Does this hope ABOUND in you and anchor your soul? If not, maybe it is because your eyes aren't on Jesus, but on something else.

The Christians in ancient Rome endured hundreds of years of persecution. How? Because they had a sure and certain HOPE. They knew that whatever happened in this world, God's promises for the next were certain! May the joy and peace and hope of God fill you this week as you keep your eyes on Jesus!

BRING IT HOME

Read Romans 15:13
Why do Christians have
hope?

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Challenge:
Read Romans 15:4.
What verses give you
hope?

Read Romans 15:1
What is the duty of the
stronger Christian?

