

IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR FOUR | SPRING QUARTER
NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY III



IMPLEMENTING GOD'S WORD...

YEAR FOUR | SPRING QUARTER
NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY III

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from
The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®)
Copyright © 2001 by Crossway,
a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
All rights reserved.
ESV Text Edition: 2007

Copyright © 2015 by One Story Ministries
Printed in the United States of America



750 S. Pear Orchard Road | Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-519-8423 | www.onestoryministries.org | info@onestoryministries.org

LESSON SEQUENCE

SPRING QUARTER

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the **Implementing God's Word...** curriculum is to equip youth to put the truths of Scripture together in their minds and to work in their hearts, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON ONE	Romans 1-4
LESSON TWO	Romans 5-8
LESSON THREE	Romans 9-11
LESSON FOUR	Romans 12-16
LESSON FIVE	I Corinthians 1-7
LESSON SIX	I Corinthians 8-16
LESSON SEVEN	II Corinthians
LESSON EIGHT	Galatians
LESSON NINE	Ephesians
LESSON TEN	Philippians
LESSON ELEVEN	Colossians
LESSON TWELVE	I Thessalonians
LESSON THIRTEEN	II Thessalonians



DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH MINISTRY OF
PEAR ORCHARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

LESSON ONE --- ROMANS 1-4

OVERVIEW

Romans is the longest of all of Paul's epistles, written to the people of Rome during his third missionary journey. Paul begins by introducing himself as an apostle, chosen by the gospel of God to preach good news to Jew and Gentile alike. His message is summed up with this statement: The righteous will live by faith! The rest of Romans 1 begins the bad news—that God's wrath is on the unrighteous and the unrighteous suppress the truth. No one is without excuse; God has revealed Himself in this world.

Romans 2 builds on this argument, further elaborating that God is righteous to judge all mankind—both Jew or Gentile. Whether under the law or outside of the law, the law shows us that we are sinners deserving death. The law cannot save; it can only condemn us and break our self-righteous hearts. In Romans 3, Paul is even more blunt, writing that no one is righteous before the LORD. No one seeks God. No one fears God. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God! So, there is only one solution: Faith in Jesus Christ alone. Only Jesus is righteous. And we can only be justified before God when Christ's righteousness is credited to our account.

Then, in Romans 4, Paul takes the reader back to Abraham. How was he saved? Through the works of the law? By circumcision? No, Abraham too was saved by faith. He believed God. He looked forward to a Messiah. This is the only way of salvation for all people, in all time!

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

While many of your teenagers are outwardly rebellious, others are living very self-righteously in this world. They see themselves as better than their peers. They pat themselves on the back for trusting in Christ and following His commands. Both sorts of teenager need the gospel of grace! Don't overlook the self-righteous Pharisees because they are more enjoyable to be around. They too may ve on the way to hell and need Christ! A survey of Paul's letters will be a good antidote to their pride, by the mighty work of the Holy Spirit!

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Psalm 118:1-4

2-3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Paul's mission to Rome

3-5 mins.

MIND-IN-TRAINING

Why epistles?

6-8 mins.

BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

Romans 1-4

30 mins.

MIND-IN-ACTION

What we really deserve

3-5 mins.



WELCOME

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET YOUR STUDENTS AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH A PASSAGE FROM PSALMS THAT WILL “CALL” THEM TO STUDY AND GROW IN WISDOM!

DRILL TIME GIVES YOUR YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST. THESE WILL BE QUESTIONS FROM A PREVIOUS LESSON OR FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.

Listen to God’s Word. Read Psalm 118:1-4.

¹ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! ² Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” ³ Let the house of Aaron say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” ⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Let’s give thanks to the LORD today!



DRILL TIME

Now, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned from God’s Word. Are you ready?

Today’s questions: *Paul was kept alive in order to end up in what city? Who were some of the authorities who heard the testimony of Paul? Who ended up exposing a plot to kill Paul? Why was the crew of a ship saved on their way to Rome? When shipwrecked on an island, what almost stopped Paul from going to Rome?*

Call on students to answer.

Answers:

1. Rome.
2. Felix, Festus, Agrippa, Priscilla.
3. His nephew.
4. Because God ordained Paul to be in Rome.
5. A snake.

Remember that the Book of Acts follows the pattern of the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the ends of the earth. Rome was the most powerful city in the world at the time. God’s kingdom is unstoppable, even in the midst of severe persecution! We will hear more about this when we read through Paul’s epistles.



MIND-IN-TRAINING

Say: Each week, we will train our minds to think the way God wants us to think. Specifically, we need to learn how to THINK through God's Word as we study it.

We need to start thinking about the next books of the New Testament—the ones we call EPISTLES. What's an EPISTLE? **Allow answers.** Yes, an EPISTLE is a letter written by an individual to another individual or a group (church).

So, how many EPISTLES are in the New Testament? [Twenty-one.] Think about that—twenty-one of the twenty-seven New Testament books are actually personal letters. How many were definitely written by the apostle Paul? [Thirteen.] The other ones were written by James, Peter, John, and Jude. One letter was written by an unknown author. Which one? [Hebrews.]

Why do you think Paul, Peter, John, James, etc. decided to choose to communicate and to teach by way of letters? **Allow answers.** Well, think about how fast Christianity was spreading throughout the ancient world. These apostles and preachers needed ways to communicate to people far away. There were no telephones or televisions—and certainly no Internet! The letter was the obvious solution to the communication needs of the early church.

But another reason for the use of the EPISTLE is related to how PERSONAL it is. Again, since churches were starting far away from one another, the epistle was a way the apostles (like Paul) could have a very personal presence with new Christians. As we study through these letters, you will quickly see how Paul is really PASTORING people from a distance.

Just one more thing for now: Remember that even these personal EPISTLES were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are Paul's words to churches and individuals—but they are God's Word too. We'll talk more about the nature of EPISTLES next time.

THE **MIND-IN-TRAINING** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS TO LEARN TO THINK.

THIS ELEMENT TEACHES A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE MIND, USEFUL TOOLS TO ENGAGE YOUNG MINDS, AND HELP IN INTERPRETING GOD'S WORD.



BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT TAKES THE STUDENT ALL THROUGH GOD'S WORD, SYSTEMATICALLY TYING IT TOGETHER TO BUILD A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *Romans is the longest and most systematic of all of Paul's letters. It is estimated that he wrote this letter to Christians in Rome in about AD 57, during his third missionary journey.*

*Let's start our survey at the beginning. **Read Romans 1:1-4.***

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Discussion: *Paul has a lot to say, even in his introduction—and that's only part of it! What do we learn about Paul and his calling? **Allow answers.** Paul was writing to all who are called by the Spirit and are **IN CHRIST!** He was also very eager to get to Rome, as you see in the next few verses.*

*Go to verse 15. **Read verses 15-17.***

¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Discussion: *Does Paul ever get to Rome? Yes! Remember, at the end of the Book of Acts, he is a prisoner in Rome. But Paul still knows where his **LIFE** and his **POWER** comes from! Only by faith in Christ are we righteous before God.*

*Look at the next verses. **Read verses 18-19.***

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Discussion: *The rest of the chapter describes the **BAD NEWS**—the wrath of God against unrighteousness. As sinners, we avoid and ignore the truth. We are all without excuse, because even creation shows us that there is a God. God gives the ungodly over to their sin and they continue to get more and more wicked. Because of our sin, we all deserve to die.*



Then we go to Romans 2. **Read Romans 2:1-2.**

¹ Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

Discussion: *So can you and I point the finger at someone else and claim to be innocent? No way! Paul says we are ALL sinners, and ALL deserve the judgment of God for our sin. Over and over again, Paul will make this point.*

Look at verse 11. **Read verses 11-12.**

¹¹ For God shows no partiality. ¹² For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

Discussion: *Now Paul is addressing the lie that Jews often believed—that they were righteous before God just because they were Jews! The truth is that ALL Jews and ALL Gentiles are sinners and judged by God's law as such. No one has a right to the GRACE and FAVOR of God.*

Look at even stronger words. **Read verses 17-23.**

¹⁷ But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸ and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹ you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law.

Discussion: *Do you understand what Paul is saying? He is first pointing the finger at Jews who claim to be God's people and claim to know His law—yet don't obey His law. Does this apply to us as Christians today?*

Allow application. *Yes! We too can become self-righteous and believe we aren't sinners just because we call ourselves Christians. This is a denial of God's judgment on sin. It presumes God's kindness and grace.*

THIS **SIDEBAR** FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION MAY ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.



*Paul continues in Chapter Three. **Read Romans 3:9-18.***

⁹ What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

Discussion: *So, who among us is righteous? NO ONE! None of us seek God. None of us fear God. Paul is really hammering us with the BAD NEWS, isn't he?*

*Verse 20 is also key. **Read verse 20.***

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Discussion: *In other words, no one can do good things in order to get to heaven. The law just shows us how SINFUL we are, not how GREAT we are!*

*Then go down to verse 23. **Read verses 23-25.***

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Discussion: *Aren't those some incredible words! All have sinned. Yet, some received grace as a GIFT. Who is the one who died for that gift? Jesus! It is His righteousness that makes us right with God, not our own.*

*Let's finish this chapter. **Read verses 27-31.***

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and



the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Discussion: *How are we justified? [Through faith in Christ.] So does that mean we can throw out the LAW? [No!] So Paul expands his argument here: Just because the law doesn't save us doesn't mean that the law is useless. It is still God's perfect, moral law which we are obligated to obey.*

Which takes us to Romans 4. **Read Romans 4:1-3.**

¹ What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

Discussion: *Now, Paul goes back to Abraham, the father of the Jews, to clear up any misunderstanding of his salvation. Was Abraham saved by obeying the law? [No!] He too was saved by faith—by believing God.*

Go down to verse 13. **Read verses 13-16.**

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

Discussion: *Again, just to make it clear, Paul says that Abraham and his offspring were not saved by the law or by circumcision (the sign of the covenant). What does salvation depend on? [Faith in Christ alone!]*

Paul finishes this point in the last few verses. **Read verses 22-25.**

²² That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³ But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.





Conclusion: *A couple of important points here: First, our righteousness, like Abraham's, is only ACCOUNTED to us—it is not something we deserve or earn. It is Jesus' righteousness, placed in our ACCOUNT. Secondly, Paul answers that age-old question about how Old Testament people were saved. How were they saved? **Allow answers.** They were saved just like us—by putting their faith in Jesus. They looked forward to the death and resurrection of Christ, and we look backward. We'll continue examining this amazing instruction in Romans next time!*



MIND-IN-ACTION

THE **MIND-IN-ACTION** SECTION IS DESIGNED TO MOVE YOUR STUDENTS TO ACTION. AS THEIR MINDS GROW IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO GROW IN WISDOM. THEY WILL NEVER TRULY LEARN IF THEY DON'T PUT WHAT THEY HAVE STUDIED INTO PASSIONATE ACTION!

Each week, we will end our time together with a MIND-IN-ACTION section. Often times, our minds are "Missing in Action!" It is vital you and I put what we learn from God's Word into action so we are DOERS of the Word, and not hearers only.

So, here is my challenge to you as we close today:

Root out your self-righteous thinking.

It's easy for us to think that we deserve God's love and grace. After all, compared to other people, you're a pretty good person, right? Maybe you are proud of being born into the right family. Maybe you see yourself as a dedicated church goer. Or, you just think you follow God's law pretty well. It's time to root out the lie that you are good enough to get to heaven on your own!

And the second part of my challenge is this:

Remind yourself of what you really deserve.

If you are like me, you regularly think of what you deserve, and what you don't deserve. I deserve to be treated fairly. I deserve good things in life. I don't deserve to suffer. But the truth is that all you and I really deserve is HELL. We deserve God's wrath for our sins, not His love. Reminding ourselves of this truth on a daily basis will give us grateful hearts!

Close in prayer.