

THE THREAD | The Gospel At Work

Lesson 6: A Letter To The Romans

Dear Parents,

Hello again! We are almost halfway through our 13 lessons, looking at the story of the spread of the Gospel and Christianity in a post-crucifixion/resurrection world through *The Gospel At Work* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This lesson was entitled "A Letter to the Romans." Everyone has different ideas about sin, but no one can claim that they've never done it. According to Paul, everyone is on the same level when it comes to sin. While it's a simple concept, the fact that our disobedience against God earned us both physical and spiritual death is difficult to come to terms with. This is especially true since most of us have been told that we are basically good people who sometimes make small mistakes. But God offers us life through the gift of forgiveness of our sin and salvation in Jesus Christ. Since the church in Rome had not received theological teaching on salvation and other implications of following Christ, Paul wrote the church in Rome to ensure a good understanding of such things. In addition, since many Jewish Christians were rejecting some of the new Gentile converts, a level playing field needed to be given to all believers.

Lesson Overview: As we continue your look at the big-picture story of the Bible, this lesson represents a significant change in how we'll be studying the story of the Bible. The rest of *The Thread: The Gospel At Work* will be dedicated to looking at some of the letters making up the rest of the New Testament, moving to a final look at Revelation at the end of our study. We'll be building on students' knowledge of the Bible by dealing with some of the major themes of many of the New Testament epistles.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: Understand that we are all sinners and our sin condemns us, but there is salvation through faith in Jesus. Grasp the concept that publicly identifying ourselves with Jesus is vital to our relationship with Him.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They've Learned: Examine how effectively their life bears testimony to their faith.

Scripture Passages We Studied: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

Next Steps. . .

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- What is the gift that God has given us through Jesus? How is that different from what we deserve?
- What does it mean to publicly acknowledge Jesus, and why was it so important to Him that His followers did so?
- What are some real examples of how we can publicly acknowledge Jesus through what we say and do?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I'm praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.