CHURCH

IILDREN'S

LESSON (Romans 1:1-17)

PAUL

NOTHING BUT GRACE

We've talked about Paul several times before — we met him in the stories of several of the MAD Crew, e.g. Stephen, Barnabas, Timothy etc — but let's do a quick review on Paul's life: Lifekids <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oi95cv0tk9Q</u> (for younger kids) Saddleback <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIXFy3zjJh4</u> Crossroads <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0p0W_Zbt1s</u> (for older kids)

INTRO TO ROMANS

After coming to know Jesus, Paul was completely transformed and began telling everyone about Jesus. He went through a lot and he wrote many letters to encourage the churches everywhere. One of them is the letter (epistle) to the **Romans**, which we will studying over the next few weeks.

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Paul wrote the letter (epistle) of Romans to the church in Rome, which was well known around the world for its faith.

Paul starts off the letter by introducing himself as:

- a bond-servant of Christ Jesus
 - bond-servant: someone completely dependent on Jesus and who follows His commands
- called as an apostle
 although Paul was not one of Jesus' 12 disciples, he was still someone sent by Jesus
- set apart for the gospel of God
 Jesus had a special mission for Paul to fulfil to bring the gospel to the whole world!

THE GOSPEL

Paul wrote that the Gospel (Good News):

- was promised beforehand through God's prophets in the holy Scriptures
 not an afterthought or last-minute decision, but something God planned from the beginning
- concerns God's Son

 the Gospel is centred on Jesus, who was born as a man, died and rose again, so that all of us can respond to it and receive Jesus' grace.
- reveals the **righteousness of God**

 This big word righteousness means right standing before God. Paul wrote a lot about it in his letter to the Romans because he wanted the church to know that it is Jesus who makes us right and who keeps us right.

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

TNCC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

INTRO TO ROMANS

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

NOTHING BUT GRACE

"So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome." Romans 1:15

Paul devoted his life to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was always so enthusiastic and excited about it. He felt an obligation, a debt to share about the grace of Jesus Christ because he received so much of it himself (he had persecuted Christians, but Jesus still appeared to him).

The gospel of Jesus Christ was something that was so great, so wonderful, so important that he was willing to undergo great hardship, be persecuted/stoned, shipwrecked, imprisoned etc.

Paul declared boldly: For I am <u>not ashamed</u> 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. **Romans 1:16**

If Paul was not ashamed to preach the gospel — because it is powerful and saves all of us — then we shouldn't be either!

What is the gospel? What does it mean to preach the gospel? How can you preach the gospel?

OVERVIEW OF ROMANS [optional, will be repeated next week, but good for teachers' viewing] **Crosspaint Intro** <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE4Q3WIy26g</u>

Bible Project <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_6dVdJSIU</u> (for older kids)

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

NOTHING BUT GRACE

For I am <u>not ashamed</u> 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. **Romans 1:16**

INTRO TO ROMANS

GOSPEL MESSAGE

What is the gospel? What does it mean to preach the gospel? How can you preach the gospel?

Share a simple gospel message to the kids. Get them to repeat it to you.

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CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Ideas:

https://betterbibleteachers.com/2018/04/working10-creative-ways-to-share-the-gospel-with-kids/ https://www.abcjesuslovesme.com/ideas/wordless-book https://paththroughthenarrowgate.com/how-to-share-the-gospel-with-kids-in-six-simple-steps/

Invite kids to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Encourage them to share the gospel with someone this week.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share and pray for each other.

LESSON (Romans 1-3)

INTRO/REVIEW

NOTHING BUT GRACE

We started on our series on one of Paul's letters last week. Who remembers what it was? Romans

THE BIG SIN PROBLEM

That's right. Let's have a look at what the Book of Romans is about. **Crosspaint Intro** <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YE4Q3WIy26g</u> **Bible Project** <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_6dVdJSIU</u> (for older kids)

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Last Sunday, we learnt that after Paul's encounter with Jesus, he went to share the gospel to everyone, especially the non-Jews, even though he had to go through a lot of challenges and problems. Do you remember what some of these were? *Shipwreck, stoning, imprisonment etc.*

Remember what Paul declared? Let's read last lesson's **Key Verse** together: For I am <u>not ashamed of the gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **Romans 1:16**

What is so important about the gospel that Paul was willing to go through all that?

The gospel is needed because all of us were stuck in a big problem that we could not get out of on our own — the problem of SIN.

THE BIG SIN PROBLEM

Imagine a courtroom. Have you seen one on TV before? On one side, you have the accused — someone charged with doing something wrong, e.g. breaking into a house, or attacking someone, or stealing. The accused would have a lawyer who tries to prove that he/she did not commit any crime, while on the other side, you have the prosecutor who is pressing the charges — explaining which laws have been broken and showing evidence of wrongdoing.

All of us are like the accused in the stand. You may say: I didn't break into any house, I didn't attack anyone, and I didn't steal etc. But we chose to go our own way instead of God's way, we all sinned.

God is a good and holy God. God created everything and made us in His image. God wants to have a relationship with us. But when people "exchanged the truth about God for a lie" (Romans 1:25), they became separated from God by SIN. As a result, their lives became full of wrongdoings.

In Romans 1:24-32, Paul writes of some of these wrongdoings: (explain briefly as necessary)

- sexual impurity, lust
- wickedness, evil, depravity
- greed, envy



THE BIG SIN PROBLEM

- murder
- strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander
- God-haters, insolent (stubborn), arrogant, boastful

IILDREN'S

CHURCH

- disobey parents
- no love, no mercy

These acts not only hurt ourselves but those around us. They break down families and societies.

GOD, THE JUDGE

In the middle of the courtroom, there is a judge who has to decide if the accused person is guilty of the crime or innocent. If the judge rules that the accused is innocent, then he/she is set free. If the judge rules that the accused is guilty, he/she would have to be punished — have to pay a fine, be imprisoned or even put to death.

God is the judge of all of us. Unlike a human judge, who may sometimes not know all the facts or make mistakes, God knows absolutely everything about you and what you have done. There is nothing you can hide from Him. As Paul wrote: *God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.* **Romans 2:16**

I'M GUILTY, YOU'RE GUILTY, EVERYBODY'S GUILTY

God is holy and perfect. And His Law is perfect. It's so perfect that is impossible for us, humans, to meet the standards. *"There is no one righteous, not even one."* **Romans 3:10**

Those who thought they were holy and pointed fingers at others were also guilty because they also break the law themselves. So if you like to pick at your friends' wrongdoings, remember that you are just as guilty as them — when you point your finger at someone, three fingers are pointing back at you! ... for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. **Romans 2:1**

The Jews thought they were righteous because they are God's special people and have been circumcised. But Paul said that even if you are circumcised, if you break the law, you are guilty. So even if you are born in a distinguished family, or your parents are Christians, you are also guilty of sin. *Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised.* **Romans 2:25**

In short, all of us are guilty! Romans 3:23 (our Key Verse for today) says: *for all have sinned and <u>fall</u> <u>short</u> of the glory of God.*

When we do not meet God's standards, we <u>fall short</u>. And none of us can meet God's perfect standards.

THE BIG SIN PROBLEM CHILDREN'S

Illustration 1: Get the kids to stand up and ask them to touch something slightly above them, e.g. the light switch. Then something higher, e.g. a shelf (maybe they'll stand on a stool, but make sure they stay safe). Then something out of reach, e.g. the ceiling.

CHURCH

Illustration 2: You, Michael Jordan (famous basketball player) and a kangaroo are in a competition to see who can jump the highest. Who do you think will win? Maybe Michael Jordan, maybe kangaroo. Next round of the competition is to see who can jump to the moon. Definitely nobody.

The lesson behind these illustrations is that God's standard is out of our reach — we fall short of it! We are all guilty!

So do you see why SIN is such a big problem? It separates us from God and all the good things He has in store for us. All of us were stuck in it. We couldn't help ourselves. The Law couldn't save us — it was only meant to teach us how high God's standards are.

THE GOSPEL = THE POWER OF SALVATION

Romans 3:23 says: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ... The good news is that Paul didn't just stop there. In **Romans 3:24**, he goes on to say, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

We are only saved from our sins when we believe in Jesus, because His death on the Cross paid for our sins. And God can then see us as "righteous" (without sin) because of Jesus' finished work on the Cross, and declare us **NOT GUILTY!**

Notes for teachers:

NOTHING BUT GRACE

SIN: stems from choosing our way instead of God's way (tracing back to Adam)

resulting in

sins: actions (i use the word "wrongdoings") that are destructive to us and those around us

The big SIN problem: Because of SIN, all of us are guilty, and all deserve to be punished

The GOSPEL: Only Jesus can save us and make us right again through His finished work on the cross

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

KEY VERSE

NOTHING BUT GRACE

There is no one righteous, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:10, 23**

THE BIG SIN PROBLEM

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Assign each kid to write 1-2 words of the Key Verse on a sheet of A4 paper. Get them to hold it in front of their chest so everyone else can see. Then the teacher recites the verse slowly, and each kid put up their paper to the camera when it is their word. Can go faster with each round and get the class to try to recite the verse together.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Talk to the class about some sins that many people believe aren't a "big deal" (such as lying, gossiping, stealing, cheating, teasing, etc.). Help the children identify the consequences of such sins ("When we lie, it's harder for people to trust us when we really need help") and explain that every bad decision has a consequence. So, when someone tries to tell us that sin isn't a "big deal," we need to remember that the consequence for our sins was Jesus' death on the cross; hence, we should choose to obey Him. Because of Jesus, we can escape the punishment of death and instead live in eternity with Him!

Get kids to share and pray for each other.

LESSON (Romans 4)

INTRO/REVIEW

NOTHING BUT GRACE

We started on our series on one of Paul's letters last week. Who remembers what it was? Romans

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

As we go through the Book of Romans, we want to learn and memorise some **Key Verses**: [think of some creative ways to present these]

IILDREN'S

CHURCH

- Romans 1:16 For I am <u>not ashamed of the gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 We learnt about how Paul was willing to go to great lengths to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the whole world.
- **2)** Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This gospel was so important because all of us had a big SIN problem.

Today, we learn about a man who, despite the SIN problem, was given a gift called "RIGHTEOUSNESS". This man is Abraham.

GOD & ABRAHAM

Let's take a look at Abraham's life.

God's Story: Abraham and Sarah <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NdqrwGJYePQ</u> God's Covenant with Abraham <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNxuukP6mgU</u>

God chose Abraham as His special friend. He called Abraham (then known as Abram) to leave everything and follow Him to a new land. He promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation, and He will bless Abraham and all the peoples of the earth through him. (Gen 12)

God also promised Abram that he will have as many children as the stars in the sky. Abram and his wife were already very old. How could Abraham have many children? It seemed impossible.

In **Romans 4**, Paul said: Against all hope, <u>Abraham in hope believed</u> and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <u>being fully persuaded that God had power to do</u> <u>what he had promised.</u>

As we know, despite a long wait, God kept His promise, and Abraham had a son, Isaac, and from there, a great nation — the Israelites, God's special people.

CHILDREN'S

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

COUNTED AS RIGHTEOUS

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Last week, we learned that all of us have sinned, and that we cannot be righteous by trying to follow the Law, which is holy and perfect.

But Paul explains in **Romans 4** that God considered Abraham righteous simply because he **believed** God. The Bible records for us that: *"Abram <u>believed</u> the Lord, and He credited it to him as* <u>righteousness</u>." (Gen 15:6)

What is righteousness?

RIGHTEOUS = made right before God — "just as if I had not sinned" whose sins are forgiven and not counted against them (Romans 4:7-8)

Abraham did not have to work for his righteousness. It was a gift. What's the difference?

If your parents said to you: "If you wash all the dishes, I'll give you RM5," you washed all the dishes, and your parents gave you RM5 — you worked for the RM5, you earned the RM5. Your parents are obligated to give it to you.

But if your parents said: "Here is RM5 for you" and you receive it, it is a gift. You did not work for it. You did not earn it. Your parents were not obligated to give it to you. You only had to **receive** it.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

As Abraham's children, the Jews believed they were special because they were circumcised and because they had the Law. But Paul reminded them that they cannot be made right by following the Law, because they cannot follow the Law perfectly.

It was <u>not through the law</u> that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but <u>through the righteousness that comes by faith</u>. (Romans 4:13)

As Abraham's children, the Jews could inherit all God's blessings and promises. But the good news is that anyone who have the faith of Abraham — who believe in the One who raised Jesus from the dead — are also considered Abraham's children and can also inherit all God's blessings and promises, including this <u>gift of righteousness</u>.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to **those who have the faith of Abraham**. (Romans 4:16)

So let us have Abraham's faith and believe and trust in Jesus who died for our sins and was raised to life to make us right before God!

Nb. Paul points out that God credited righteousness to Abraham <u>before</u> he was circumcised. This means that Abraham was not considered righteous because he was circumcised (fulfilling the Law), but that his circumcision was a confirmation of his righteousness. So we who are not circumcised can also be counted as righteous.

THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

DISCUSSION

What was the important thing that Abraham did? Abraham trusted God by faith.

What is faith?

Faith is trusting that something will happen that hasn't yet happened. Faith is also trusting in someone's word about something that we didn't see personally.

IILDREN'S

CHURCH

What did Abraham have to trust God for? God promised Abraham he would give him a son in his old age and that through this son all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

What is the result of Abraham trusting God? God gave him the gift of righteousness.

What do we need to believe about God? We need to believe that God is real, that God sent his only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins, and that Jesus was raised again on the third day.

What is the result of us believing God? We will have the gift of righteousness too.

KEY VERSE

The promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring. **Romans 4:16**

GAME

Any game where all the kids "win" even if they did not work/earn for it. To emphasise that God's righteousness is a gift for all who believe.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share and pray for each other.

CHILDREN'S

LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

LESSON (Romans 5)

INTRO/REVIEW

NOTHING BUT GRACE

As we go through the Book of Romans, we have learnt some **Key Verses**: [think of some creative ways to present these]

- Romans 1:16 For I am <u>not ashamed of the gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 We learnt about how Paul was willing to go to great lengths to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the whole world.
- 2) Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This gospel was so important because all of us had a big SIN problem.
- **3)** Romans 4:16 The promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring.
 Just as Abraham was considered righteous because of his faith in God, we also have the gift of

righteousness when we have faith in Jesus.

We've learnt about the big SIN problem. How did we get into that mess in the first place? Today, we go back to the very beginning to how SIN entered the world.

IN THE GARDEN

After God created the world, He decided to create man to have someone to fellowship with and to enjoy the world he had created. He created Adam, the first man, and Eve, the first woman, and placed them in a beautiful garden in Eden. Everything was good and perfect. Until Adam decided he wanted to make his own decisions instead of just following God.

Let's take a look at what happened.

Crossroads <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg2lkCxjMg8</u> Saddleback Kids <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7TDvJrjjz0</u>

CHILDREN'S

LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

THE FIRST ADAM

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Because of Adam's Fall, SIN entered the perfect world God created and brought death and destruction. And because all of us come from Adam, we inherit this sin nature that separates us from God and causes us to sin and suffer the consequences of death.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned (Romans 5:12)

THE PLAN

But all was not lost. Since the very beginning, God had also already set in motion His ultimate plan for mankind, to bring them back to Him because He loved us so very much. In fact, even in the garden of Eden, God already foretold that the seed of a woman would crush the serpent's (Satan) head.

That plan was for God to become man, to live a perfect life and fulfil the whole Law, and take the punishment for our sins in our place, and give us new life so that SIN no longer has any hold on us.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

THE LAST ADAM

Jesus came as the Last Adam.

(Paul's term in 1 Cor 15:45. Note: Paul did not call Jesus the "Second Adam" because second would imply a third/fourth/fifth, but Jesus did a perfect job so he was the final one.)

Let's take a look at some of the differences between the First Adam and the Last Adam in Romans 5.

FIRST ADAM	LAST ADAM, JESUS
Adam: pattern of the one to come (v.14)	Jesus: the One who came
Disobedience (v.19)	Obedience
Through him: SIN entered the world,	Through Him: God's grace and gift
and death through sin (v.12)	overflowed to many (v.15)
All of us made sinners (v.19)	All of us made righteous (v.19)
Result: Judgment and condemnation (v.16)	Result: Justification
	("just as if I had not sinned") and life

Because of Adam's disobedience, SIN entered the world and all became sinners. Because of Jesus' obedience, SIN is defeated and we have His RIGHTEOUSNESS and ALL the blessings that come with it, so we can live the life God intended for Adam and Eve.

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:17**

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LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise; Romans 5:8 for younger kids, both for older kids]

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

SONG

Romans 5:8 <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vq04oJIJWs</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZhbmTc-U0Q</u>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share and pray for each other.

TNCC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE IN CHRIST

LESSON (Romans 6)

INTRO/REVIEW

NOTHING BUT GRACE

As we go through the Book of Romans, we have learnt some **Key Verses**: [think of some creative ways to present these as reinforcement]

- Romans 1:16 For I am <u>not ashamed of the gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 Paul was willing to go to great lengths to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the whole world.
- 2) Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This gospel was so important because all of us had a big SIN problem.
- 3) Romans 4:16 The promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring. Just as Abraham was considered righteous because of his faith in God, we also have the gift of righteousness when we have faith in Jesus.
- **4)** Romans **5:8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. [Yellow class only] Though sin and death entered through the First Adam, the Last Adam died for us to give us His righteousness and life!

Now that we have learnt all these, how do we live our lives? Since Jesus already made us righteous, should we just sin all we want to?

DEAD TO SIN

NOTHING BUT GRACE

How many of you have attended a funeral? [get 1-2 kids to share] Have you ever wondered what your funeral would be like? [get 1-2 kids to share] Do you know that all of us who believe in Jesus have been to a funeral? Your own!

When we were under the First Adam, we had a SIN nature. We were tied to SIN. It was who we were. So no matter how hard we tried, we couldn't stop sinning.

But under the Last Adam, Jesus, we have a NEW nature — HIS nature.

When we choose not to go our own way anymore, when we choose to follow God and believe in Jesus, our old self (our SIN nature) dies. And when that happens, we are no longer slaves to sin! We are FREE!

For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from *sin.* (Romans 6:6-7)

ALIVE IN CHRIST

And like Jesus, we didn't stay dead. We rose again with Him — we live a NEW life in Him. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:5)

That's why when we believe in Jesus, we take the step of baptism to tell the world that we have died to sin and rose again with Christ.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

[this is a good opportunity to talk to the kids about baptism; get those who have been baptised to share their experience/testimony, and encourage the rest to take the step of faith]

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23) Thank you Jesus!





What Happens in Baptism: Romans 6:3-6





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DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE IN CHRIST

So since we are DEAD to SIN and ALIVE in CHRIST ...

We should not live in sin anymore!

We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Romans 6:2) Paul goes on to say that since SIN has no more hold us, we should not let SIN reign in us nor obey its evil desires (Romans 6:12)

We should live for God!

NOTHING BUT GRACE

The death He (Jesus) died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:10-11)

You have been set free from sin and have become <u>slaves to righteousness</u>. (Romans 6:18) Previously, we sinned because we were slaves to SIN. Now we can be "slaves" to RIGHTEOUSNESS. We are FREE to live out our RIGHTEOUS nature.

E.g. A fly likes to hang out around dung/poop. That's its nature. A butterfly, however, likes to hang out around flowers. That's its nature. Sometimes, a butterfly may fall into poop, but it's still a butterfly. It would get up and return to the flowers.

In the same way, we are no longer flies that like to hang out around poop (sin/wrongdoings) because that's no longer our nature.

We are now the butterfly that goes to the fragrant flowers.

Sometimes we still make mistakes and do wrong things, but it doesn't change who we are — we are RIGHTEOUS in Christ. Hence, we should remember who we are and stop hanging out around poop!



DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE IN CHRIST

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

SONG

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sing the verse to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (this <u>tune</u>) until the kids are familiar. You may use the suggested phrasing below: For-- the wages o-f sin is death, But-- the gift of God is e-ternal life, In- Jesus Christ o-ur Lord Ro-mans 6-23

[for older kids] Faith Kids <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eELUOY3Wcsg</u>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share and pray for each other.

DEAD TO THE LAW, LIVING THROUGH THE SPIRIT

LESSON (Romans 7-8)

INTRO/REVIEW

NOTHING BUT GRACE

As we go through the Book of Romans, we have learnt some **Key Verses**: [in interest of time, can just focus on Romans 6:11 as it leads to this Sun's lesson]

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

- Romans 1:16 For I am <u>not ashamed of the gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 Paul was willing to go to great lengths to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the whole world.
- 2) Romans 3:23 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This gospel was so important because all of us had a big SIN problem.
- 3) Romans 4:16 The promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring. Just as Abraham was considered righteous because of his faith in God, we also have the gift of righteousness when we have faith in Jesus.
- **4)** Romans **5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. [Yellow class only] Though sin and death entered through the First Adam, the Last Adam died for us to give us His righteousness and life!

5) Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Since we have Jesus' righteousness and life, remember that we are dead to sin!

[younger kids can sing Romans 6:23 as revision]

Sing the verse to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (this <u>tune</u>): For-- the wages o-f sin is death, But-- the gift of God is e-ternal life, In- Jesus Christ o-ur Lord Ro-mans 6-23 CHILDREN'S CHURCH

DEAD TO THE LAW, LIVING THROUGH THE SPIRIT

ноок

Play a round of <u>Simon Says</u>. [will be tied in to lesson later]

[for younger kids, focus more on what it means to live through the Spirit and our assurance in Christ]

DEAD TO THE LAW

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Two weeks ago, we learnt that when we choose to believe in Jesus, we are DEAD to SIN. But Paul also wanted to emphasise to the Jewish believers that they were also DEAD to the LAW.

So, my brothers and sisters, <u>you also died to the law</u> through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. **(Romans 7:4)** RIP

Why the LAW? Isn't God's LAW good and perfect? Yes! So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. (Romans 7:12)

But as we have learnt, when we still had our SIN nature, the LAW could not save us. It could only point out all the bad in our lives.

Paul faced this struggle himself. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. (Romans 7:15)

He explained that while He loved God's law, there was another law at work in him (the SIN nature), "waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me." (v.22)

So if we try to live according to the LAW, we end up falling short and being condemned by our failure. "What a wretched man I am!" (v.24) Paul cried out in despair.

THE SOLUTION: JESUS

But as we have also learned, God didn't leave us to struggle on our own. From the very beginning, Jesus came as the Last Adam to rescue us by meeting the demands of the LAW. For <u>what the law was powerless to do</u> because it was weakened by the flesh, <u>God did by sending his</u> <u>own Son</u> in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. **(Romans 8:3)**

Because of Jesus, we are no longer under condemnation from SIN and the LAW. Therefore, there is now <u>no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus</u> ... (Romans 8:1)

DEAD TO THE LAW, LIVING THROUGH THE SPIRIT

LIVE THROUGH THE SPIRIT

NOTHING BUT GRACE

If we are no longer under the LAW, how would we know what is right or wrong? Good or evil? Does it mean we can live however we like now?

God did not just send Jesus to fulfil the LAW and die in our place, then leave us all alone. Through Jesus' finished work on the Cross, God gave us His Holy Spirit to help us live the NEW LIFE we have.

Earlier we played Simon Says. Someone was giving us instructions: Do this, do that. It seems easy to live life that way. But if we fail, the penalty can be much harsher than for any game we play. God doesn't want us to live tied to the LAW (do this, do that). He wants a relationship with us. He wants us to call Him "Daddy", to talk to Him and hear His voice. That's why He sent His HOLY SPIRIT to live in us and with us always.

When we believe in Jesus, we don't have to keep referring to the LAW to see if something is right or wrong. E.g. Is it wrong for me to hit my sister? Is it wrong for me to take someone else's things? Err ... let me check the LAW. We don't have to do that because the Holy Spirit is in us. He teaches and guides us, and we can learn to live our life His way.

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. **(Romans 7:6)**

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

• Sets us FREE from the law of SIN and DEATH (8:2)

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

God's LAW was good but could not help us. But as we live according to the Spirit's direction, we will know what God's heart and desires are (8:5), our minds will be filled with life and peace (8:6), we have His eternal life (8:11), and we have the power to stop sinning (8:13).

• Make us children of God

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, <u>the</u> <u>Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship</u>. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." <u>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children</u>. **(Romans 8:15-16)** As God's child, we have all the blessings, inheritance and benefits as Jesus! (8:17)

• Helps us when we are weak (8:26)

Even when we do not know what to do or even how to pray, the Holy Spirit is there to help us. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27) And one of my favourite verses reminds us that God is always in control! And we know that in all things <u>God works for the good</u> of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

DEAD TO THE LAW, LIVING THROUGH THE SPIRIT

IN CONCLUSION: WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

NOTHING BUT GRACE

When we believe in Jesus, we are dead to SIN and to the LAW. We are ALIVE in CHRIST, and we LIVE THROUGH THE SPIRIT.

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

What an amazing message! This is the Gospel that Paul was so excited about, that he was not ashamed of, because it has such power.

Paul ended Romans 8 with powerful declarations. If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **Romans 8:32**

And he gives us a wonderful reminder to us as we go through our daily challenges. Let's read **Romans 8:35-39** out together! Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, <u>in all these things we are more than conquerors</u> through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VIDEO:

FighterVerse Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wD54dJWE7xA

Lana https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2clrBp79q1A

DEAD TO THE LAW, LIVING THROUGH THE SPIRIT

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share and pray for each other.

NOTHING BUT GRACE CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SAVED TO SHARE!

LESSON (Romans 9-11)

REVIEW

[younger kids can sing Romans 6:23 as revision]

Sing the verse to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (this <u>tune</u>): For-- the wages o-f sin is death, But-- the gift of God is e-ternal life, In- Jesus Christ o-ur Lord Ro-mans 6-23

Review Romans 8:35-39 FighterVerse Song <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wD54dJWE7xA</u>

INTRO

We've been journeying through the Book of Romans. Who wrote it? Paul

Paul went through many challenges and hardships after becoming a Christian, but he never gave up. In fact, he said, For I am <u>not ashamed of the gospel</u>, for it is the <u>power of God for salvation</u> to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

[Prepare a piece of string/yarn/rope to illustrate] We learnt what was so important about this gospel. Here's a simple way to remember.

- 1) Hold string vertically like a height measuring tape
 - We all were stuck in a big SIN problem, i.e. we couldn't reach God's high standards of holiness, we all fall short! Just like how this string cannot touch the ceiling. *... for all have sinned and <u>fall short</u> of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23)
- 2) Let go of the top of the string so it falls down to signify dying
 - The result of this SIN problem = DEATH For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)
- 3) Shape the rope into a heart shape
 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
 - When we believe in Jesus, we become GOD's CHILDREN DEAD to SIN and to the LAW, but ALIVE in CHRIST and living through the HOLY SPIRIT.
 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11); For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8:14)

HILDREN'S HURCH

SAVED TO SHARE!

SAVED ...

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Isn't this a great gospel? It really is the power of God for salvation!

How do you believe in Jesus? How do you be saved?

Paul writes clearly in **Romans 10:9-10**. *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Children, can you declare "Jesus is Lord"?

Do you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead?

If yes, you will be saved. You are made righteous by faith! You are dead to sin. The Holy Spirit lives in you.

Remember Abraham? We learnt that if we have faith in God like Abraham, we have the same gift of righteousness Abraham received, even though we are not Jews (God's special people).

¹¹ As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:11-13)

And as we have learnt before, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ (Romans 10:17)

... TO SHARE

Like Paul, we should not be ashamed of the gospel. We should want to tell everyone about this good news of God's great love for us.

There are so many people in the world who have yet to know about Jesus.

They may know there is a God because God revealed Himself to all through His creation. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

But they'd be stuck in the same cycle of SIN and unable to help themselves unless they believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and declare with their mouth that Jesus is Lord.

How can they know the One who can save them unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:14-15 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



SAVED TO SHARE!

LET US HAVE BEAUTIFUL FEET

God showed us His love and grace. Let us go share with others about how good Jesus is.

VIDEO:

God's Heart <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xk5kYOnNF48</u> People need the Lord <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uZcGaixMhg</u>

SAVED TO SHARE!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ACTIVITY

Go through the string illustration under INTRO. Get kids to learn how to share the gospel message using the string. Or get them to share their way of presenting the gospel with the same key points.

End with Romans 10:9 to challenge the listener to believe in Jesus.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share who they would like to share the gospel with and pray for those who don't yet know Jesus.

NOTHING BUT GRACE CHILDREN'S CHURCH

TNCC

A LIVING SACRIFICE

LESSON (Romans 12-13)

REVIEW

[younger kids can sing Romans 6:23; good to show the words when singing] Sing the verse to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (this <u>tune</u>): For-- the wages o-f sin is death, But-- the gift of God is e-ternal life, In- Je-sus Christ o-ur Lord Ro-mans 6-23

INTRO

We've been journeying through the Book of Romans. Who wrote it? Paul

We learned how we were stuck in a huge sin problem we couldn't solve, and how Jesus was the One who came to die in our place and rose again, giving us new life in Christ and enabling us to live by the Holy Spirit.

We also learned that when we have such great news, we shouldn't keep it to ourselves and share it to all who need to know about Jesus.

We can share about Jesus with our words and actions. But do you know that our lives can say a lot more than our words? How we live out this new life we have can point people to Jesus.

In the last part of Romans, Paul shares some ways we can live out this new life we have in Christ.

A LIVING SACRIFICE

OUR TRUE & PROPER WORSHIP

Romans 12:1-2

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living** *sacrifice*, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be *transformed* by the *renewing of your mind*. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

IILDREN'S

CHURCH

Remember, we learned that we are ... DEAD to SIN, but ALIVE in CHRIST DEAD to the LAW, but LIVING in the HOLY SPIRIT

So what is our response to all the Jesus has done for us?

Paul urges us to live our lives as a living sacrifice to God — holy and pleasing — as an act of true worship.

SACRIFICE

What does **sacrifice** mean?

To give up something for the sake of something else

When an Olympic athlete or Manchester United football player goes into training, they have to make sacrifices, e.g. snacks/desserts, sleeping in in the mornings, partying with friends during weekends etc. Why? Because they know who they are (a professional athlete) and they have their eyes on a goal.

When we know who we are (children of God) and have our eyes fixed on Jesus, we can sacrifice the things that are not beneficial or healthy for us, like bad habits and things we should not be doing.

Paul reminds us that Jesus is coming back again soon. So we should "put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. (Romans 13:12-14)

LIVING SACRIFICE

In the Bible, the word sacrifice is also used as an **offering**. The people would bring the best lamb or unblemished animal from their flock to the temple to be sacrificed, either in thanksgiving to God or as payment for their sin. These offerings are killed and burnt, with the shedding of blood.

A LIVING SACRIFICE

But Paul is not asking you to tie yourself up and be burnt on a stone altar. That's why he used the words "living sacrifice". That means we are alive. How do we be alive and a sacrifice?

The best and most important thing we can give God is ourselves. God gave us His most precious Son because He wants to have a relationship with us.

When we choose to accept Jesus, we are saying "I want to do things God's way instead of my way".

That requires us to sacrifice our own will, desires and self-sufficiency. No more "me, myself and I".

IILDREN'S

CHURCH

Sometimes it requires us to sacrifice our own hopes and dreams also. It's not easy, but when we learn to release those to God, we will be able to see His bigger and better plans for us!

When the rich young ruler wanted to follow Jesus, Jesus told him to sell all he had and give to the poor. But the rich young ruler was not willing to do so because he put his faith and trust in his riches. But if he had trusted Jesus, I believe Jesus would have given him so much more.



BE TRANSFORMED

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Paul then encourages us not to be like the world, but be transformed or changed. Just because everyone does it, doesn't mean we should follow.

We need to be completely different people. Especially in the way we think. People who don't know Jesus think the way that the world thinks. And the way the world thinks is opposite of how God looks at things. We need to know God's Word and allow it to change our lives completely. We need to think and act like Jesus would.

Jesus was pretty controversial Himself. Whenever He taught something, people were in awe because it was so different from what they were used to. When we believe in Jesus, we have the mind of Christ and we know what He will do in different situations. And the Holy Spirit in us will give us the strength and power to do it.

Paul reminds us of some of these things. [give appropriate examples]

- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
- Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink."
- Obey the authorities, pay taxes when due.

TNCC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

A LIVING SACRIFICE

IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY

ROMA

NOTHING BUT GRACE

A very important thing to note: everything we do is not to earn God's love or forgiveness or to be righteous. When we believe in Jesus, we are ALREADY FORGIVEN, ALREADY RIGHTEOUS.

How we live, what we do is "in view of God's mercy", i.e. in response to God's own sacrifice of His Son. God has given us so much. So we can give ourselves to Him not out of fear and obligation but out of love and thanksgiving.

Remember, we are Jesus' boys and girls. We are DEAD to SIN and ALIVE in CHRIST. We are DEAD to the LAW and LIVING by the SPIRIT.

A LIVING SACRIFICE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Romans 12:1-2 [v.1 for younger kids, v.1-2 for older kids]

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to share and pray for one another.

TNCC CHILDREN'S CHURCH

LIFE IN THE BODY

LESSON (Romans 12-15)

REVIEW

[younger kids can sing **Romans 6:23** as revision] Vid here: <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P5jaR_3G6-key5ebkvpaBn9LAXYCErpH/view?usp=sharing</u>

INTRO

We're coming to the end of our journey through the Book of Romans.

I hope you all remember something from it, e.g. our big SIN problem, how we can be RIGHTEOUS by FAITH, how Jesus was the LAST ADAM through whom we are BLESSED, how we are DEAD to SIN and ALIVE in CHRIST, DEAD to the LAW but LIVING through the SPIRIT, and how we are SAVED to SHARE with others who do not know Jesus yet.

Knowing and understanding all these are the key foundations of our Christian faith.

But living it out is also important.

In the last few chapters of Romans, Paul gives us some important advice on how we can live out this new life Jesus has given us ... together with others.

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Choose a popular age-appropriate cartoon/show that illustrates the importance of different people working together as one team.

E.g. Paw Patrol (<u>https://redtri.com/5-ways-paw-patrol-will-teach-teamwork-to-your-kids/</u>), Avengers (<u>https://romanfitnesssystems.com/articles/3-lessons-from-the-avengers/</u>)

Highlight some of the characters' strengths/weaknesses, the challenges that they faced working together initially (e.g. ego/pride) and how they are strongest as a team.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

ONE BODY, MANY GIFTS [younger kids can focus on this point]

Just like these puppies/super heroes, all of us who believe in Jesus are part of a special team — Team Jesus — or as Paul puts it, one BODY.

Romans 12:4-5 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

What parts of the body can you name? (song suggestion: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS_Mz3ekkck</u>)

What is the use/job of these body parts?

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Some body parts are very visible because they are on the outside. But some body parts that we cannot see are equally important.

e.g. the kidney (show a pix or one from the market :-p) or any other internal organ of your choice Do you know where your kidney is? What is its job in the body? *The kidney monitors your blood and body fluids, keeping your blood clean and healthy.*

What happens if you don't have a kidney? Or if your kidney does not work? *Waste in our body cannot be filtered out and builds up in our body and we fall sick.*

Just like the kidney, all of us have important jobs in the body of Christ. We should not compare or be jealous of each other, e.g. How come he can sing on stage? How come I have to stand behind a camera?

Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it <u>diligently</u>; if it is to show mercy, do it <u>cheerfully</u>.

Whatever our "job" is, we should do it diligently and cheerfully.

Paul also reminds us to be humble in **Romans 12:3** For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

LIFE IN THE BODY

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

NOTHING BUT GRACE

How is it possible for different personalities and characters to live together as one body? The answer, Paul tells us, is LOVE.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

DREN'S

IURCH

Romans 13:8, 10 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law ... Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

When we are filled with God's love, His love can help us love others sincerely, even when they do not deserve it. We can also share with those who are in need and extend hospitality (Romans 12:13).

DON'T QUARREL, DON'T JUDGE

Often, there would be fights in churches over small matters, e.g. whether to eat meat (which may be offered to idols) or not, whether to celebrate Christmas or CNY etc. Some people may look down on others for their choices in such matters.

Paul calls these "disputable matters" and tells us not to quarrel over these things or to judge others. Instead, we should make every effort to live in peace and edify each other. In the end, we have to give an account only to God.

Romans 14:3-4 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Romans 14:13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.

Instead, whatever decision you choose, to do it for the Lord.

Romans 14:7-8 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <u>If we</u> <u>live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.</u> So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 14:17-10 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual <u>edification.</u>

In the same way, if we know a brother/sister in Christ has an issue with something, we should be sensitive to it. E.g. Some Christians believe Christians should never drink alcohol. Even if you are convinced it's ok to drink a little, maintain peace by not openly drinking in front of them and potentially causing an argument. This is what it means by not being "a stumbling block".

LIFE IN THE BODY

BUILD UP EACH OTHER

NOTHING BUT GRACE

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.

Just as God encouraged us and gave us endurance, we should also encourage others and build each other up the way Jesus did.

Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

CONCLUSION

Just as Christ has done everything to make us RIGHTEOUS in Him and to give us NEW LIFE, let's live out this life in the BODY, so that all we can point others to Jesus!

Love in Action https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLYzxRxwigw

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

This vid summarises some of the key instructions from Paul in the book of Romans (some which we discussed last Sun, e.g. love your enemies).

LIFE IN THE BODY

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

KEY VERSE

[think of how to help kids understand and memorise]

TNCC

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH

Romans 12:5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

ACTIVITY

Get kids to draw/share which part of the body they think they are and what role do they see themselves playing in the Body of Christ. E.g. hand; I can help others who are in need.

Encourage the kids to think of how they can play their role in the Body, show love, not judge or build each other up. Share your own examples/testimony.

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Get kids to pray for one another.