

Week 8 - Romans 1:16

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16a*

This whole season, we have been tracing a story throughout the Bible using different verses from the both the Old Testament and the New Testament. And we have done so to see the grand message that all of us need to hear. This season, we learned the gospel.

What is the gospel? Simply, gospel means good news. A gospel can be any good news. In this case, the good news of the Bible is that Jesus has paid the price for our sins and offers us forgiveness and new life because of his sacrifice. The Bible shows a very clear and very simple gospel that spells this out, but in our world today, that gospel is not always known or understood.

The Bible is very clear that Jesus paid for all our sins on the cross and that we can do nothing to earn our way back into a relationship with God. But lots of people still believe that if they are a good person, they will go to heaven. They don't understand the true gospel. The Bible is also very clear that Jesus is the *only* one that can pay for our sins and offer us forgiveness to be reconciled to God, but far too many people still look to other religions to solve their problems. Those people need to understand the true gospel.

When Jesus came back to life after his crucifixion, he spent 40 days with his followers teaching them what the Bible had to say and why it was important that he had to die and rise again from the dead. He modeled what he told them to do. Right before Jesus ascended back into heaven, he told his followers that they needed to spread this good news. He told them to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. He wanted everyone to know what had been accomplished and didn't want anyone to miss out on hearing this great news. We weren't there 2000 years ago, but we still have the same mission.

People all around us are in trouble. Everyone has sinned, but not everyone knows that God provided a solution to that problem. People need to hear the gospel of what Jesus did. In our last verse of the season, Paul writes to the Romans just how important the good news is in people's lives. He said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." It is the *power of God*. This is not just regular good news; it can make a difference. It can change everything. Paul was not scared to share this good news with everyone around him and we shouldn't be either. He knew they needed to be changed. He knew they needed to know what Jesus did so God's power would wash them clean and make them new. The gospel is the message of salvation. Everyone has sinned against God, so everyone is in need of this message. Now that you have learned the true gospel this season, don't be ashamed of it. Don't be shy. It is the power of God for salvation! Share it today!

Discussion and Review:

- What does gospel mean?
- Who needs to know the gospel?
- Is the gospel difficult to understand?
- Looking at all our verses from this season, what part of the good news does each verse share?
 - All verses are on next page
- Help the kids summarize the gospel in their own words as practice.

Verses for Season Review

Genesis 1:1

- In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Romans 3:23

- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Jeremiah 17:9

- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Titus 3:5a

- He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

1 Peter 3:18

- For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Galatians 2:20

- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 1:16a

- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.