

ROMAN ROAD

Making The Bible Come Alive

Salvation

Why is the book of Romans important for us to read? It tells us of God's plan to redeem mankind.

What are the verses that direct us on how we should live? The Roman Road is a five step journey we can learn and understand. It comes with a decision opportunity at the end of the learning journey.

There are verses in the book of Romans that speak of our sinful nature, that sin leads to death, that Jesus made a way to forgive us of our sins, that God's desire is to give us eternal life, and that we can know salvation through Jesus Christ. These steps help us journey towards a relationship with Christ.

THE FIRST STEP is knowing and acknowledging that we are sinners.

ROMANS 3:23 tells us: *"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*

- Paul writes in the book of Romans that no one is righteous. Romans 3:23 is very clear when it says, "ALL have sinned..."
- Start reading chapter 3 beginning with verse 1 and read through to verse 22. In this passage Paul makes statements like:
 - What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin (v. 9).
 - There is no one righteous, not even one.(v 10).
 - No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law, rather, through the law we come conscious of sin.(v. 20).
 - This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no different, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (v. 22-23).

Paul uses this passage of Scripture to compare the time before Christ's birth when people were under the law. They needed to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings in those days to show God they were sorry for their wrongdoings. But today it is different. God sent His Son to this earth to be born as a baby, to live, and then to die, giving Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. Because of Jesus, we can be made right through believing in Him and declaring that He is the Son of God.





THE SECOND STEP is understanding the cost of sin.

ROMANS 6:23A is clear when it says, *“For the wages of sin is death,...”*

Sin is what separates us from God. Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden and Eve was tempted by a snake to eat from the tree that they were told not to touch. Because of their disobedience, they sinned against God because they did something He had asked them not to do. When we sin, we disappoint the heart of God. Sin can lead to eternal damnation and a life without God forever. No one wants to think about that! There is a real and significant cost to our sinful nature. Sin costs us our life. It means separation from God, now and for eternity. But...

THE THIRD STEP is realizing that Christ died for our sins.

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

God showed us His incredible love by sending His Son, Jesus, to come to earth in human form, knowing that He would die for the sins of those God created. Jesus gave His life as a ransom. A “ransom” is a form of payment. Jesus paid for our sins when He died on the cross.

THE FOURTH STEP is understanding the gift that God is prepared to give us.

Romans 6:23B says, *“...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

God loves those He created so much. He wants to be in right relationship with every human being He has made. He wants to forgive us when we sin, offering us His gift of living with Him, not only now but also forever. Eternal life means life everlasting. Forever. With Jesus. There is nothing better than that!

THE FIFTH STEP is accepting God’s gift of eternal life.

Romans 10:9-10 says, "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. ¹⁰For 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."

There is nothing God wants more than for every person to accept His gift of eternal life. It's not enough to talk about, read about it, or hear about it. There is a decision that we must make. God has given us a free will and the ability to make choices. He wants us to choose Him. He wants us to not live in our sinful nature, but rather choosing to live for Him and like Him. He wants our character to be Christ-like. He wants us to serve Him with our whole lives ... 100%. Not just when we feel like it. Not just when others aren't around. His gift of Jesus Christ means that we can turn from our sinful ways, know His forgiveness and walk in the ways He wants us to.

As Romans 10:9 says, if we declare with mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with all of our hearts that Jesus was raised from the dead by God, we are saved. Our heart must believe this, and our mouth must profess it! We must tell Him that we want to serve Him, and we must tell others that we are a child of God because we have chosen to live for Jesus. When we do this, we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour of our life, and we are promised the gift of eternal life. We won't have to second guess if we are saved or not if Jesus is always first in our life. As long as we live for Jesus, we will go to be with Him in Heaven one day.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from The Roman Road, how am I going to respond?

MY PRAYER:

Challenge

As an adult, it is important to lead children to a place of understanding and acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour of their life. The Holy Spirit is the One who convicts the heart when the message of the gospel of Jesus is heard and understood. We don't need to clean up our lives first to come to Jesus. As we need to do is confess our sins and believe. That is what knowing salvation





through Jesus is all about. Salvation is how God chose to redeem His people, bringing them back to Him.

Take time to pray with each child. Encourage them to pray out loud, asking Jesus to take control of their lives. There is a prayer set out on The Roman Road card in their *Making The Bible Come Alive* packet of cards. It is uniquely different from the other Bible character cards. In fact, it is the most important card as it can help them come to the realization of their need for God, and for a Saviour. Every Bible character the children have been learning about was given the very same choice—to accept that God is who He says He is, and that Jesus is the Son of God.

A Suggested Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross for me.

I believe You are the Son of God and that you lived, died, and came to life again.

Forgive me of all my sins against You, and help me obey and follow You all the days of my life.

In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

Challenge the students to memorize these verses. It's really only four verses within the five steps, as step 2 and 4 are a combined verse. Memorizing them is important because that then makes it easy for us to share this journey to a relationship with Jesus Christ with our friends and family, and those who need to know God's love for them and His plan of salvation.

To help children visually capture the concept of The Roman Road, here are some helpful videos to consider incorporating into your teaching:

Romans Road to Salvation—The Book of Romans: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCmOxVISEJA>

What is the Romans Road to Salvation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9wSOwMYAhA>

Romans Road by WORDology (a catchy song): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zv8OjyD4eM>

Romans Road (sketch version): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgYFRG-umfk>