

Parent's Guide

Journey Parents

Dear Parents,

Our goal in Awana® is to work alongside parents to train children and youth to grow into adults who know, love and serve the Lord. We recognize that parents are the primary spiritual nurturers of their children and we want to do all we can to help. Our desire is to provide you with the tools that enable you to be involved with the curriculum your child is studying.

Your children are now in high school. They are on the brink of adulthood, yet you occasionally still see glimpses of the little kid they once were. At other times, you gasp in amazement as they respond with astounding maturity.

We want our teens to face the world strong in their faith, no matter what's ahead on their life's journey. We want them to understand that life can be difficult, but also to rest in the life-supporting perspective that God is sovereign.

The Journey™ curriculum focuses on teaching teens to make life choices with that Christ-centered perspective. They can trust in Him. To help you, the parent, familiarize yourself with what your teen is learning at Journey, we provide these Parent's Guides which offer a summary of the lessons and discussion questions to get a conversation going with your teen.

We hope you find these guides helpful. We are thankful for the privilege of working alongside you in discipling your teens to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can think of no task more worthwhile.

If you have any questions, please talk to your teen's leader.

Praying for you,

The Awana Youth Ministries™ Team

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Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 1: **Crash Course**

Memory Verses: **Romans 1:16-17**

IN A NUTSHELL

Paul wrote the book of Romans so we as Christians can fully understand the gospel he preached.

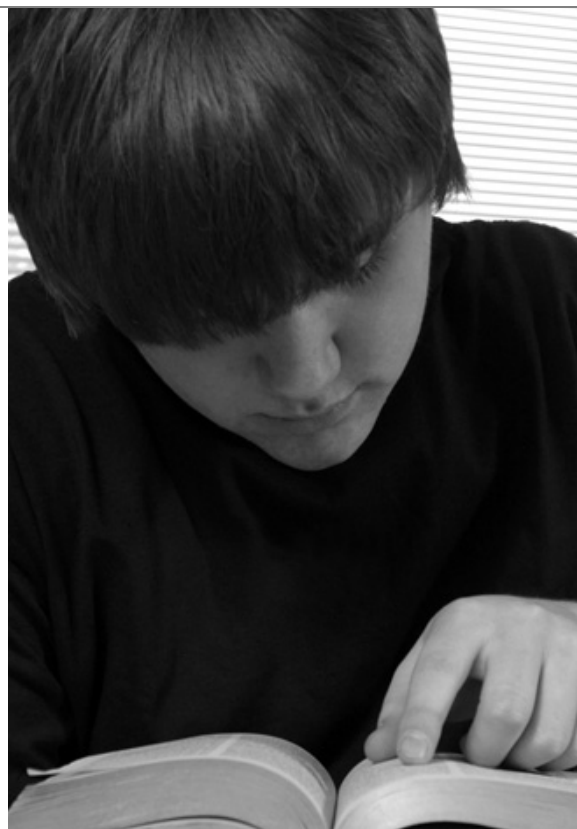
SUMMARY

Believers in Jesus Christ who moved to Rome, the capital city of the Roman Empire, had started a church. Paul wanted to give them an understanding of doctrine to make their faith strong, but he was unable to visit them in person. He wrote them a letter (the book of Romans), the theme of which is the righteousness of God and man's inability to please Him on his own. Paul was a credible witness to this truth, an educated Jew who carefully followed the law. But he realized his need for salvation when Jesus Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus. The Lord gave Paul a new message, one for both Jews and Gentiles, that included four distinctives:

1. Justification is by faith (Romans 3:2-4:25).
2. A believer gains a new identity with Christ through His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).
3. Believers are saved by grace (Romans 3:24-26, 5:2, 11:6, 12:6).
4. The church will be raptured and believers will be resurrected (Romans 8:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

THE NEXT STEP

- There is a strong emphasis today on application – making biblical truths relevant to life situations. And that's great. But it is as important (and maybe more so) for teenagers to understand the doctrines behind the applications so they can figure out truth for themselves when situations come along (and they will) that they didn't anticipate. Circumstances change – God's truth doesn't. Encourage your teenager to dig into God's Word. Ask why he made the choices he made and what his biblical support is. You can advise him, but make him think on his own, because you won't always be around.
- If your teenager asks you a doctrinal question and you don't know the answer, say so. Then study the Bible (with the assistance of other resources) with your teenager until you find the answer.
- When your teenager is facing difficulties in any area, respond with the Bible's solution. Remember, faith comes from the Bible (Romans 10:17), and challenges to faith make faith stronger (Romans 5:3-5 – "hope," in these verses, is faith in the future).



REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. The key verses of Romans are:
(the answer is found in the lesson under The Theme and Key Verses.)
2. Describe the city of Rome in A.D. 57.
(The answer is covered briefly under The City and The Church.)
3. Why did Paul desire to visit Rome?
(The answer can be found under The Problem and also in Romans 1:11.)
4. Fill in the blanks. The theme of Romans is the _____ of _____.
(The answer can be found under The Theme and Key Verses.)
5. True or False. The letter to the Romans is specifically for the Jews.
(The answer can be found under The Theme and Key Verses.)
6. What are three impressive credentials of the apostle Paul?
(Five of Paul's credentials can be found under The Author and also in Philippians 3:5.)
7. True or False. God describes our righteousness as "good tries."
(The answer can be found under The Theme and Key Verses.)
8. What are four distinctives of Paul's message?
(The answer can be found under What's Distinctive About Paul's Message? and earlier in this email.)
9. How did the Roman church get started?
(The answer is covered briefly under The City and The Church.)
10. Fill in the blanks. A strong foundation prevents us from becoming _____ in our faith.
(The answer can be found under What's Distinctive About Paul's Message?)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 2: **Good Enough?**

Memory Verses: **Romans 3:10-12**

IN A NUTSHELL

Every person
who ever lived,
including me,
is a sinner.

SUMMARY

The Jews had a religious superiority complex, and the apostle Paul knew all about it because he used to have it too. He told his fellow Jews to get off their spiritual high horse before God – they were just like everyone else. In Romans 3:23 he wrote, *all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Knowing the law didn't give the Jews any special privileges. In fact, their spiritual pride had led to their downfall because it blinded them from recognizing their need for a Savior. They trusted in their own ways – and they blindly led others into darkness with them.

Paul also shows how God makes Himself known in the world so there is no room for any person to say, "I didn't know about God." The evidence for God's existence is:

1. Creation is a testimony to God (Romans 1:19-20).
2. History is a testimony to God (Romans 1:21).
3. Our conscience is a testimony to God (Romans 2:15).
4. The law is a testimony to God (Galatians 3:24-25).

THE NEXT STEP

- With your teenager, think of an ironic situation where a person does something wrong and then criticizes someone else for doing almost the exact same thing. For example: A woman gets cut off in traffic and gets angry, but then she shoves her shopping cart in front of someone else in the grocery store check-out line. Is that so completely different from what the Jews did when they judged the Gentiles spiritually? Human nature is the same in each age and with all people. Emphasize the point that everyone is a sinner.
- Paul was born a Jew and was one of the staunchest members of the strictest form

of Judaism before he became a Christian. Talk with your teenager about how Paul's personal history might have made his Jewish readers pay close attention to what he had to say. What if he wasn't Jewish? You might also want to talk about God's selection process for writers of the Bible.

- If she hasn't already, your teenager is going to hear someone say, "God does not exist." Is she respectfully ready to counter that statement with the truth from God's Word? Point her to the proofs for God's existence mentioned in the summary of this lesson: creation, history, conscience and the law.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Fill in the blank. In order for the Romans to understand the message of salvation by grace, they would first have to understand _____.
(The answer is found in the lesson after the end of the introductory story about Ron.)
2. Fill in the blanks. For there is no _____ of _____ with God (Romans 2:11).
(The answer is found under The Law Is a Testimony to God.)
3. What are the three types of sinners?
(The answers are in the heading titles.)
4. What are three testimonies or ways that God reveals Himself to us?
(The answers are in the heading titles.)
5. True or False. All those who don't know about God live in pagan countries, not in civilized countries like ours.
(The answer is found under History Is a Testimony to God.)
6. True or False. The attitude of those who think they don't need God is, "I'm self-sufficient. I'm good enough already."
(The answer is found under Those Who Think They Don't Need God.)
7. Fill in the blanks. All three sinners are the same. They have all sinned and therefore are _____ from _____.
(The answer is found under Those Who Think They Can Reach God by Their Own Methods.)
8. True or False. Missionaries have found that tribes who acknowledge a creator are usually responsive to the gospel.
(The answer is found under Creation Is a Testimony to God.)
9. What is the difference between those who don't know about God and those who think they can reach God by their own methods?
(The answer is found under Those Who Think They Can Reach God by Their Own Methods.)
10. Name three ways in which God judges.
(The answer is found under The Law Is a Testimony to God.)

IN A NUTSHELL

Christ died on the cross so I could be saved by His righteousness.

SUMMARY

In Romans 3-4, Paul gives details about the solution to the sin problem. This solution is found in Jesus Christ. The process is called justification. It means “God declaring me not guilty and declaring me righteous in His sight when I place my faith in Christ’s death and resurrection as payment for my sins.” Paul illustrates faith with the examples of Abraham and David from the Old Testament. Paul used the examples of Abraham and David to show that it is faith in God – not works – that makes a person righteous. Paul discusses facts about righteousness:

1. The righteousness of God is without the law (Romans 3:21).
2. The righteousness of God is shown by what He does (Romans 3:25-26).
3. The faith of Abraham and David (Romans 4:1-25).

THE NEXT STEP

- In the ultimate test of Abraham’s faith in God, he almost sacrificed his son, Isaac, before God provided a ram as a substitute. God **did** sacrifice His only Son for us. Pray that your teenager has a growing knowledge of how much God loves him. Pray the same for yourself.
- Watch the news or go through a current events magazine with your teenager and talk about a situation where a corporation, country or individual attempts to prove its innocence before a judge or jury of its peers. Talk with your teenager about the following: What happens when God is the judge? If you were a defendant in God’s court, why would you be set free? (The answer is justification.)



REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Name three church rituals people sometimes substitute for salvation.
(The answer is found under The Example of Abraham and David.)
2. Fill in the blanks. The most detailed explanation of justification in the Bible is _____,
Chapters _____ and _____.
(The answer is near the end of the introduction.)
3. What is the purpose of the law?
(The answer is found under The Righteousness of God Is Without the Law.)
4. Which two Old Testament men did Paul use as examples?
(See the first answer in this review for a big hint.)
5. Why might it have been difficult for Paul to explain the concept of the righteousness of God apart from law?
(The answer is found under The Righteousness of God Is Without the Law.)
6. True or False. God demonstrates His righteousness through what you do for Him.
(The answer is found under The Righteousness of God Is Shown by What He Does.)
7. True or False. Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for good works.
(The answer is found under The Example of Abraham and David.)
8. The definition of justification has two parts. What are they?
(The answer is found under The Righteousness of God Is Shown by What He Does.)
9. Define propitiation.
(The answer is found under The Righteousness of God Is Shown by What He Does and Map It Out.)
10. Fill in the blank. Justified freely means our justification was _____.
(The answer is found under the Fast Fact.)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 4: **A New Standing**

Memory Verse: **Romans 5:1**

IN A NUTSHELL

When I trust Christ, I'm given a new position in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY

Paul wanted the Romans – and all believers – to understand that the instant that we put our trust in Jesus Christ, we have a new standing (position) before God. Our standing in Christ changes everything for the best for us. We were once condemned, but not any more. Paul talks about how believers have come under the headship of Christ instead of Adam. The switch in headship is critical. Paul describes how our standing in Christ affects a believer in that:

1. Our standing gives us peace with God (Romans 5:1).
2. Our standing is in grace (Romans 5:2).
3. Our standing includes eternal salvation (Romans 6:23).

THE NEXT STEP

- When did you trust Christ? How has your life been different from that time to now? Ask if your teenager knows your testimony. Tell your testimony to her before she leaves the nest – or sooner.
- Take a walk or work on a project (cooking, car washing) with your teenager. Tell her how thankful you are to God for her. Point out a couple of areas in which you see her growing in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- There is some false teaching in Christian circles that says Christians can lose their salvation if they have sinned, and that they need to keep on asking God to save them each time they sin. Blast this fallacy away for your teenager and make sure she understands that once she is saved, she is always saved. Point out that she was born your daughter and even if she flies to Jupiter or something equally unusual, she will still be your daughter. It is the same when a person accepts Christ. God doesn't kick us out of His family when we sin. Our position in Christ is eternally secure.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Fill in the blank. The second Adam is the _____.
(The answer is found under The Two Adams.)
2. Fill in the blank. Not only do we have a new standing when we are saved, but also a new _____.
(The answer is found under The Two Adams.)
3. True or False. At the moment we believe in Christ as Savior, we are immediately placed in a new standing in Him.
(The answer is found under New Standing.)
4. True or False. We are disciplined by justification.
(The answer is found under Our Standing Is in Grace.)
5. Name three facts about our standing.
(The answer is found under New Standing.)
6. Fill in the blank. Paul wrote in Titus 2:11-12 that the grace of God _____ us.
(The answer is found under Our Standing Is in Grace.)
7. True or False. When Adam disobeyed God, only he and Eve fell into sin.
(The answer is found under The Two Adams.)
8. We have inherited Adam's . . .
 - A. soul.
 - B. fallen nature.
 - C. gardening ability.*(The answer is found under The Two Adams.)*
9. True or False. Grace is a onetime gift that applies only to salvation.
(The answer is found under Our Standing Is in Grace.)
10. Fill in the blanks. Under Adam, many were made sinners. Under Christ, many shall be _____ .
(The answer is found in Romans 5:19.)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 5: **Dead and Alive**

Memory Verse: **Romans 6:4**

IN A NUTSHELL

As a Christian,
I am dead to
sin and alive
to Christ.

SUMMARY

Paul tells us that where sin rears its ugly head, grace is right there to clean the slate. But he emphatically states that grace doesn't give us liberty to sin. He logically explains why sin can no longer be in control of a Christian. Sin is no longer the master of our lives, grace is. A Christian still has a sinful nature, but he now has the power to say "no" to sin because of his new nature in Christ. Paul explains this more fully by using the example of a servant and a master. Before Christ, a person is a slave to sin. After trusting Christ, a person is a slave to righteousness. Paul's points are as follows:

1. If you are a Christian, then you are both dead and alive.
2. We must reckon (take into account) that we are dead to sin and alive to Christ.
3. We must present ourselves (our bodies) to the Lord.

THE NEXT STEP

- There is a lot of freedom in being a slave to righteousness. The gospel is truth and since Jesus is the way, the truth and the life He gives us hope, peace and security in this life and the life to come. Too often teenagers begin to think that Christianity is a list of do's and don'ts. It's about a relationship with the living God. Remind them of that and the real freedom that they have in Christ.
- Here's a thought that your driving-age teenager can relate to: yielding to Christ and saying "no" to sin is like being a smart driver. If you don't yield and watch out for cars coming your way, you are going to be hit. When you don't yield to Christ, sin is going to hit you. Forgiveness is always there; but yielding is a good practice.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Our identification with Adam is finished when we _____.
(The answer is found under *If You Are a Christian, Then You Are Both Dead and Alive.*)
2. Define reckon.
(The answer is found under *Map It Out.*)
3. Fill in the blanks. Paul wrote ... in me ... dwelleth _____ (Romans 7:18).
(The answer is found under *If You Are a Christian, Then You Are Both Dead and Alive.*)
4. Fill in the blanks. We can't say "yes" to righteousness and "no" to sin in our own _____, but rather in the _____ of Christ.
(The answer is found under *We Must Present Ourselves [Our Bodies] to the Lord.*)
5. True or False. Because our old sinful nature is dead, we'll never sin again.
(The answer is found under *We Must Reckon [Take into Account] That It Is True That We Are Dead to Sin and Alive to Christ.*)
6. Fill in the blank. Paul uses the word _____ to describe the position sin had in our lives before we trusted Christ as Savior.
(The answer is found under *If You Are a Christian, Then You Are Both Dead and Alive.*)
7. Fill in the blanks. The members of our body are as _____.
(The answer is found under *We Must Present Ourselves [Our Bodies] To the Lord.*)
8. When we let our dead, sinful nature reign, it's like ...
 - A. losing our salvation.
 - B. living in garbage.
 - C. listening to the apostle Paul.
(The answer is found under *We Must Reckon [Take into Account] That It Is True That We Are Dead to Sin and Alive to Christ.*)
9. Fill in the blanks. Before we were Christians, we were servants of _____. Now we are servants of _____.
(The answer is found under *We Must Present Ourselves [Our Bodies] to the Lord.*)
10. Fill in the blank. _____ of people in Rome were slaves at the time Paul wrote his letter.
(The answer is found under *the Fast Fact.*)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 6: **Good Enough?**

Memory Verse: **Romans 7:6**

IN A NUTSHELL

As a Christian,
I will struggle
with sin as long
as I live in a
sinful world.

SUMMARY

There is a constant struggle going on in every Christian. It is a brawl between our old, sinful nature and our new nature in Christ. This fight will last until we are in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our culture doesn't make our fight any easier because it encourages us to decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. Paul gives the Romans and all believers an in-depth look at this struggle by examining four laws:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. The law of Moses
(Romans 7:6-7, 15-20) | 3. The law of the Spirit of Life
(Romans 8:2) |
| 2. The law of sin and death
(Romans 8:2) | 4. The law of the mind
(Romans 7:23) |

THE NEXT STEP

- The media and technology is one area of our culture where teenagers – and adults – constantly battle with the old sin nature and the new nature. You can help your teenager figure out what media to watch, play, listen to, surf, etc. Give him some questions to help him make judgment calls: How does the entertainment that you choose line up with the Bible? Is it something that you would feel good about if the pastor was watching, listening or playing it with you? How does the entertainment make you feel overall? Is it healthy or does it pull you down?
- What are your standards? Look at the chart at the beginning of the lesson and honestly rate yourself in the **On the Street** section. If you find yourself not sure about right and wrong, ask God for clarity.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. The law of Moses was a written account of ...
(The answer is found under *The Law of Moses*.)
2. Fill in the blanks. The law of sin and death governed us _____.
(The answer is found under *the Law of Sin and Death*.)
3. Why were the Romans familiar with the writings of Moses?
(The answer is found under *the Law of Moses*.)
4. God gave the law so people could know ...
(The answer is found under *the Law of Moses*.)
5. What are three facts that Paul wanted the Romans to know about the Mosaic law?
(The answer is found under *the Law of Moses*.)
6. True or False. The law is a set of rules for the Christian to follow.
(The answer is found under *the Law of Moses*.)
7. Fill in the blanks. The law of sin and death battles against the law of the _____.
(Hint: It is another name for the new nature.)
8. Why was Paul in anguish?
(The answer is found under *the Law of the Mind*.)
9. How long do you have to be a Christian before the struggle between your old, sinful self and your new life in Christ stops?
(The answer is in the lesson introduction.)
10. Describe in your own words the "weapons" we need to win the battle between our old, sinful self and our new nature.

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 7: **Real Solutions**

Memory Verse: **Romans 8:37**

IN A NUTSHELL

Whatever the circumstances, once I'm a Christian, nothing can separate me from Christ.

SUMMARY

Romans 8 is like diving into a refreshingly cool pool on a sweltering summer day. Paul begins the chapter by writing that there is no condemnation for the believer and ends by writing that we (believers) cannot be separated from God. That's relief!

We are not alone in our fight. The Holy Spirit indwells us as our Helper. He comes in when we trust Christ, and He gives us victory over sin and death. He leads us each day if we let Him. He tells us that we are God's children. He helps us pray and He prays for us. Plus, there is excellent news about our struggle with our old nature – it stops when our earthly lives end.

Paul doesn't stop there with the refreshment. He asks four questions and then gives the reader four reassuring answers. They are:

Question Number 1: *If God be for us, who can be against us?* (Romans 8:31)

Question Number 2: *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?* (Romans 8:33)

Question Number 3: *Who is he that condemneth?* (Romans 8:34a)

Question Number 4: *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* (Romans 8:35-39)

THE NEXT STEP

- There is a huge difference between condemnation and conviction. Your teenager will benefit from knowing this. She needs to be able to tell the difference between true and false guilt. Satan is the master liar and the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). He tries to get believers to think that we are always going to be dirty, rotten scoundrels instead of forgiven children of God. He condemns with false guilt. God convicts us with loving kindness and true guilt to lead us to repentance. We are no longer condemned because of what Jesus Christ has done for us (Romans 8:1-2).
- Romans 8:38-39 is a great passage if you become anxious about your teenager when she is away. Have you ever worried about her driving? Going on a trip out of your reach? Nothing separates your child from God's love. Let the truth of that truly sink in and your worries will be replaced by the peace that only Jesus Christ can give.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Fill in the blanks. When we get to heaven, we will have a _____
like Christ's.
(The answer is found under the Fast Fact.)
2. Fill in the blanks. The _____ lives within us to help us with the struggle.
(The answer is found under Now for the Good News.)
3. The Holy Spirit gives us victory over three things. What are they?
(The answer is found under Now for the Good News.)
4. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit "bears witness" that we are children of God?
(The answer is found under Map it Out.)
5. What is the first sentence of Romans, Chapter 8?
(Write the answer here.)
6. If God be for us, who can be against us?
(The answer is found under Question Number 1.)
7. True or False. Only Christ can condemn the Christian, but He doesn't.
(The answer is found under Question Number 3.)
8. True or False. The battle between our old sin nature and the new creation we are in Christ will stop struggling when we reach "spiritual maturity."
(The answer is found under Now for the Good News.)
9. Name five things that can't separate us from God.
(The answer is found in Romans 8:38-39.)
10. True or False. Romans 8:38-39 are good proof verses for our eternal security in Christ.
(The answer is found under Question Number 4.)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 8: **Grafted by God**

Memory Verse: **Romans 10:12**

IN A NUTSHELL

Gentiles have been grafted into God's promise to His chosen people, Israel.

SUMMARY

Paul used the illustration of a tree graft to make a point to the church at Rome. Paul knew that many people in the church at Rome had a Jewish background. He was Jewish too. He called himself a *Hebrew of the Hebrews* because of his strict Jewish upbringing before he trusted Jesus as his Savior.

In chapters 9-11, Paul directly addresses the Jewish people. He said that as a nation, the Jewish people have rejected Jesus. But, some individual Jews have trusted Him as Savior. These Jewish believers are called the remnant.

Paul tells the Romans that God has not cast Israel away forever. He has a future program to bless the nation. But for now, it is tree-grafting time. The nation of Israel is the tree root. The branches that rejected God have been cut off, and a wild branch (the Gentiles) has been grafted in. Now, because of God's grace, both Jews and Gentiles can be saved and there are no differences between them.

THE NEXT STEP

- Psalm 122:6a says, *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. One day, Jesus Christ will bring peace to Jerusalem, but in the meantime, you and your teenager can pray that Jews will trust Christ.*
- Look in a Bible handbook with your teenager to find out some of the Jewish traditions that Jesus would have participated in. For instance, He was in Jerusalem once during Hanukkah (in the Bible it is called the Feast of the Dedication) and the Last Supper was a Passover Seder.
- If you can, go with your whole family to a Messianic (Jews who have trusted Jesus as Savior) Passover Seder. It will give you an increased awareness of the tree-grafting process that God has done with Gentiles and Jews.



REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Fill in the blanks. Two chapters which explain the Old Testament system of sacrifice are _____ and _____.
(The answer is found in the introduction.)
2. Fill in the blank. The Jewish people who remain faithful to God are called the _____.
(The answer is found under Paul's Heritage.)
3. From Romans 9:4-5, list eight characteristics of the Jews.
(The answer is found under the Fast Fact.)
4. Fill in the blanks. Paul's greatest desire for the Jewish people was that they might _____.
(The answer is found under Paul's Desire.)
5. Fill in the blanks. In the grafting illustration, the wild branch, the _____, are grafted into the tree root, which is _____.
(The answer is found under Paul's Illustration.)
6. The Jewish people still rejected salvation even though they had ...
(The answer is found under Paul's Desire and in the Fast Fact.)
7. Fill in the blanks. What question did Paul address in Romans 11:1 _____?
(The answer is found under Paul's Answer.)
8. True or False. All the people of Israel will be saved.
(The answer is found under Paul's Answer.)
9. True or False. All people are equal before God.
(The answer is found under Paul's Illustration.)
10. True or False. All Jewish people will receive the benefit of God's provision.
(The answer is found under Paul's Answer.)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 9: **Gifted by God**

Memory Verse: **Romans 12:1**

IN A NUTSHELL

Once saved, it's my responsibility to present myself to God for His service.

SUMMARY

Paul explains how the inward change in a Christian should show on the outside. He pleads with believers, *to present your bodies as a living sacrifice*. We need to be willing to give our all to God. Paul also wrote that we should not be conformed (patterned) after the world. Our lives should be patterned after Christ, not anyone else.

In Romans 12:3-8, Paul discusses what happens when we (believers) work together. No Christian is supposed to think that he or she is better than another Christian. We are to work together like the parts of our body work together.

Then he discusses how God has given each person different gifts so believers in a local church body can work together. Each person has a different gift or gifts. Those gifts are:

Prophecy – giving a message from God's Word

Ministering – serving, doing practical things to help others, behind-the-scenes helping things run smoothly at church, likes doing everyday "little" tasks

Teaching

Exhortation – comfort, encouragement

Giving – being generous, helping others in need. This includes time or ability, not only money.

Ruling – leadership

Showing mercy – being kind

THE NEXT STEP

- Help your teenager discover what his spiritual gifts are.
- Once he finds out what his spiritual gifts are, you may want to help him find ways to put them to use – like encouraging him to serve in church.
- Nurture the gifts that your teenager has by encouraging him in his areas of talents (skills, abilities) and spirituals gifts. God could have plans for your son's love for tinkering with cars and his gift of service. Maybe he'll fix a Jeep® on the mission field one day. And your daughter's gift of giving could very well coincide with her drive to start her own business.



REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. How is the gift of prophecy different today from instances in the Bible when men were actually given messages directly from God?
(The answer is found under You and Your Gift.)

2. Define beseech.
(The answer is found under Map It Out.)

3. True or False. When we "present" our bodies a living sacrifice, we are willing to give everything – our bodies, our personalities and our minds to the Lord.
(The answer is found under You and God.)

4. Be not conformed to this world means ...
 - A. not doing things the way they're done in some other country.
 - B. not patterning ourselves after other people, but patterning ourselves after Christ.
 - C. It's good to be odd.
(The answer is found under You and God.)

5. Fill in the blanks. So we, being many, are _____ body in _____, and every one _____ one of another (Romans 12:5).
(The answer is found in Romans 12:5.)

6. Fill in the blank. The word "gift" comes from charismata, the same root as the word _____.
(The answer is found under You and Your Gift.)

7. Fill in the blank. The person who does a good job at leadership has the gift of _____.
(The answer is found under You and Your Gift.)

8. True or False. Some people have many "gifts" and, therefore, are better people.
(The answer is found under You and Your Gift.)

9. True or False. Everyone has just one gift.
(The answer is found under You and Your Gift.)

10. What does "renovating" a room have to do with the renewing of your mind?
(The answer is found under the Fast Fact.)

IN A NUTSHELL

As a Christian, my faith should be demonstrated in my relationships and behavior.

SUMMARY

In Romans 12:9, Paul starts a list of qualities that all Christians should have. The list includes genuine love, kindness, patience, not being lazy at your job, hospitality and knowing that you can always pray.

Paul discusses the believer's attitude toward government and our neighbors. (A neighbor is anyone that we know.) Regarding government, Christians are to obey the government and be good citizens. With our neighbors, we aren't to owe them anything but love. We should be givers and not only receivers. We give love because of our love for Christ.

Paul called the Romans to "wake up" because the Lord Jesus Christ could return at any time. This is as true for us today. Now is the time to reflect Jesus in the way we live!

THE NEXT STEP

- Can you be more hospitable in offering to host your teenager's youth group? Ask your teenager what you both could do around the house to make it more youth-group friendly. Do you need more chairs? Another refrigerator? (Just kidding – sort of.)
- Has your teenager seen government in action personally? Plan a family trip to your state government when it is in session or take a trip to the nation's capital so he or she can see it running.
- Encourage your teenager to do something nice for a neighbor without being paid for it (for example, mowing a lawn or babysitting for a couple of hours).



REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Fill in the blanks. The word "hypocrite" was originally used to describe a _____ on _____ or an _____.
(The answer is found under Love Talk.)
2. Define cleave.
(The answer is found under Map It Out.)
3. Romans 13:12: *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* Why should this verse have even more of an impact on us than it did on the Romans?
(The answer is found under Neighbor Talk.)
4. Continuing instant in prayer means (you may choose more than one answer) ...
 - A. recognizing that the Lord is always there for you.
 - B. spending your days with your head bowed and eyes closed.
 - C. a willingness to talk with the Lord about anything.
 - D. that the Lord is involved in every area of your life.(The answer is found under Love Talk.)
5. List five qualities of genuine love.
(The answer is found under Love Talk.)
6. Explain the following statement: Understanding the government of Paul's day can help us in our attitude toward our own government.
(The answer is found under Government Talk.)
7. True or False. Our citizenship is in heaven, so earthly government doesn't apply to us.
(The answer is found under Government Talk.)
8. True or False. When Paul wrote not to owe anyone anything, he was talking about more than money.
(The answer is found under Neighbor Talk.)
9. What did Paul mean when he wrote that our love should be without hypocrisy (dissimulation)?
(The answer is found under Love Talk.)
10. Fill in the blanks. Paul uses the _____ _____ to support his argument.
(The answer is found under Neighbor Talk.)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 11: **Balancing Act**

Memory Verses: **Romans 15:1-2**

IN A NUTSHELL

As a strong Christian, I avoid things that tempt me and others.

SUMMARY

In Romans 14 and 15, Paul further explained how our inward relationship with Christ should be evident in our daily lives. He wrote about the “weak” Christian and the “strong” Christian.

The weak Christian has a problem choosing what’s right. The weak person yields to temptation and falls easily back into sin. He or she needs to stay away from tempting situations. The strong Christian is mature in his or her faith and stands firm against temptation. He or she is to encourage and help a weak Christian, not to judge him or her. On the other hand, the weak person, who is strict in a certain area, shouldn’t judge a strong person who can handle the situation. Our main concern should be whether our decisions are right in God’s eyes.

Paul also wrote that God wants us to live in peace as believers. If our actions are fine with God, our consciences will not condemn us. If we think a situation is right, but another Christian thinks it is wrong, then, for the good of the other person, it is best to stay away from it.

THE NEXT STEP

- Regularly work on making your home a place to build up your teenager. You and your spouse are the primary people to help your teenager grow in wisdom and grace (Romans 14:19).
- Has your teenager ever had a “weaker” brother/sister situation happen to her? Ask her about it. How did she handle it? Should she have done anything differently?
- Make choices that will help protect your teenager. Don’t be naïve about what your techno-savvy teenager can get into. Get an Internet filter on your computers. Keep the computer in a family area. Homework done on a laptop should be worked on with your teenager’s bedroom door ajar. Monitor whom she is chatting with online – safeguard your teenager.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Our inward relationship with Christ should be evident in _____.
(The answer is found under Don't Go to Extremes.)

2. Colossians 3:5-9 and Galatians 5:19-21 list things that are definitely wrong for the Christian. List five of these things.
(The answers are in the Bible verses.)

3. When faced with a "doubtful" situation, you need to ...
 - A. consider what others might think about your choice and how it may affect their Christian life.
 - B. flip a coin. Heads you do it, tails you don't.
 - C. make up your mind and don't worry about your decision offending other people. After all, it's your life.
(The answer is found under What Do Other People Think?)

4. True or False. Justification in Christ gives us the freedom to do what we want to do.
(The answer is found under Don't Go to Extremes.)

5. Name two situations Paul used to illustrate the Romans' confusion between right and wrong:
(The answers are found under What Does the Bible Say?)

6. In your own words, explain the meaning of Romans 14:19.

7. True or False. It's not so much what we do in certain situations, but our attitude toward the other people who are involved.
(The answer is found under What Do Other People Think?)

8. Fill in the blanks. Strong Christians are to _____ rather than _____ weaker Christians.
(The answer is found under What Does the Bible Say.)

9. What two extremes are possible in a Christian's daily living?
(The answer is found under Don't Go to Extremes.)

10. Fill in the blank. The weak Christian needs to be careful not to _____ the strong person.
(The answer is found under What Does the Bible Say?)

Parent's Guide

Romans

Lesson 12: **Paul and Friends**

Memory Verse: **Romans 16:25**

IN A NUTSHELL

Like Paul, my faith should spur me to minister the gospel of grace to others.

SUMMARY

Paul wrote to the Romans because they were *full of goodness* (15:14). They were doing things right. They were knowledgeable, and he wanted to teach them more about God because he knew that they would understand it. We (believers) get the benefit of what he wrote to them.

He was a servant of Jesus Christ called to preach to the Gentiles (non-Jews) about the gospel. He also taught important lessons about the Christian faith.

In the final chapters of Romans, Paul gets personal. He begged the Romans to pray for his dangerous missionary journey to Jerusalem to deliver a financial gift to the poor church there. He did arrive in Jerusalem two years later – in chains for preaching the gospel. In the last chapter of Romans, Paul mentions 35 people. His warm greetings and a benediction (prayer of blessing) to the people in the Roman church close Paul's letter to the Romans.

THE NEXT STEP

- What have you and your teenager learned from this study of the book of Romans?
- What are one or two things God has done to use the book of Romans to strengthen the relationship that you have with your teenager?
- Take your teenager out for dessert and discuss the challenges of living the life that Paul spoke about to the Romans.



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REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. Describe what happened to Paul between writing Romans and actually visiting the church at Rome.
(The answer is found under Paul Explains His Letter and Paul's Journey.)

2. True or False. Paul wrote the letter to the Romans because they were full of goodness.
(The answer is found under Paul Explains His Letter.)

3. Fill in the blank. Paul explained that he could write boldly and with confidence because _____

(The answer is found under Paul Explains His Letter.)

4. The "mystery" we read about in Romans is ...
 - A. how the Red Sea got so red. (Or is it, how did the Dead Sea get so dead?)
 - B. that the Jews and Gentiles are both saved by God's grace and are members of one body, the Church.
 - C. how Phoebe actually got the letter to Rome.
(The answer is found in Romans 16:25 and in Map It Out.)

5. Fill in the blank. Paul needed to go to Jerusalem to _____.
(The answer is found under Paul's Journey.)

6. How many people are mentioned in Romans 16? _____.
(The answer is found under Paul Gets Personal.)

7. Fill in the blank. _____ was Paul's first convert in the province of Achaia.
(The answer is found under Paul Gets Personal.)

8. Fill in the blank. _____ was Paul's secretary.
(The answer is found under Paul Gets Personal.)

9. Fill in the blank. _____ delivered the letter to the Romans.
(The answer is found under Paul Gets Personal.)

10. List five things you have learned from this study on Romans.