



Compass Kids

Romans 12:9-21

INTRODUCTION

Romans 12:9-21

Purpose:

Compass Kids partners with families to disciple their children through Bible comprehension and memorization. Each semester, the Compass Kids curriculum will guide children through learning a mid-sized passage of scripture. They'll memorize a new piece each week through auditory, visual, and kinesthetic activities, building up to recitation of the whole passage. As they learn God's Word, our hope is salvation for those who are not yet believers and sanctification for those who are.

Romans 12:9-21 was put to song by Northway Collective: Kids and is available on all streaming platforms. Click [here](#) to listen on Spotify.

Romans 12:9-21:

Every passage we select is chosen with prayer and careful thought. Romans 12 explains how genuine love for God always leads to genuine love for people. We illustrate this truth by contrasting the Old Heart with the New Heart and pointing to the Holy Spirit's power to transform believers from the inside-out.

Materials:

Included you'll find 11 weeks of content, followed by a final celebration and competition we've called the Compass Bowl!

Each week includes the following materials:

- **Curriculum Overview:** a guide for small group leaders to follow as they lead their class, including instructions for an opening activity, the memory verse folders, a game, and any helpful definitions
- **Large Group:** a manuscript for the teacher leading the large group time, including suggested hand motions and a summary of main ideas
- **Small Group:** a guide for small group leaders to discuss each week's lesson with their class, including extra open-ended questions for older grades
- **Folders:** a weekly print-out to give to each child. On it, you'll find that week's portion of the memory verse and a blank space for writing it out or drawing an interpretation of it. We hole-punched these and placed them in a folder with brads for each child.



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- **Music:** a guide for teaching the verse with musical props, including recommended supplies, rules, and activities. Preschool classes can do this in lieu of or in addition to the weekly games.

Note

Throughout the curriculum, we reference signs that we have hanging in our large group room. The Attribute Wall contains all the attributes of God with a short definition of each. God's Big Story Timeline has icons representing the key events from creation to new creation. For this curriculum, we also made two big hearts— one in a drab gray color to represent the Old Heart and one in a vibrant red to represent the New Heart. For preschool, we had the kids create a craft with popsicle sticks, where one side had a gray Old Heart and one side had a red New Heart. During large group lessons or while they listen to the song, you can have them flip their popsicle sticks when they hear a phrase that represents the Old Heart or the New Heart. The lessons would still be effective without these teaching tools, though they add a helpful visual element.

Suggested Schedule

Our program ran from 6:00-7:20 PM (doors open at 5:45), and we provided dinner for each child. Here are the schedules we followed for preschool and elementary.

Preschool Schedule

6:00 – Opening activity
6:10 – Large group
6:30 – Dinner and folders
6:45 – Music time
7:00 – Game/free time

Elementary Schedule

6:00 – Dinner and opening activity
6:10 – Large group
6:30 – Small group and folders
7:00 – Game



MUSIC TIME

Romans 12:9-21

We recommend having a variety of musical instruments or props and rotating through the list, pulling out one type of prop per week. Here are some options to consider:

- Egg shakers
- Ribbons
- Colorful handkerchiefs
- Bells
- Rhythm sticks
- Tambourines
- Drums
- Maracas
- Triangles
- Tick-tock blocks

Here's a suggested schedule for music time:

- **Rules:** Each week, talk about class expectations and clarify that kids will lose their instruments if they do not follow the rules below:
 - We use listening ears when the teacher is talking.
 - We keep our hands & instruments to ourselves.
 - We stop when the teacher says, "freeze!"
- **Practice:** Lead kids through a few practice rounds with the instruments or props.
 - Start by practicing basic patterns and asking them to pause on a certain beat (ex. "one, two, three, PAUSE" or "one, PAUSE, two, PAUSE").
 - You can also have them follow the beat for the "Tap Our Sticks" song below, changing the lyrics to fit that week's prop:
"This is the way we tap our sticks,
Tap our sticks, tap our sticks.
This is the way we tap our sticks,
When we're in our class."
- **Verse:** Read the verse for the day out loud. Then, have the class sing it together with their instruments or props. You can do this with or without the music on in the background. Here are a few ideas to mix it up:
 - Sing in slow motion, a whisper, or a silly voice (baby, cowboy, robot, etc.).
 - March in a circle or follow the leader while you sing.
 - Have them tap or shake their instruments on a certain keyword.
 - Establish a rhythm with their instruments, then say the verse to that tune.
 - Play freeze dance with the music.





Week #1

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:9

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

Opening Activity:

Get to know the kids in your class and let them decorate the front of their folders with stickers!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means.

Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Helpful Definitions:

“Genuine” – real, honest

“Abhor” – to hate or be disgusted by something

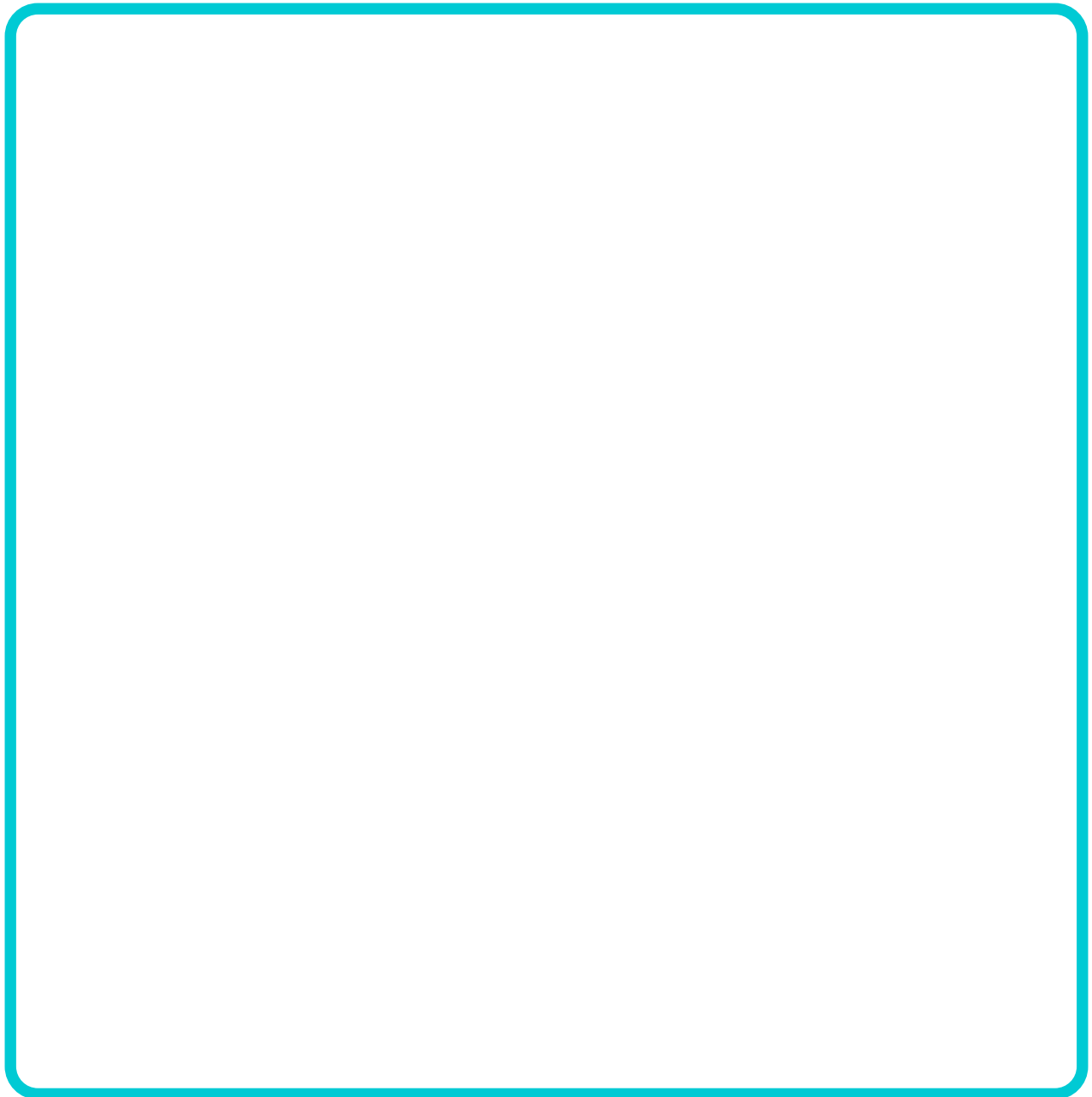
“Evil” – anything that goes against God



VERSE

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil;
hold fast to what is good.”

Romans 12:9



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:9

Passage:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."

Hand Motions:

- "Let love be genuine" – hands over heart
- "Abhor what is evil" – thumbs down
- "Hold fast" – act like you're holding onto something tightly
- "To what is good" – thumbs up

Teaching:

Welcome to Compass Kids! This semester we'll be learning Romans 12:9-21.

Romans is a letter written by Paul after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven (point to the empty tomb on the God's Big Story Timeline). Paul used to have a heart that was sick with sin, so he hurt people who loved Jesus. Paul was a sinner, but Jesus came to save sinners! God gave Paul a new, healthy heart, and instead of hurting others, he wanted to help them share the good news about Jesus.

One way that Paul helped share the good news was by writing letters, including this one to the people in Rome! Paul's letter is part of the Bible. The Bible is God's True Word— it is from God and about God. Every part of the Bible helps us know what God is like and how He wants us to live. Paul's letter to the Romans is pretty long, so we're going to zoom in to learn one small part of it. Romans 12 is sometimes called "Marks of the True Christian." Each verse tells us how God's children, those who love and trust God, should live.

Our first verse, Romans 12:9 says, "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good." The word "genuine" means to be real. So what does real love look like? Real love looks like Jesus because He is the only person who has ever loved perfectly! The rest of us have all failed to love perfectly. We choose to be frustrated instead of patient, selfish instead of generous, and prideful instead of humble. God knows His children can't love like Jesus on their own, so He gives them the Holy Spirit who helps them.



Week #1

LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:9

The next part of the verse tells us to “abhor what is evil and hold fast to what is good.” To abhor means to hate or be disgusted by something. Evil is anything that goes against God.

God tells us in this verse to hate what is evil. The Bible also tells us to love all people. So what should we do when someone is sinning? We should love the person, showing them patience and forgiveness. We should also recognize that sin is wrong, both our own sin and the sin of other people.

Instead of holding onto sin, we should hold onto what is good. The more God’s children hold tightly to God, the more their thoughts, hearts, and desires will become like God’s.

You might’ve noticed the two big hearts on the wall behind me! One heart says “Me” and the other says “God.” The Old Heart represents what our hearts look like on their own. In preschool, you might’ve heard us describe this as a “sick heart.” The New Heart represents what our hearts look like when they are filled with the Holy Spirit! You’ve heard us call this a “healthy heart.” When someone loves and trusts Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps them become more like Him! **With preschool, only use the phrases sick heart/healthy heart.**

We’re going to fill in these hearts each week as we read Romans 12 together. Today, we’re going to add “letting love be genuine,” “hating evil,” and “holding fast to good” to the New Heart because these are all marks of someone who has been changed by God! ***write these phrases or print and tape them onto the New Heart.***

Summary:

- **Romans 12 tells us how people who love and trust God should live.**
- **Jesus is the only person who loves perfectly.**
- **The more God’s children hold on tightly to God, the more their thoughts, hearts, and desires will become like God’s.**

SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:9

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

1. What book of the Bible are our verses from this semester? Is that in the Old or New Testament?

We're learning from the book of Romans, which is in the New Testament.

2. Who wrote the book of Romans? What do you know about him?

Paul. Paul used to have a heart that was sick with sin, so he hurt people who loved and trusted Jesus. God gave Paul a new heart, and instead of hurting others, he wanted to help them share the good news about Jesus.

3. What does “genuine” mean? Who has shown perfect, genuine love?

Genuine means real. Jesus is the only one who's shown perfect, genuine love.

4. What does it mean to “abhor” something? Why should God's children “abhor what is evil?”

To abhor means to hate or be disgusted by something. Evil is anything that goes against God. God's children hate what is evil because they love God!

5. Should God's children hate people who do evil things?

No! God's children should hate sin and recognize that it is wrong, but they should love the person, showing them patience and forgiveness.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Acts 9:1-18 in your Bibles and read it out loud. Who is this story about? What was Paul like before God stopped him on the road to Damascus? What was he like after? How did his heart change from violent and evil to holy and loving?

Summary:

- Romans 12 tells us how people who love and trust God should live.
- Jesus is the only person who loves perfectly.
- The more God's children hold on tightly to God, the more their thoughts, hearts, and desires will become like God's.





Week #2

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:10

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Opening Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means.

Memory Verse Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Helpful Definitions:

“Affections” – love and care

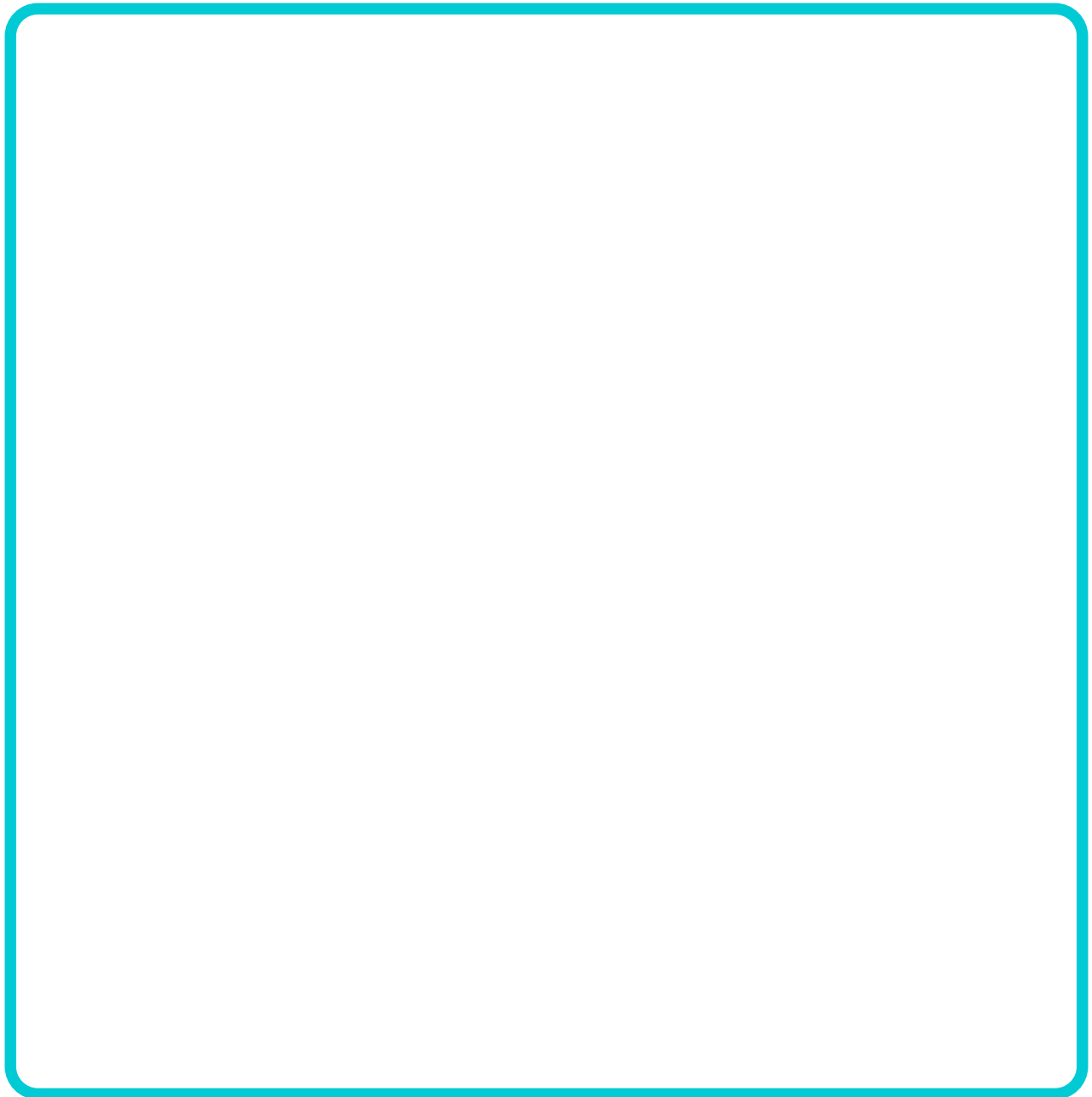
“Outdo” – to do something better than someone else

“Honor” – valuing someone and celebrating that they're made in God's image

VERSE

“Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Romans 12:10



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:10

Passage:

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

Hand Motions:

- "Love one another" – point to each other
- "with brotherly affection" – hug your neighbor
- "Outdo one another" – point to each other
- "in showing honor" – bow

Teaching:

This semester, we're learning Romans 12:9-21. Remember, Romans was a letter written by Paul after Jesus rose from the dead and went back to heaven. Romans 12 tells us about how to live with genuine love. We can trust God's Word because God knows what is best for His children!

Today's verse begins by saying: "love one another with brotherly affection."

When someone puts their love and trust in Jesus, they are adopted into God's family and become His son or daughter. When somebody loves and trusts God, they not only have the brothers and sisters in their earthly family, but they get new brothers and sisters who love and trust God, too!

Raise your hand if you have any brothers or sisters. A lot of us do! Sometimes we fight with our siblings and sometimes we have a lot of fun with them, but either way we're connected to them because we're in the same family. The same is true of brothers and sisters in God's family. They're bound together no matter what because they all belong to God the Father, so they should treat one another with kindness and love.

The second half of this verse says to "outdo one another in showing honor."

The word "outdo" means to do something better than others. Do you ever get competitive about silly things? Maybe you might even try to outdo each other here in Compass Kids when you play games! This verse tells us that there's

LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:10

only one thing we should try to be the best at: honoring others. But what does it mean to “honor” somebody?

When we honor somebody, we value them and celebrate that they’re made in God’s image. Raise your hand if you’ve ever been to a museum before! The artwork there might be beautiful, unique, or colorful, but it’s valuable because of the artist who made it. Every single person you’ve met has been created by God, who is the perfect Artist. We honor Him by celebrating the people He made.

We can honor one another in lots of different ways. We can offer genuine compliments like “your singing makes me smile!” or “you’re such a good listener.” We can celebrate the ways God has helped them change, like saying “I’ve noticed you’ve been kinder to your little sister!” We even honor others by putting their needs or desires before our own, like letting someone go in front of us in line or sharing our favorite toys with them.

Can you think of a time when someone honored you? Even if you were having a hard day, it probably brought a smile to your face and made you feel loved. Our words have power to make people feel small or give them courage. Honoring someone gives them courage!

God’s children love each other as brothers and sisters because they’re part of God’s family. God’s children also honor one another because they know that everyone is made in God’s image! Let’s add “loving as brothers and sisters” and “outdoing in honor” to our New Heart! ***write these phrases or print and tape them onto the New Heart***

Summary:

- **When we honor someone, we value them and celebrate that they’re made in God’s image.**
- **Every person you’ve met has been created by God.**
- **God’s children love each other as brothers and sisters because they’re part of God’s family.**



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:10

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

1. What book of the Bible are our verses from this semester? Who was the author of this book?

We're learning from the book of Romans, which was written by Paul.

2. Why does the Bible describe people who love Jesus as brothers and sisters?

When someone loves and trusts Jesus, they are adopted into God's family! God becomes their heavenly Father, and everyone else who belongs to His family becomes their brothers and sisters.

3. What does it mean to “outdo” someone? What is the only thing the Bible says we should try to outdo each other in?

To outdo means to do something better than someone else. The only thing we should try to outdo each other in is honor!

4. What does it mean to “honor” someone?

Honor means valuing someone and celebrating that they're made in God's image.

5. What are some ways you could honor your friends? How could you honor your parents or teachers? How could you honor your siblings?

allow time to answer

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find 1 Peter 2:16-17 and Philippians 2:3-4 and in your Bibles and read them out loud. Who do these verses say we should honor? Whose interests should we pay attention to? What makes you get really competitive— school, sports, board games? What would it look like to be competitive about honoring other people instead?

Summary:

- When we honor someone, we value them and celebrate that they're made in God's image.
- Every person you've met has been created by God.
- God's children love each other as brothers and sisters because they're part of God's family.



Week #2



Week #3

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:11-12

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Opening Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Helpful Definitions:

“Slothful” – slow, lazy

“Zeal” – excitement and passion

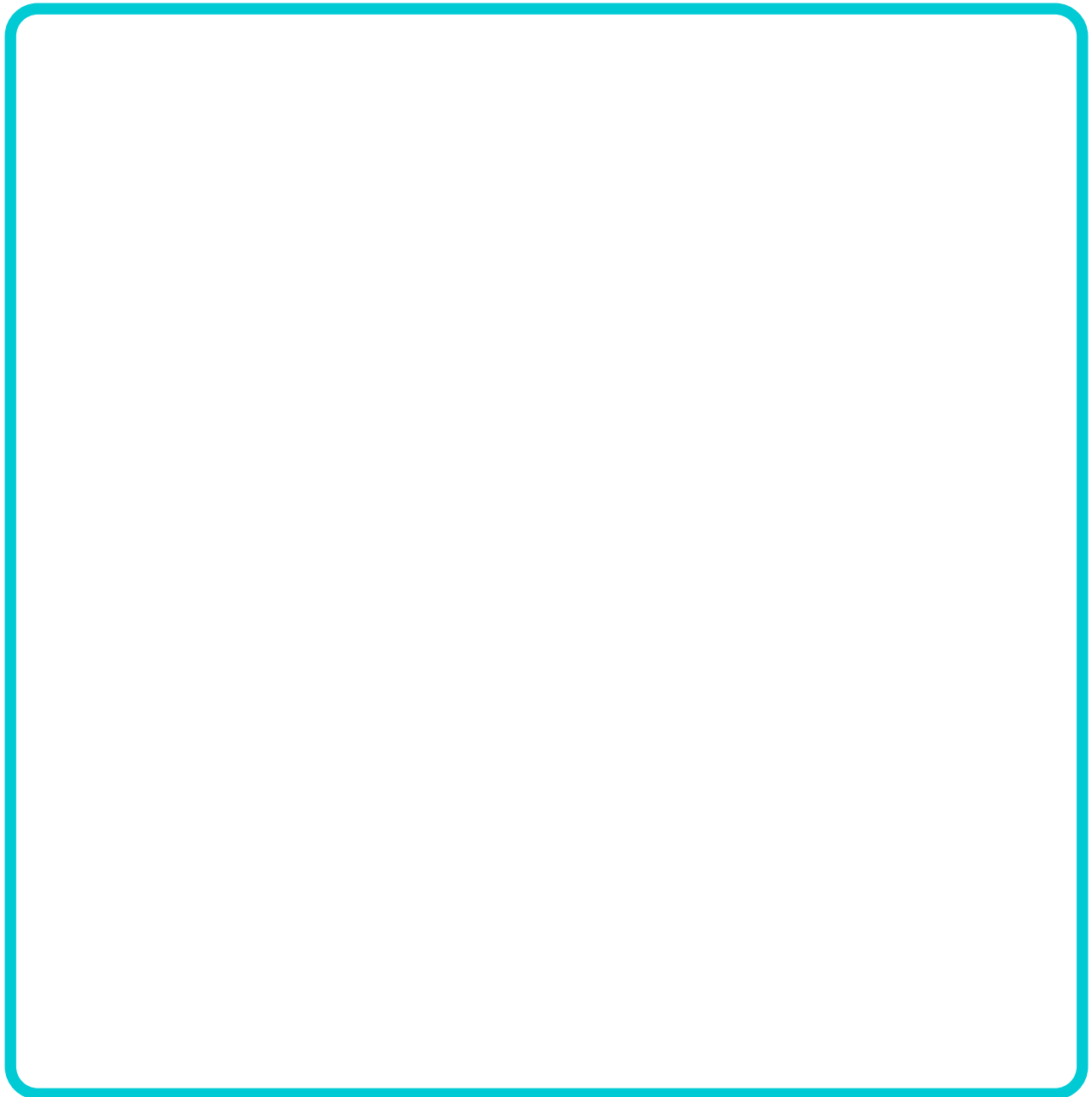
“Fervent” – to be eager and energetic about something

“Tribulation” – experiencing something very hard

VERSE

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Romans 12:11-12



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:11-12

Passage:

"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Hand Motions:

- "Do not be slothful in zeal" – slow motion cheering arms
- "Be fervent in spirit" – quick cheering arms
- "Serve the Lord" – sign language for "Lord"
- "Rejoice in hope" – point to eyes then point forward (like looking to something coming)
- "Be patient" – tap a pretend watch
- "In tribulation" – wipe sweat off forehead
- "Be constant" – sign language for "forever"
- "In prayer" – prayer hands

Teaching:

We're continuing to learn from Romans 12, and today we're going to learn two verses about how we should live while we wait on God's promises!

Our first verse begins with the command: "do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." Do you know what a sloth looks like? Does a sloth move quickly or slowly? ***Optional: show the Zootopia clip of the sloth moving slowly or act it out in a silly way.*** When this verse says "slothful," it means lazy or slow. God is telling us not to be like a sloth in our faith!

Having zeal and being fervent are the opposite of being slothful. What are some animals that move really quickly or have a lot of energy? **Cheetah, lion, kangaroo, etc.** Zeal means that a person pursues or seeks something with excitement and eagerness. This is how we should be seeking and serving the Lord! Instead of dragging their feet and grumbling, God wants His children to find joy in His commands.

Let's add "being slothful" to our Old Heart and "being fervent" and "serving the Lord" to our New Heart! ***write these phrases or print and tape them onto the two hearts***

The next verse says to "rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:11-12

To rejoice means to be glad or delighted about something. In this verse, God is telling us to be glad or delighted in hope. Hope is expecting something to happen and wanting it to happen. So what is this hope that Paul is talking about? The hope of the gospel!

reference God's Big Story timeline as we talk through this narrative We are all born with hearts that are sick with sin. Because of our sinful and sick hearts, we cannot enter into heaven and be with God. Unlike us, Jesus has a perfectly healthy heart, and He came and lived a life with no sin. He died on the cross to pay the punishment God's children deserved, and He was buried in a tomb. Three days after He died, He came back to life! He met with His disciples and many of the people who saw Him die on the cross, proving that He had come back to life. After He did this for forty days, He went to heaven to be with God. The Bible tells us He is sitting at the right hand of God! But before Jesus went to heaven, He promised that He would come back one day. The Bible tells us that none of us will know when, but when Jesus comes back, He will rule as king on the earth!

This is the hope that believers have! God always keeps His promises, and God's children rejoice because they are confident that Jesus will come back.

Tribulation means experiencing something very hard. It's especially difficult to be patient when you're suffering. Paul, the author of Romans, had a lot of suffering in his own life, even while he was writing this letter! He was shipwrecked, robbed, and put in prison. Even though his life was very hard, he waited patiently for the day when Jesus would come back and make everything new. How was he able to do this? By being "constant in prayer." God's children can bring Him their fears, questions, and praises because God wants to talk with us!

So in this verse, Paul is telling God's children that they can rejoice, have hope and be patient even when life is hard. Why? Because they can pray no matter what's going on, and they can look forward with confidence to the day Jesus will come back! Let's add "rejoicing in hope," "being patient" and "praying" to our New Heart. **write these phrases or print and tape them**

Summary:

- **God wants us to seek Him with excitement.**
- **God's children wait with hope and patience for Jesus to come back.**
- **God's children can pray about anything!**



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:11-12

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

1. What does it mean to be slothful (hint: it’s like the animal)? What is the opposite of being slothful? How does God want His children to seek Him?

Being slothful means moving really slow. The opposite of being slothful is having zeal or being fervent! (Like a cheetah!) God wants His children to seek Him with zeal!

2. What does it mean to rejoice? What are some examples of things that make you rejoice?

Rejoicing means being glad or delighted in something. Things that might make you rejoice could be hearing good news, getting a good grade, going to get ice cream, etc.

3. What hope do God’s children rejoice in?

They rejoice in the hope that God always keeps His promises. They are confident that Jesus saved them from their sins and that Jesus will come back to make all things new!

reference the Big Story Timeline in your classroom to help explain

4. What does “tribulation” mean? Did Paul experience any tribulation?

Tribulation means experiencing something very hard. Paul experienced a lot of hard things! He was shipwrecked, robbed, and even put in prison.

5. How do God’s children hold onto hope when life is hard?

By praying constantly, like this verse says. God’s children can bring Him their fears, questions, and praises because God wants to talk with us!

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Philippians 4:4-7 and Romans 5:3-5 in your Bibles and read them out loud. When do these verses say God’s children can rejoice? Why can they rejoice even when they are suffering or anxious? Who guards their minds and fills their hearts with hope? How do you normally respond when life is hard?

Summary:

- God wants us to seek Him with excitement.
- God’s children wait with hope and patience for Jesus to come back.
- God’s children can pray about anything!





Week #4

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:13

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

Opening Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups.
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means.

Memory Verse Activity: Card Hunt

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Helpful Definitions:

“Contribute” – to give

“Saints” – believers, people who love and trust Jesus

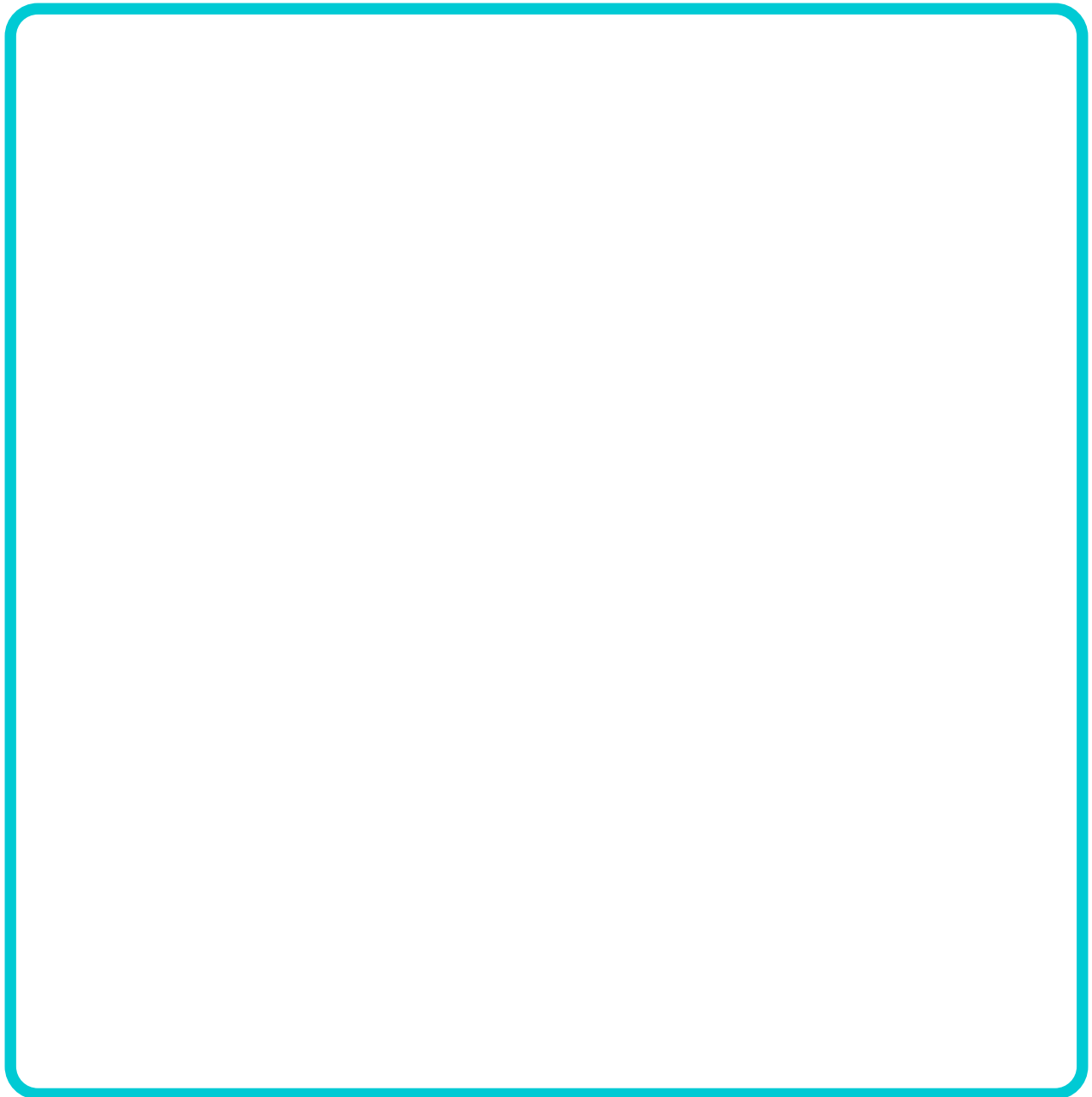
“Hospitality” – showing love to strangers



VERSE

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

Romans 12:13



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:13

Passage:

"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

Hand Motions:

- "Contribute to the needs" – pretend like you're handing out money or food
- "Of the saints" – point to each other
- "And seek to show hospitality" – pretend like you're opening the door for someone

Teaching:

Welcome back to Romans 12! We're learning all about genuine love. No one has loved perfectly except Jesus, but God's children become more like Him everyday with the help of the Holy Spirit!

Our verse begins by saying "contribute to the needs of the saints." A saint is somebody who has been set apart by God because they love and trust Him. They no longer follow God's enemy— they follow God! The Bible tells us that God has set His children apart from the world. Now that we know a saint is somebody who has been set apart because they love and trust God, let's think about what it means to contribute to someone's needs.

What are some things that we need to live? **allow time to answer** All of these are things that we need to live! We all need food to eat, water to drink, and a place to live to protect us from the weather. God's children can meet each other's physical needs by being generous with their time and money. Believers help each other with joy because we learned last week that they all belong to God's family!

God's children also need relationships with one another. God has created each person uniquely, meaning that each person has different skills, talents, and gifts. Have you ever had a friend who knew exactly the right thing to say to encourage you? Or a friend who gave you a really tight hug when you were sad? Some of God's children may be good at teaching, while others may be good at solving problems. God's children have lots of different strengths, and everyone can use their strengths to help meet other people's needs. Each skill, talent, and gift is important and needed for the church. Let's add "contributing to needs" to our New Heart **write or print and tape this phrase onto the heart**.



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:13

Now let's look at the second half of this verse: "Seek to show hospitality." When this verse uses the word "hospitality," it means to show love to strangers. To understand what it means to show love to strangers, we're going to look at something Jesus said in the book of Matthew. In this passage, Jesus is teaching about what it will be like when He comes back to earth.

Read Matthew 25:35-41:

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

In this passage, Jesus is telling God's children that they cared for Him: they fed Him when He was hungry, gave Him a drink when He was thirsty, and even visited Him when He was sick. This confused them because they didn't see Jesus in need of these things! Jesus told them that when they cared for the most unseen people, the strangers, the people that most people didn't notice or care about, they actually cared for Him! When God's children show hospitality to strangers, they show genuine love for God. Let's add "showing hospitality" to our New Heart ***write or or print and tape this phrase onto the heart***

God's children are set apart and must look different from the rest of the world. God's children look different by belonging to a church and taking care of one another's needs. They also look different by showing God's love to strangers and the people that everyone else forgets.

Summary:

- **A saint is somebody who has been set apart because they love and trust God.**
- **God's children meet each other's needs.**
- **God's children show love to strangers.**



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:13

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

1. Who are “saints”? How does someone become a saint?

Saint is another word for a believer or a child of God. Everyone who loves and trusts Jesus is a saint because God has set them apart from the world!

2. What are some physical needs people have? What does it mean to “contribute” to those needs?

To contribute means to give something you have! Some physical needs include food, water, shelter.

3. In addition to physical needs, why else do God’s children need each other?

God’s children also need relationships with one another. God has created each person with different skills, talents, and gifts that bless other people! Some of God’s children may be good at teaching, while others may be good at solving problems or giving encouragement.

4. What does “hospitality” mean?

Hospitality means showing love to strangers and people that no one else notices or cares about.

5. The teacher read Matthew 25 during large group– who did that passage say that God’s children were serving when they served the poor and forgotten?

Jesus! When God’s children show hospitality to strangers, they show genuine love for God.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Luke 14:12-14 and Proverbs 19:17 in your Bibles and read them out loud. In Luke 14, what kind of people does Jesus say God’s children should invite to their parties? Why does He say to include them? Who does Proverbs 19 say that we are really serving when we give to the poor? How is this similar to the verses in Matthew 25 that you heard earlier?

Summary:

- A saint is somebody who has been set apart because they love and trust God.
- God’s children meet each other’s needs.
- God’s children show love to strangers.





Week #5

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:14-15

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

Opening Activity: Card Hunt

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means.

Memory Verse Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball, walk it back on the spoon, and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Helpful Definitions:

“Bless” – to want what is best for someone

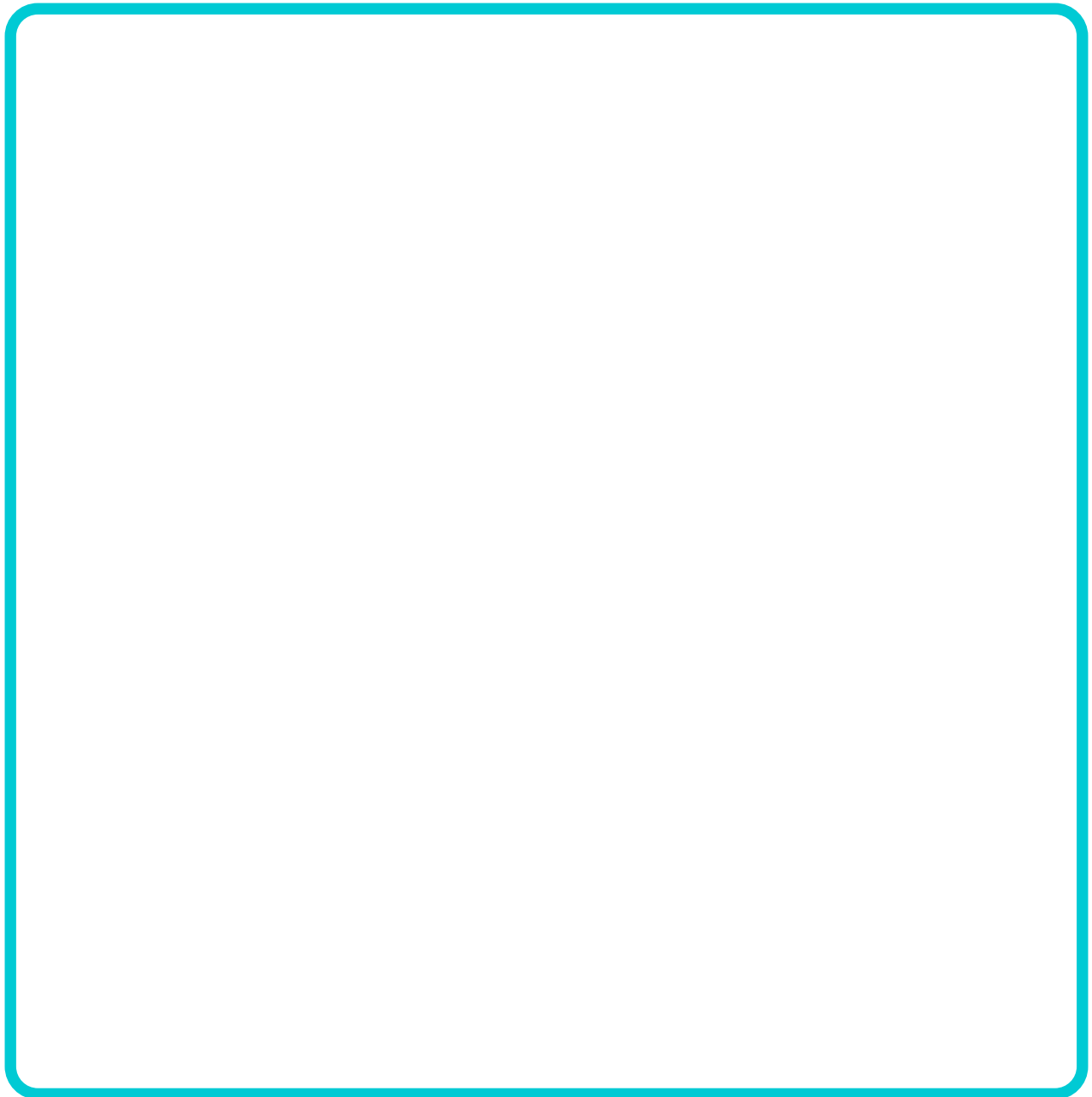
“Curse” – to want what is worst for someone

“Persecute” – to hurt someone and treat them like they don't matter

VERSE

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

Romans 12:14-15



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:14-15

Passage:

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

Hand Motions:

- "Bless those who" – sign language for "bless"
- "Persecute you" – angry pointing finger
- "Bless and" – sign language for "bless"
- "Do not curse them" – angry pointing finger
- "Rejoice with those who rejoice" – point to your smile
- "And weep with those who weep" – pretend to cry

Teaching:

Today we're learning two verses, but they're both about how we should respond to the people around us. Let's look at the first part of this verse, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."

A few weeks ago, we learned about the word "honor." Honor means to see somebody as valuable and celebrate that they're made in God's image. Persecution is the opposite of honor. Persecuting someone means hurting them and treating them like they aren't valuable.

In this verse, God is telling His children how to respond to people who persecute them. God tells His children that they shouldn't curse them— they should bless them instead!

Cursing someone means wanting what is worst for them, but blessing someone means wanting what is best for them! Knowing and loving God is always what is best. When we bless someone who is treating us badly, we pray for their hearts to be changed by loving and trusting God. Even though it's easy to hate someone who is being unkind, God's children bless those who persecute them because God blessed them even when they were His enemies. Let's add "blessing enemies" to the New Heart and "cursing enemies" to the Old Heart **write these phrases or print and tape them onto the two*



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:14-15

hearts*.

Let's look at our second verse for another way that God's children respond to others. It says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

We learned a few weeks ago that rejoicing means being glad, pleased, or delighted. Someone might be rejoicing because they just got good news! Maybe God said "yes" to a prayer they'd been praying for a long time and they feel excited! Rejoicing with them means joining their celebration and thanking God for His kindness. It's a good thing to share our joy with others! Even if God hasn't answered our own prayers the way we hoped, He can help us rejoice with others because God always does what is best.

The verse also says to "weep with those who weep." Weeping is when you cry big tears because you feel very sad. Someone might weep because they got bad news, they feel lonely, or somebody they love is sick or dying. Instead of ignoring someone's tears or telling them to get over it, God tells His children to notice their sadness and cry with them. Caring for someone might not make them feel less sad, but it will help them feel less lonely. Let's add "rejoicing and weeping with others" to the New Heart! ***write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart***

Most people like to curse their enemies and think about their own feelings more than the feelings of others. But God's children are not like the world! They pray for their enemies, and they care when the people around them are happy or sad. When God's children respond this way, they show His love.

Summary:

- **God's children bless their enemies instead of cursing them.**
- **Blessing someone means wanting what is best for them.**
- **God's children care about the people around them, whether they are happy or sad.**



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:14-15

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

1. What does “persecution” mean? How is persecution different from honor?

Persecution means hurting someone and treating them like they don't matter. Persecution is the opposite of honor. Honor means seeing someone as valuable and celebrating that they're made in God's image.

2. How does God tell His children to respond to people who persecute them?

He says to bless them and not to curse them.

3. What does it mean to curse someone? What does it mean to bless them?

Cursing someone means wanting what is worst for them. Blessing someone means wanting what is best for them.

4. What makes you rejoice? What makes your friends or the people around you rejoice? What are some good ways to celebrate with someone who is joyful?

allow time to answer and then share some personal examples

5. What makes you cry? What makes your friends or the people around you cry? What are some good ways to care for someone who is sad?

allow time to answer and then share some personal examples

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find John 11:17-44 in your Bibles and read it out loud. How does Jesus care for Martha? How does Jesus care for Mary? Has someone ever cared for you that way? Is there someone in your life who needs a good friend to rejoice with them or weep with them?

Summary:

- God's children bless their enemies instead of cursing them.
- Blessing someone means wanting what is best for them.
- God's children care about the people around them, whether they are happy or sad.



Week #5



Week #6

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:16

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”

Opening Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball, walk it back on the spoon, and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means.

Memory Verse Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Helpful Definitions:

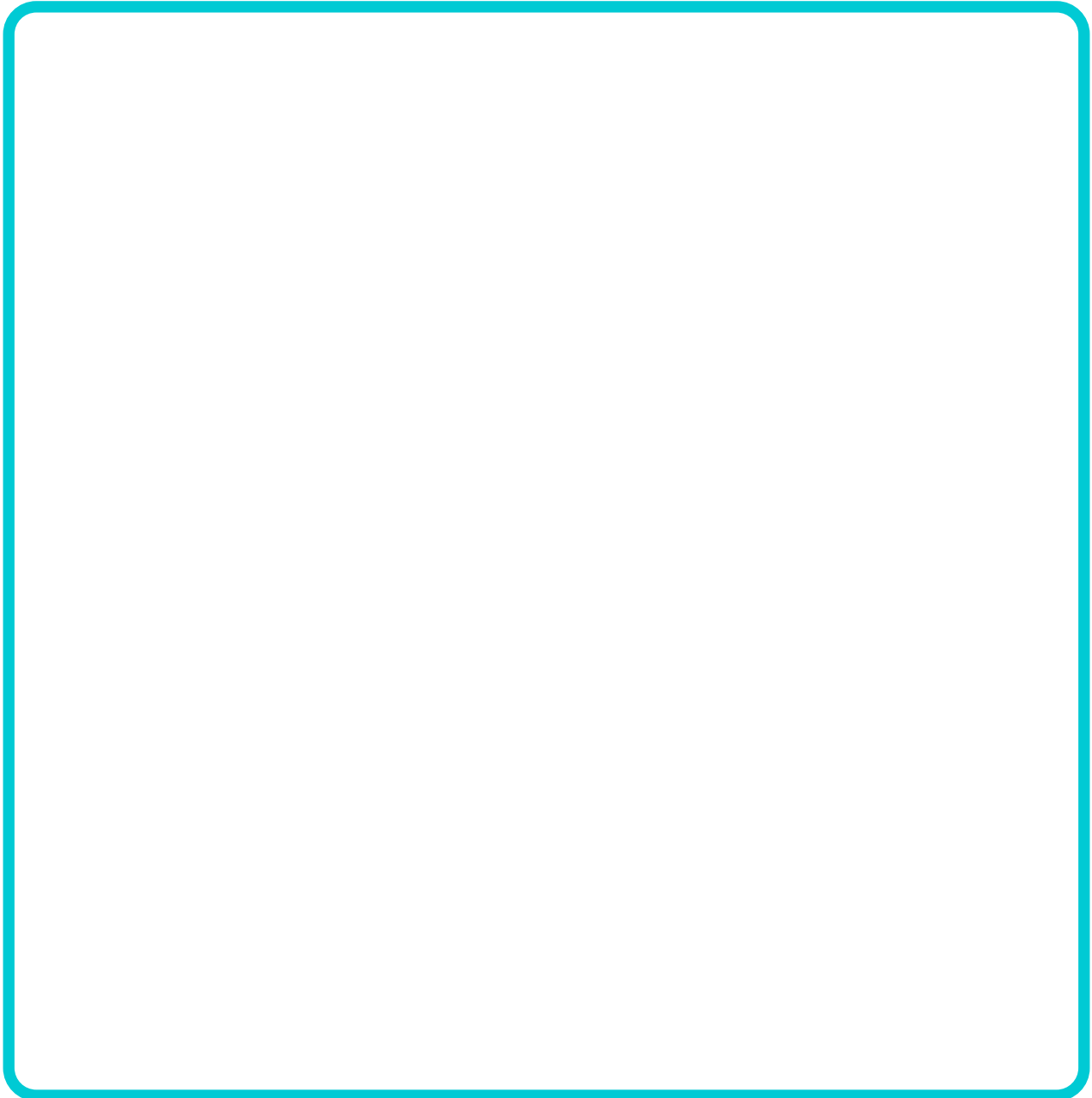
“Harmony” - working together on the same goal

“Haughty” - being prideful and believing you are better than other people

VERSE

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”

Romans 12:16



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:16

Passage:

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.."

Hand Motions:

- "Live in harmony" – link your own hands together
- "With one another" – point to each other
- "Do not be haughty" – fan yourself
- "But associate with the lowly" – place hand near the ground
- "Never be wise" – shake head no
- "In your own sight" – point to eyes

Teaching:

We're officially halfway through Romans 12!! Let's quickly review what we've learned so far before we add on what's new! We've learned that Romans was written by Paul. Paul used to have a sick heart that wanted to hurt other people, but God gave him a new, healthy heart that wanted to love other people and tell them about Jesus! Without the Holy Spirit's help, our hearts are sick too. That's what the Old Heart represents. But everyone who loves and trusts Jesus gets a healthy heart like Paul's that wants to love others. That's what the New Heart represents. As we learn Romans 12, we're adding what we learn about each heart!

Our verse begins by saying: "Live in harmony with one another."

Harmony means working together towards the same goal. Harmony doesn't mean everyone works exactly the same way or agrees on everything. Like we learned a few weeks ago, everyone brings different gifts and strengths to the table, and that's a very good thing! How many of you like to sing or listen to music? Musicians make a harmony by singing or playing different sounds at the same time that are even more beautiful together than on their own. ***Optional: play a short video or sound clip of someone playing a musical harmony***

When people live in harmony, they live together peacefully instead of fighting and arguing. God's children all share one common goal: obeying God and telling others about Him! Instead of seeing their differences as reasons to be enemies, God's

LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:16

children see their differences as reasons they need each other! Let's add "living in harmony" to the New Heart! **write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart**

Sometimes, living in harmony can be really hard, and the next part of our verse gives us a hint about why: "Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly."

The word "haughty" means being prideful and thinking you are better than other people. Pride always gets in the way of peace. When you believe you're better than others, you act like you don't need them! This verse tells us that God's children don't think of themselves as being the best, but that they "associate with the lowly." This means that God's children care for all people, even people the world thinks aren't important. They know that every person is made in God's image, reflecting what He is like, so every person is valuable. Let's add "being haughty" to the Old Heart and "associating with the lowly" to the New Heart! **write these phrases or print and tape them onto the heart**

Our verse ends with another warning about pride. It says, "Never be wise in your own sight." Wisdom means knowing what is best. Who always knows what is best? **God!** Because God made everything and God is in charge of everything, He is the only one who always knows what is best.

In this verse, it says that God's children shouldn't be wise in their own sight. Because we aren't God, we don't know everything. God's children know that any wisdom they have is from God and that He gives them the ability to understand. When they aren't sure what to do, they seek God by praying and reading His Word. Let's add "being wise in your own sight" to the Old Heart! **write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart**

God's children can live in harmony when they say no to pride! Instead of believing they're the best, they associate with the lowly and ask God for true wisdom.

Summary:

- **Harmony means working together towards the same goal.**
- **God's children say no to pride and instead care for all people.**
- **God is the only one who always knows what is best.**



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:16

“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”

1. What does “harmony” mean?

Harmony means working together towards the same goal. Harmony doesn't mean everyone works exactly the same way or agrees on everything. When people live in harmony, they live together peacefully instead of fighting and arguing.

2. What does it mean to be “haughty”? Why is it dangerous to living peacefully?

Being prideful and thinking you are better than other people. Pride always gets in the way of peace because when you believe you're better than others, you act like you don't need them!

3. What does it mean to “associate with the lowly”?

Associating with the lowly means caring for all people, even people the world thinks aren't important, because they're made in God's image.

4. Why is it tempting to associate with people who seem rich or powerful instead?

It's tempting to associate with the rich or powerful because it boosts our own pride and makes us look more important.

5. Who is perfectly wise? How can we find true wisdom?

God! We find true wisdom by seeking Him in prayer and through His Word, the Bible.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Colossians 3:12-17 in your Bibles and read it out loud. According to verse 14, what binds people together in harmony? What does it say God's children should do when they have a complaint against each other? Have you ever been in a situation where it felt hard to live in harmony? What makes it hard to work together?

Summary:

- Harmony means working together towards the same goal.
- God's children say no to pride and instead care for all people.
- God is the only one who always knows what is best.





Week #7

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:17

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.”

Opening Activity: Pogo Stick Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a pogo stick to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using pogo sticks, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means.

Memory Verse Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card, along with a color or picture for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.). Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards. Older classes can arrange the cards in order!

Helpful Definitions:

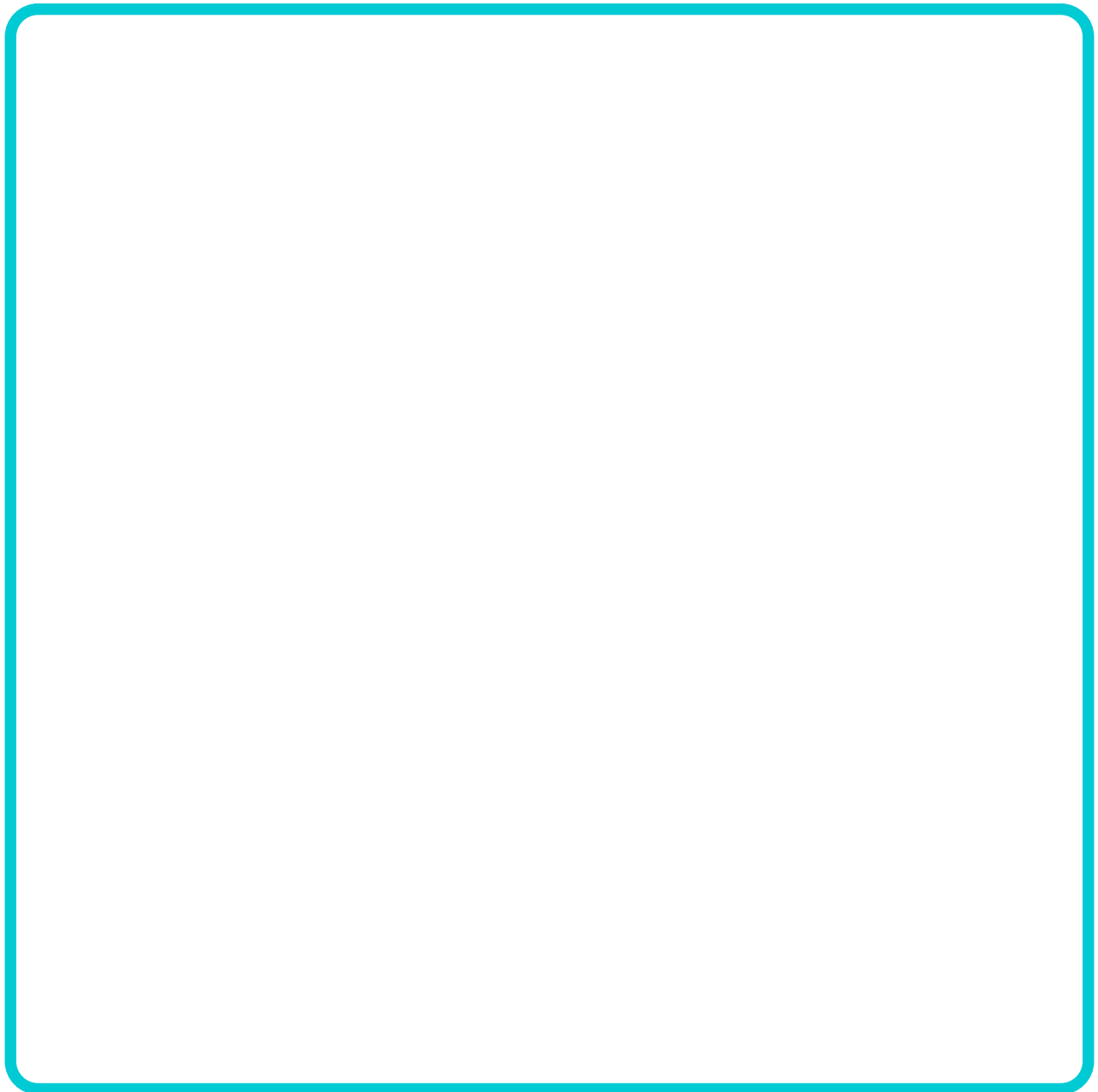
“Evil” - anything that goes against God

“Honorable” - treating others like they are valuable

VERSE

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.”

Romans 12:17



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:17

Passage:

"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all."

Hand Motions:

- "Repay no one" – money sign
- "Evil for evil" – make X with arms twice
- "But give thought" – point to mind
- "To do what is honorable" – bow
- "In the sight of all" – point to eyes then out to everyone

Teaching:

For the first 6 weeks, Romans 12 has taught us how God's children live in harmony with one another. Starting this week, we're going to learn how God's children respond when other people are unkind to them.

Let's look at the first part of this verse, "Repay no one evil for evil." Evil is anything that goes against God. God wants what is best for His children, and the commands He gives are for their good. One of His commands we've been talking about a lot this semester is the command to love our neighbors.

Even though God's children are told to love their neighbors, sometimes their neighbors do not show love to them. There are times when all people, even God's children, break this command and sin. They might say something unkind, refuse to share, or ignore their friend when they need help. These actions might seem small, but they can really hurt. Sometimes sin against others is even more severe, though. People steal from their neighbors, tell lies about them, or even persecute them, like we learned a few weeks ago. Hurting others is evil because God commands us to love.

When someone hurts us, we might feel tempted to get them back. If they say something unkind, we might want to snap back and say something even more unkind. If they refuse to share, we might want to take something that belongs to them. This verse says "repay no one evil for evil." God tells His children not

LARGE GROUP

Proverbs 3:7

to respond to sin with even more sin. Even if they have been hurt very badly, hurting the other person back will not make the situation better. Let's add "repaying evil for evil" to the Old Heart. **write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart**

Instead, the second part of the verse tells God's children to "give thought" to how they respond and to "do what is honorable in the sight of all." This means that God's children make a plan for what they will do when somebody is evil towards them.

It's important for God's children to think about how they will respond when they're treated unkindly. God's children know that God has set them apart from the world. When God's children do not repay evil, they show others how God forgives. All people have sinned against God and have been evil towards Him through disobedience. When somebody loves and trusts Jesus and asks God to forgive them of their sins, God forgives them. Do we deserve to be forgiven by God? No, He could've repaid our evil with evil, but He didn't. Is there anything we can do to earn God's forgiveness? No, but God loves His children so much that He forgives them even though they don't deserve it.

When God's children remember that they've done nothing to deserve God's love and forgiveness, they can forgive others even when they don't deserve it. This doesn't mean that you should keep secrets or not tell a grown-up if you're being treated badly. You should always ask a grown-up for help when someone is hurting you. It does mean that when we show kindness to others who are mean to them, they are like a little mirror: they are showing the world how God forgives and loves people. Let's add "doing what is honorable" to the New Heart! **write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart**

Summary:

- God tells His children not to respond to sin with more sin.
- God forgives His children even though they don't deserve it.
- When God's children do not repay evil, they show others how God forgives.



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:17

“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.”

1. What does it mean to “repay evil for evil”?

Repaying evil for evil means responding to sin with more sin. It usually looks like trying to get revenge when someone has hurt us or our feelings.

2. Does repaying evil make the situation better? Why or why not?

No! Repaying evil for evil doesn't help because it doesn't take away the pain of what someone has done. It just adds new problems into a situation that is already broken.

3. Instead of reacting immediately, what does this verse tell God's children to do before they respond?

Give thought! Essentially, to think about how to respond and make a plan.

4. What does it mean to “do what is honorable”?

It means treating others with honor, which means recognizing that they're made in God's image. Even our enemies are made in God's image, so we should use thoughtful words, pray for them, and treat them the way we would like to be treated.

5. Why are God's children able to forgive their enemies?

Because they know that God has forgiven them! While they had old hearts that were sick with sin, they were God's enemies. But God sent Jesus to die on the cross, take the punishment they deserved, and give them new, healthy hearts! When they remember how God showed them undeserved kindness, they can show the same to others.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Luke 6:27-36 and James 1:19-20 in your Bibles and read them out loud. Why does Luke 6 say God's children need to love their enemies and not just their friends? How does this passage describe God? What does James 1 say God's children should be quick to do and slow to do? Has someone ever shown you forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven when you didn't deserve it? Is it hard for you to forgive others?

Summary:

- God tells His children not to respond to sin with more sin.
- God forgives His children even though they don't deserve it.
- When God's children do not repay evil, they show others how God forgives.





Week #8

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:18

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Opening Activity: Stepping Mats or Matching Game

1. Stepping mats: Write a word or phrase from the verse on each stepping mat. Place the mats out in the room, close enough that the kids can step or jump from one to another. Ask each child to walk/jump on the mats in order as they say the verse out loud.
2. Matching game: Create two sets of matching cards with a word or phrase from the verse on each card. Turn the cards upside down and have the class take turns flipping two cards over at a time until they've found all the matching cards and placed them in order.

*Preschool modification: Include a color or picture on the matching cards for preschool classes (i.e. yellow star, green circle, etc.) and have the teachers arrange the cards in order once they've found all the matches!

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw a picture of what it means

Memory Verse Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicle sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Helpful Definitions:

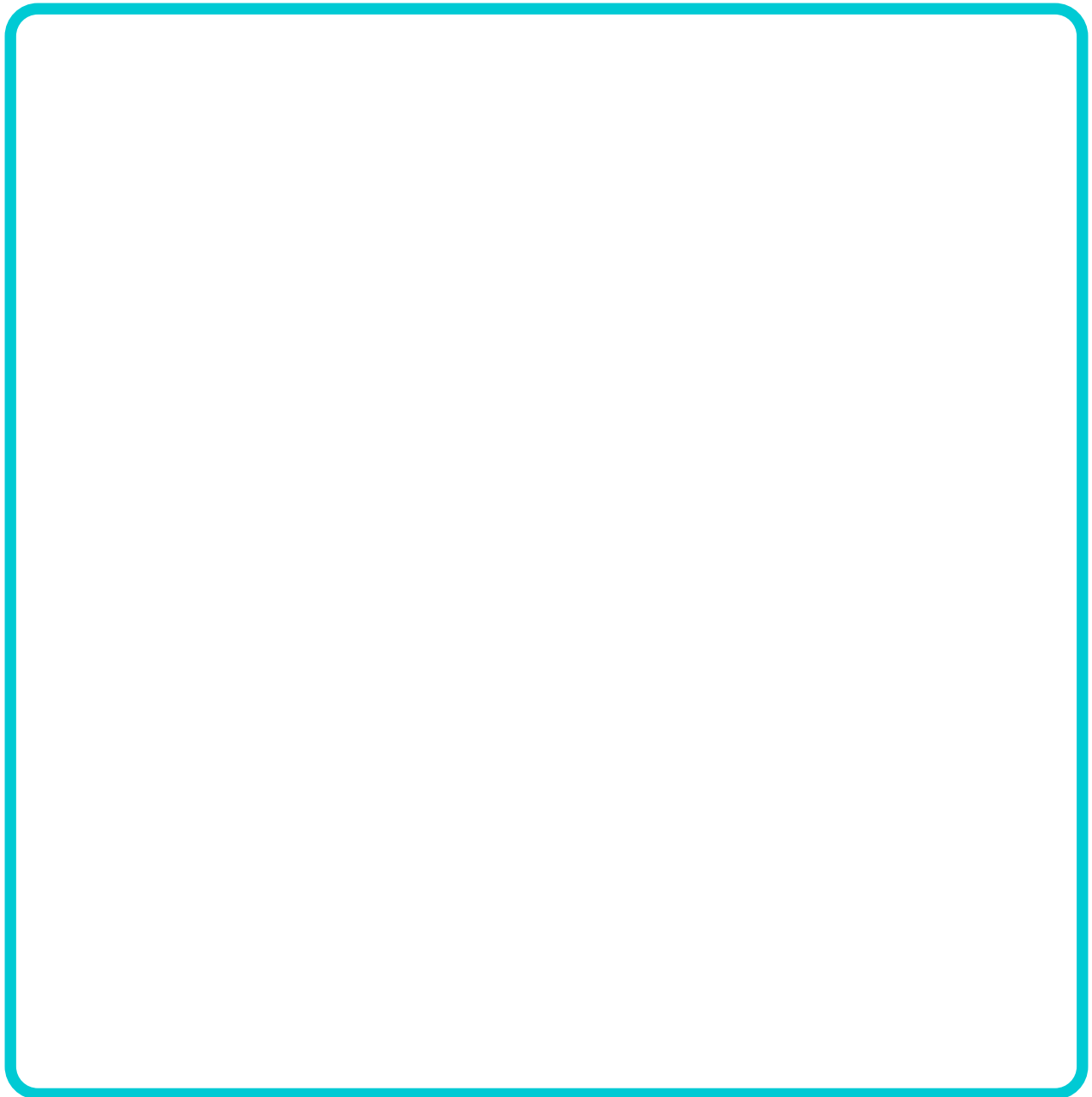
“Peaceably” – living in harmony



VERSE

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Romans 12:18



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:18

Passage:

"If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

Hand Motions:

- "If possible so far as it" – sign for "possible" (make two fists and knock down three times)
- "Depends on you" – point to self
- "Live peaceably" – peace signs
- "With all" – open arms wide or point to people around you

Teaching:

Last week, we started learning about how God's children respond when others sin or hurt them. The rest of Romans 12 will continue that theme and tell us even more about how to mirror God's kindness to the world.

Today's verse says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." We're actually going to start with the second half of the verse first and then talk about what the first half means.

What does it mean to "live peaceably with all"? A few weeks ago, we learned about the word "harmony." Harmony means working together towards the same goal. We learned that musicians make a harmony by singing or playing different sounds at the same time that are even more beautiful together than on their own. When people work in harmony, they are able to live peaceably, like this verse says! Sometimes differences lead to conflict, or fighting with each other. Instead of seeing their differences as reasons to be enemies, God's children see their differences as reasons they need each other. Let's add "living peaceably" to the New Heart! **write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart**

Okay now that we know what the second half of this verse means, let's rewind back to the beginning! The verse begins by saying, "If possible, so far as it depends on you."

Most of the time, we have fights with other people because of our own sin.

LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:18

You might get into an argument with your parents because they told you to clean your room and you didn't obey. You might fight with your brother or sister because you took one of their toys without asking. Maybe you keep getting into conflict with your friends because you never listen when they're trying to talk to you. When these fights happen, we can easily stop them because it was our own sin that started them!

We can say we're sorry, ask for forgiveness, and do whatever we can to make it right.

Sometimes, we have fights with other people because of **their** sin, not ours! One of your friends might say something unkind that really hurts your feelings. Or your brother or sister might blame you for something you didn't do. When this happens, we aren't responsible for their actions, but we are responsible for our response.

How do God's children live peaceably when other people's sin hurts them? First, they ask God for help. They remember that God forgave their sins, so they can forgive others, even when they feel angry or sad. Then, they decide how to respond. If the other person did something small and annoying, the best response would be to just move on. But if the other person did something big or hurtful, then telling a grown-up is really important! Part of living peaceably is making sure people are safe, and asking an adult for help is the best way to do that.

We can't change other people's actions. Sometimes, they keep sinning even after we've asked them to stop and offered forgiveness. When this happens, it isn't our fault! We are only responsible for our own choices and responses. God's children live peaceably as far as it depends on them and trust God to change other people's hearts.

Summary:

- **We can't change other people's actions.**
- **We are only responsible for our own choices!**
- **God's children trust God to change other people's hearts.**

SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:18

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

1. What does it mean to “live peaceably” with people?

It means working in harmony, not seeing differences as reasons to be enemies, and treating each other kindly.

2. What causes most of the fights and arguments we get into?

Our own sin!

3. Can you name some examples of times your own sin caused a fight or argument?

allow time to answer, prompting if needed, and then give your own age-appropriate examples.

4. What should we do when our own sin causes a fight or argument?

Say sorry, ask for forgiveness, and do whatever we can to make it right.

5. What should we do when someone else’s sin causes a problem?

First, ask God for help and the ability to forgive. Then, decide what is the wisest response. If they did something small, you can move on. If they did something big or hurtful to you or someone else, then you should tell a grown-up and ask them to help you.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Hebrews 12:14 and Matthew 18:15-17 in your Bibles and read them out loud. Who does Hebrews 12 say we should strive for peace with? Does it guarantee that peace with everyone will be possible? What steps does Matthew 18 give for talking to someone who has hurt you? Why is it important to talk directly to the person first instead of talking to all of your friends about the situation?

Summary:

- We can’t change other people’s actions.
- We are only responsible for our own choices!
- God’s children trust God to change other people’s hearts.





Week #9

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:19

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

Opening Activity: Bouncy Ball Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse onto each popsicle stick.
2. Set the popsicles sticks on one side of the room and line kids up on the other side.
3. Let the kids take turns hopping on a bouncy ball to grab a popsicle stick and bring it back to their team.
4. Once all the popsicle sticks are back, work together to sort them in the right order. Older classes can turn this into competition between two teams to see who finishes first!

*Preschool modification: Number the popsicle sticks to help the class put them in the right order. Instead of using bouncy balls, you can hide the popsicle sticks around the classroom and have the class find them together or you can do a simplified relay (tip-toes, crawling, hopping, etc.).

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups.
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Helpful Definitions:

“Beloved” – someone who is loved

“Avenge/Vengeance” – hurting someone who has hurt you

“Wrath” – God’s right anger and punishment for sin

VERSE

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Romans 12:19



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:19

Passage:

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Hand Motions:

- "Beloved" – hands across chest
- "Never" – shake head "no"
- "Avenge yourselves" – make fists like fighting
- "But leave it to" – open hands like surrender
- "The wrath of God" – point up with both hands
- "For it is written" – make book with hands
- "Vengeance is mine" – point up with one hand
- "I will repay" – bring fist down like a gavel
- "Says the Lord" – sign language for Lord (L across chest)

Teaching:

Last week, we started learning about how God's children respond when other people are unkind. Today, we're going to continue learning about why God's children should try to live peaceably with all.

Our verse today begins with the word "beloved," which means someone who is loved. The Bible often calls God's children "beloved" because they are loved by... **God!** God's children can show love to others, even people who are unkind, because God showed His love to them while they were still sinners. Even though they had done nothing to deserve it, Jesus died for God's children to take their punishment.

The next part of our verse says "never avenge yourselves." To avenge yourself means to hurt someone because they hurt you. Imagine, for example, that someone broke one of your favorite toys. Trying to avenge yourself or "get vengeance" might look like breaking one of their favorite toys to make them feel sad too. Or if someone hit you, trying to avenge yourself might mean hitting them back, not to defend yourself but to make their arm hurt just like yours.

LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:19

In both of those examples, hurting the other person does nothing to actually help the situation. Breaking someone else's toy won't put yours back together again, and hitting someone else in the arm won't make yours hurt any less. Trying to avenge yourself will only create more pain, not more peace. Instead, we learned last week that God's children ask God to help them forgive and tell a grown-up about the situation. Let's add "avenging yourself" to the Old Heart. ***write this phrase or print and tape it onto the heart***

The rest of our verse says, "leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."

We've learned before that God is just. ***for elementary, point to the attribute wall and ask if anyone can remember the definition*** Being just means that God is right to punish sin.

We can look to so many stories in the Bible to see how God is just! One story you've probably heard before is when God rescued the Israelites out of Egypt. Pharaoh was the enemy of God's people, the Israelites. He made them slaves and treated them very, very badly. God's people cried out to God and begged Him to help! God used Moses to set His people free and take them across the Red Sea to safety. The Israelites didn't have to defeat their enemy, they just needed to trust and obey God. God is the one who punished and defeated Pharaoh because God is just!

Like the Israelites, God's children don't have to defeat their enemies or respond by hurting them back. Their job is to live peaceably as much as it depends on them and to trust and obey God. God is just, and it's His job to punish sin, not ours!

Summary:

- Hurting another person never helps.
- Instead, believers live peaceably and trust God.
- God is just, and it's His job to punish sin, not ours!

SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:19

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

1. What does it mean for someone to be “beloved”? Who does the Bible call beloved?

Beloved means someone is loved. The Bible calls God’s children “beloved” because they are so loved by God!!

2. What does it mean to “avenge yourself”? Can you give an example?

Avenging yourself means hurting someone because they hurt you. Examples: breaking someone’s toy because they broke yours, hitting someone back (not to defend yourself), gossiping about someone because they hurt your feelings, etc.

3. Who does the Bible say that vengeance belongs to?

God!

4. What attributes of God help us to trust Him when we feel tempted to get revenge?

Just; God is right to punish sin, so we don’t have to. We can also remember that God is merciful, so we can show mercy to others because He’s shown mercy to us.

5. What are some stories in the Bible where we see God’s justice?

The flood in Genesis, the plagues and the Red Sea in Exodus, David and Goliath in 1 Samuel, etc.

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Exodus 15:1-11 and Proverbs 21:15 in your Bibles and read them out loud. Exodus 15 is the song that Moses sang right after Pharaoh was defeated and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. Who does Moses give credit to for the victory? What are some of the words he uses to describe God? How does Proverbs 15 say that righteous people respond to God’s justice? How do evildoers respond? Which person responded righteously to God’s justice— Moses or Pharaoh?

Summary:

- Hurting another person never helps.
- Instead, believers live peaceably and trust God.
- God is just, and it’s His job to punish sin, not ours!



Week #10

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:20

“To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’”

Opening Activity: Cupstack

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each plastic cup.
2. Have kids work together to stack the cups.
3. To make this more challenging, hide the cups around the room or add a relay element!

*Preschool modification: Number the cups or use a set of nesting cups to make stacking in the correct order easier.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to draw it or write it out.

Memory Verse Activity: Card Hunt

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: Number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Helpful Definitions:

“Contrary” – opposite

“Heap” – to make a pile



VERSE

"To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.'"

Romans 12:20



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:20

Passage:

"To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

Hand Motions:

- "To the contrary" – cross arms "no"
- "If your enemy" – make fists like fighting
- "Is hungry" – rub stomach
- "Feed him" – act like handing out food
- "If he is thirsty" – wipe forehead like sweating
- "Give him something to drink" – act like pouring and handing a drink
- "For by so doing" – one step forward
- "You will heap burning coals" – sign language for "pile"
- "On his head" – touch head

Teaching:

The last several weeks, we've been learning about how God's children respond when other people sin and hurt them. Romans 12 tells us that God's children don't repay evil for evil or try to avenge themselves. Instead, they ask God for help and respond by making peace when they can.

This week, we're going to add another layer to how God's children should respond. We're already talked about how they **should not** repay evil for evil, but today we're going to take that a step further and learn what they **should** repay them with.

First, this verse says that if your enemy is hungry, you should feed him, and if your enemy is thirsty, you should give him something to drink. No one did this better than Jesus! Jesus had many enemies, and they hated him so much that they wanted Him to die. It would've been amazing enough for Jesus to just forgive them. But Jesus did even more than that! Instead of repaying evil for evil, He repaid evil with good. Jesus performed miracles that blessed the people who hated Him. Jesus fed them, gave them water, and healed their sicknesses.



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:20

Do you think this is easy to do? **No!** When someone hurts us, we want to lash out and hurt them back. It's even harder to do something kind for them in return. Jesus was able to love His enemies because He's holy, which means He's completely perfect and separate from sin! **for elementary, point to the attribute wall** Jesus knew how much God the Father loved Him, so He was able to show that love to others, even when they didn't love Him back. Jesus also knew that God is just and right to punish sin. He knew that even if it looked like His enemies were winning in the moment, God always wins in the end. Because Jesus perfectly loved and trusted God the Father, He was able to respond to His enemies with kindness.

When someone becomes a child of God, they receive the Holy Spirit, who gives them the power to become more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps them believe that God really does love them and that God is just and right to punish sin. As God's children grow in their belief, they also grow in their love towards their enemies.

The end of this verse says that responding to enemies with kindness is like "heaping coals on their head." This isn't saying that you should put actual coals on someone's head! This is saying that when we show kindness to someone, we are trusting God to overcome our enemies. Instead of taking revenge into their own hands, God's children believe that God will either change their enemies' hearts or punish sin because He is just!

Summary:

- **Jesus perfectly loved and trusted God the Father.**
- **God's children can love their enemies when they trust God.**
- **God will either change our enemies' hearts or punish sin because He is just!**



SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:20

“To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.’”

1. How does Romans 12:20 say God’s children should respond to their enemies?

Feeding them if they’re hungry and giving them something to drink if they’re thirsty.

2. Who did this better than anyone else? Can you name some examples?

Jesus. Examples: feeding Judas at the Last Supper, healing the ear of the Roman soldier, praying for God to forgive the people while He was on the cross.

3. How difficult is it for you to be kind to people who have been unkind to you?

allow time to answer, redirecting if they bring up specific names

4. Why was Jesus able to love His enemies?

Because He is holy— completely perfect and separate from sin! Jesus knew how much God the Father loved Him, so He was able to show that love to others, even when they didn’t love Him back. Jesus also knew that God is just and right to punish sin. He knew that even if it looked like His enemies were winning in the moment, God always wins in the end.

5. Does heaping coals on someone’s head mean you put actual coals on them?

No! This is saying that when we show kindness to someone, we are trusting God to overcome our enemies. Instead of taking revenge into their own hands, God’s children believe that God will either change their enemies’ hearts or punish sin because He is just!

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find Genesis 45:1-11 and Genesis 50:15-21 in your Bibles. Briefly summarize the story of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers and then meeting them again for the first time in years and having a choice to make about how he would respond. Then, read the passages out loud. How does Joseph respond to his brothers? How did they expect him to respond? How does he go even further than just forgiving them? Why do you think he was able to do that?

Summary:

- Jesus perfectly loved and trusted God the Father.
- God’s children can love their enemies when they trust God.
- God will either change our enemies’ hearts or punish sin because He is just!





Week #11

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Romans 12:21

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Opening Activity: Card Hunt

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each index card. Repeat with another set of cards and mark with a different symbol or color to differentiate between the two copies.
2. Hide the sets of cards around the classroom and send kids out in two teams to find them!
3. Once they're all found, have teams work together to arrange them in the correct order.

*Preschool modification: Number the cards to make sorting in the correct order easier and have the whole class work together as one team.

Memory Verse Folders:

Pass out a folder to each child and explain that as we learn a new verse each week, they'll have a chance to write it out or draw it in their folders.

Memory Verse Activity: Ping-Pong Relay

1. Write a word or phrase from the verse on each ping-pong ball.
2. Set ping-pong balls on one side of the room and a muffin tin and spoon on the other.
3. Have kids split into two teams and compete to bring back all the ping-pong balls on a spoon and then sort them into the right order.

*Preschool modification: Use colorful ping-pong balls and place a matching piece of paper in each slot of the muffin tin to help kids place them in the correct order. Have the kids work as one team to grab a ping-pong ball, walk it back on the spoon, and then match it to the color in the muffin tin.

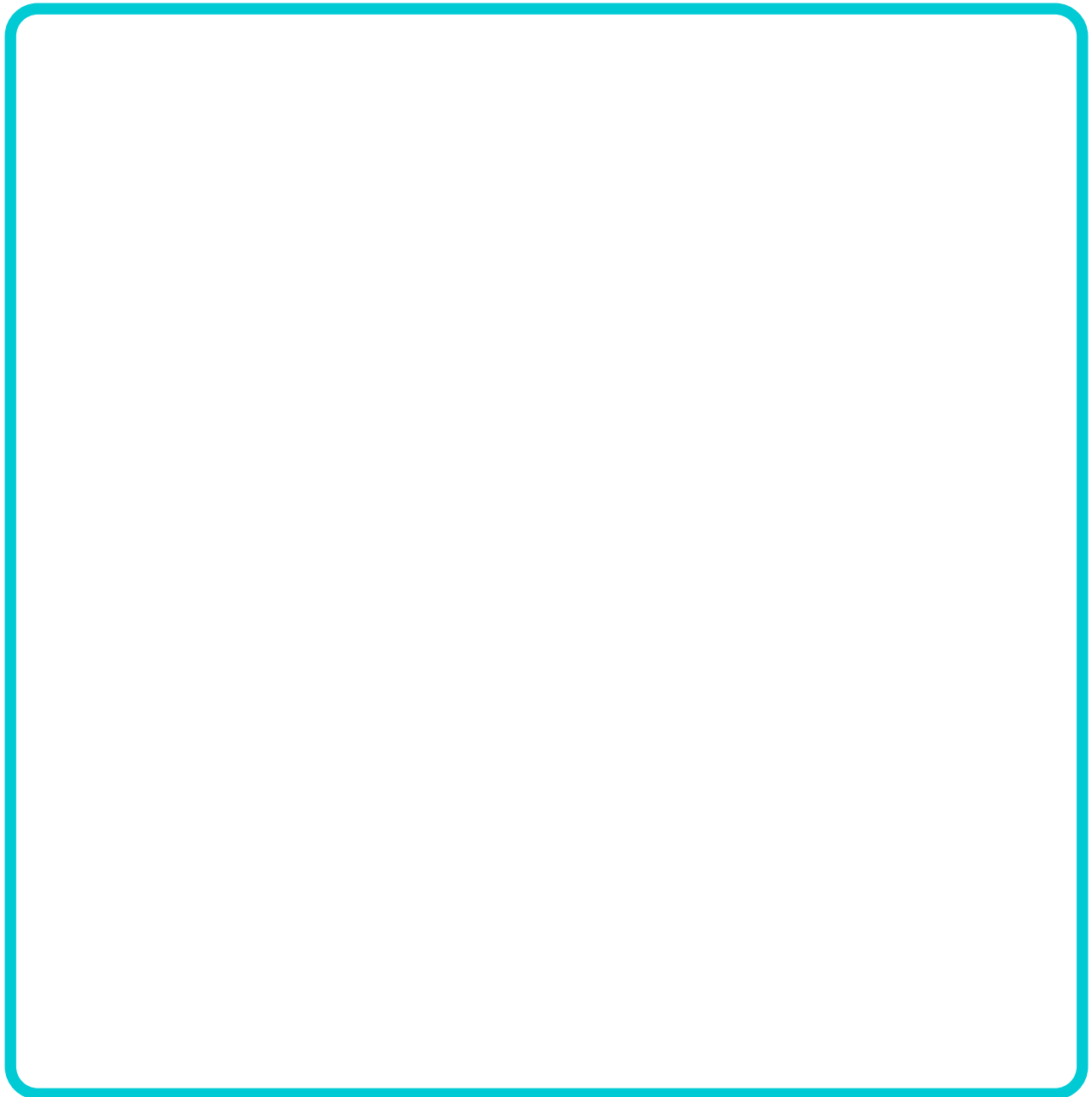
Helpful Definitions:

- “Overcome” – to defeat
- “Evil” – anything that goes against God

VERSE

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:21



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:21

Passage:

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Hand Motions:

- "Do not" – shake head "no"
- "Be overcome" – flex muscles
- "By evil" – make X with arms
- "But overcome" – flex muscles
- "Evil" – make X with arms
- "With good" – two thumbs up

Teaching:

We've made it to the end of Romans 12! Today we're going to add on our very last verse, but first we're going to see how much you remember from what we've already learned!

I'm going to start a sentence and then when I do this **give them a signal** you can finish the sentence for me. (For preschool, just read the lesson as usual)

Romans was written by... **Paul!** Paul used to have a heart that was sick with sin, but Jesus came to save sinners! God gave Paul a new, healthy heart, and instead of hurting others, he wanted to help them share the good news about Jesus. One way that Paul shared the good news about Jesus was by writing... **letters!** The verses we've been learning are from a letter called... **Romans.** Paul wrote this letter to the people living in... **Rome.**

Romans 12 tells us all about how believers treat others! We've compared the Old Heart and the New Heart and talked about how the Holy Spirit changes the way God's children live.

Let's read what we've written in the Old Heart. Without the Holy Spirit, we can't show God's love to others. Instead we'll live like this:

- being slothful in zeal
- cursing those who persecute you
- being haughty
- being wise in your own sight
- repaying evil for evil



LARGE GROUP

Romans 12:21

- avenging yourself

This is what a heart without the help of the Holy Spirit looks like. But now let's look at the New Heart! When the Holy Spirit changes the heart of a believer, they start loving others by:

- letting love be genuine
- holding fast to what is good
- outdoing one another in showing honor
- being constant in prayer
- showing hospitality
- rejoicing and weeping with others
- associating with the lowly
- living peaceably with all
- blessing their enemies

Our very last verse is going to summarize what we've learned and put it all together: "do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Without the Holy Spirit, the Old Heart is overcome by evil. Instead of loving others, the Old Heart hurts others and only thinks about itself. That's exactly what Satan, God's enemy, wants. But the Holy Spirit is much stronger than God's enemy! Because God's children have the Holy Spirit, they can overcome evil with good!

All of these verses are describing ways that believers overcome evil through love. Loving others isn't always easy, especially when they're rude or unkind. Every time a believer blesses someone who curses them and chooses to live peaceably, they are overcoming God's enemy! Instead of saying yes to Satan, they're saying yes to God, who knows what is best.

We can't change our hearts on our own. Only God has the power to change a sick heart, and He promises to give new, healthy hearts to everyone who loves and trusts Jesus!

Summary:

- **Without the Holy Spirit, the Old Heart is overcome by evil.**
- **Because God's children have the Holy Spirit, they can overcome evil with good!**
- **God gives new, healthy hearts to everyone who loves and trusts Jesus.**

SMALL GROUP

Romans 12:21

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

1. Who wrote the book of Romans? Who was it written to?

Paul, to the people in Rome!

2. Print out a copy of Romans 12:9-21 or use the last page in their memory verse folders. Have the class underline all the descriptions of the Old Heart in gray (or whatever color your Old Heart prop in the large group room is). What are some of the ways Romans 12 describes the Old Heart?

Being slothful in zeal, cursing those who persecute you, being haughty, being wise in your own sight, repaying evil for evil, avenging yourself

3. Have the class underline all the descriptions of the New Heart in red (or whatever color your New Heart prop in the large group room is). What are some of the ways Romans 12 describes the New Heart?

Letting love be genuine, holding fast to what is good, outdoing one another in showing honor, being constant in prayer, showing hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with others, associating with the lowly, living peaceably with all, blessing their enemies

4. How does someone get a new heart?

God gives a new heart to everyone who loves and trusts Jesus! Loving and trusting Jesus means recognizing that you are a sinner and need someone to rescue you. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for sin that God's children deserved, and when He rose from the dead, He proved that He was stronger than death!

5. What's one truth from Romans 12 you want to remember after Compass Kids ends? Do you have any questions?

allow time for reflection and questions

Deeper discussion for older classes: Find 1 John 5:4-5 and in your Bibles and read out loud.

Summary:

- Jesus perfectly loved and trusted God the Father.
- God's children can love their enemies when they trust God.
- God will either change our enemies' hearts or punish sin because He is just!





Week #12

COMPASS BOWL

You made it!

Event:

For the last week of Compass Kids, we host a competition called the Compass Bowl! We decorate the space with pennant banners, have pom-poms ready for the kids to cheer on their teammates, and host a cookie cake after-party for the winning team.

Preschool & Kinder:

For preschool and kinder, we keep the Compass Bowl fairly simple by setting up stations around the hallways.

Each station has an activity to do and a portion of the memory verse taped to the wall. When classes arrive at each station, they play a simplified version of a game from earlier in the semester (pogo-stick relay, hide-and-seek, etc.) or a fun new activity (crawling through a play tunnel, playing "The Floor is Lava," etc.). Once they complete the activity, they recite that piece of the verse together before they move on to the next one. We stagger the start-times so the classes aren't all at the same station. Once they finish all the stations, their last stop is a dance party where we play the full memory verse song, their class sings it together, and their teachers pop colorful confetti cannons!

1st-5th grades:

For older classes, the Compass Bowl is a competition! Feel free to pair up multiple grades or divide by gender to make more even team sizes.

Within each team, we divide the kids into two groups (green and blue) and mark them by putting on a color-coded bracelet. We recommend 4-6 rounds, alternating between the two green groups competing and the two blue groups competing. While one half of their team competes, the other half cheers for them with the pom-poms!

Because we only do 4-6 rounds, each game covers 2-3 weeks of the memory verse. We try to pick games that work well in a competition setting! Some of their favorites in the past have been the pogo stick relay, hide-and-seek, and the ping-pong relay.

COMPASS BOWL

Romans 12:9-21

After all the rounds are complete, we have each team recite the memory verse without any music or help from adults as the tie-breaker! If there's already a clear winner, you can skip this step. At the end of the night, everyone sings the memory verse as loud as they can with the music and we have their leaders pop colorful confetti cannons to celebrate!



Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peace-

ably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.