

Overview

Biblical Passage Romans 10:8-15

Supporting Passages John 6:40

Memory Verse Romans 10:10

Biblical Truth Because everyone can be saved through faith, the message of salvation must be shared with all people.

Context This fourth lesson in Crux brings to light a crucial aspect of sharing our faith. To be effective, our witness must lead people to a faith relationship with God in Jesus Christ. The two previous lessons provided the basic biblical facts that point toward salvation. The first fact is that people have sinned and broken their relationship with God. The second fact is that Jesus' death provides forgiveness and reconciliation. Salvation results from putting full faith in these truths in our hearts and proclaiming them to others. In this passage, Paul also traces the process that brings the message of salvation to others. He says that someone must be sent to preach so that people can hear the message and thus believe. This pattern is still the way that we should share the Word with the world.

Learning Goals

- **Explore:** Your students will understand the plan and process that God has set up for reaching the world with His good news.
- **Transform:** Your students will practice the skill of sharing how others can express faith in Christ and receive His salvation.

Prayer Suggestions

As you prepare to teach this lesson, pray for your students.

- Pray that your students will understand that grace requires no performance but rather only an attitude of trusting Jesus.
- Pray that your students will hear the call of God to every believer for the purpose of witnessing.
- Pray that your some of your students will be called by God to take the gospel to the nations of the world.

Biblical Commentary

Investigation

The apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Romans for the purpose of laying out the gospel that he preached. He wanted it clearly understood that right standing with God was the result of Jesus' death and resurrection and that right standing with God was granted freely to any individual, whether Jew or Gentile, who trusted Christ. Right standing with God is not obtained by works or by performance but by faith in Christ.

Paul also made it very clear that his heart's deepest desire was that his fellow Jews might be saved (10:1). But they had gone about trying to establish their own righteousness by living according to the **Law of Moses**. Paul wanted to make clear the righteousness that comes through the Law and that is based on faith.

Importance

At the heart of this lesson is the Essential Truth that **Salvation is by Faith Alone**. Human sinfulness has raised a barrier between God and humanity. It has separated us from God and placed us under God's **Wrath**. We cannot deny the presence and power of sin in our lives. Salvation comes only through a faith relationship with Jesus Christ. A faith [relationship/covenant] with Christ rests upon the fact of Jesus' death and resurrection, events that were wholly the work of God. It is this message upon which Christians stand, and it is this message that they share with others because salvation is available to everyone.

This lesson also supports the Essential Truth that **Jesus is God and Savior**.

Interpretation

Romans 10:8-10 "What does the Old Testament passage say?" is Paul's rhetorical question. Paul stated that our declaration of faith comes from our mouths and our hearts. The word of faith is the gospel message; it is something to confess as well as something to believe. It consists in confessing that Jesus is deity and in believing that He actually rose from the dead. This is the word of faith, the gospel that Paul preached.

Paul referred first to the confession of Jesus as Lord, and then he followed with a reference to faith in Jesus' resurrection. Paul was not speaking of two separate, unrelated matters when he wrote this way about confession and belief. Confession with the mouth and belief in the heart refer to an individual's outward and inner response. Faith is the inner side of the matter and is the cause of the confession. The inner conviction finds its outward expression in confession. To confess that Jesus is Lord is to recognize His deity and **Sovereignty**. A person can make this confession only by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3).

Paul's words in verses 9 and 10 are a powerful reaffirmation of the beautiful simplicity of the gospel. As

Scripture affirms in so many places, salvation can be attained only through faith in Jesus. It is through His atoning death on the cross that we find life. We cannot earn salvation through anything we do. Only by a simple, yet authentic faith in Christ (as described here by Paul) can salvation be found.

Romans 10:11-13 From Isaiah 28:16 and 9:33 and Joel 2:32, Paul showed that the way of salvation is by faith and is open to all, Jew and Gentile alike. All are spiritually poor, and God is rich in grace toward both Jew and Gentile. Both are saved in the same way, that is, by trusting Jesus. To trust Him is to call upon Him and to rely upon His work and word. Calling upon the Lord is an expression of genuine faith in Him. In the act of calling upon Him, we affirm His deity, for only God can save us.

Romans 10:14-15 Paul spoke of how to practically share the gospel. There are several logical steps in the process of bringing the message of salvation to others. These same steps are applicable today as the means by which the gospel goes worldwide. First, there can be no calling on the name of the Lord without trust or belief. Second, there can be no belief or trust without hearing about Jesus. Third, there can be no hearing without the preaching of the gospel. Fourth, there can be no preaching without preachers being sent. Of course, those who are sent must preach, and they must preach the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-8). Paul stated the necessity for preachers being sent by God as the basis of evangelization.

In every generation of believers, God calls all believers to be witnesses. He also calls some to the special task of taking the gospel witness to a different culture. These cross-cultural witnesses lead others to Christ, plant churches, and encourage believers in their spiritual growth. Citing Isaiah 52:7, Paul commented on the beauty of the work of evangelism. The delivered Good News is that of the gospel.

The divine plan for saving people begins with God and ends with God. It is He who sends His messengers, and in the end people call upon Him for salvation. The process that begins with the divine initiative ends in the divine saving of the individual, a magnificent picture of the grand truth that “Salvation is of the Lord” (Jon. 2:9). Included at the center of that process are the “preachers.” God uses people to reach people.

Implications

Paul made the gospel message clear and concise but no less profound. If we profess Christ by faith, He is ours—salvation is ours. What an amazing thing that God would offer us as sinners the means to have a restored relationship with Him and then make us part of His plan to redeem the world by sending us out—what an incredible relationship! We get to share in the joy of not only knowing our own salvation but also sharing it with others and seeing them come to faith in Christ. How cool is that? Have you had this awesome experience among your own students—watching as they profess their faith in Christ? How could it get any more joyful than this? Ah, but it can.

Your students need to do more than just experience their own salvation. They need to experience the joy of sharing it with others and seeing others come to faith in Christ. This will reaffirm their faith many times over. They need to see and experience that salvation comes from God but that it doesn't end there. He sends them out into a world to share the Good News and others as a result turn and glorify Him. This is cyclical and wonderful. It is our purpose for living, and students can begin now to experience this life that is full of rich meaning and purpose.

Teaching Plan

Connect Activity

Review Questions: In the Nick of Time

(5-8 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will answer five review questions from the previous lesson.

(5-8 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the “Review Questions” activity sheet. Print one copy for your own use.

After greeting students, use the review questions to test what they can recall from the previous lesson as well as to provide context for today’s lesson.

Drama: Getting the Word Out

(5-10 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will watch a drama about spreading the news about a big event.

(5-10 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the drama script. Prior to the session, enlist four students to enact the drama. Give copies of the script to cast members ahead of time so that they will be ready to perform it.

Prompt students to perform the drama. Afterward, ask: **So where’s the irony in this whole thing? How many modes of communication did Jordan, Alex, Jenna, and Lacy mention as they were talking about how they had gotten the word out about the meeting?** Allow students to respond. Then say: **We live in a high tech world in which we have every means of communication at our fingertips. You’d think that we could get the word out about how to be saved. Keep all those means of communication in mind as we consider the most important message to share.**

Media Option: Know the Word: Witness

(3-5 minutes, Reverb Media Pass required)

Your students will watch a video focusing on a girl's missed opportunity to share her faith.

(3-5 minutes, Reverb Media Pass required)

If your church has purchased the Reverb Media Pass or the Reverb DVD, preview and arrange to show the “Know the Word: Witness” video. (If your church has not purchased the Reverb Media Pass, you can purchase this single video through the “Media” tab.)

Show the “Know the Word: Witness” video to your students. When you have finished, have someone

summarize the video for you. Then ask students for their reactions. Ask: **Someone tell of a time when you have found yourself in the position of trying to talk about spiritual things, but not feeling like you have the words.** Allow students to share. Explain that today's lesson will allow students to practice helping someone express faith in Christ.

Explore Activity

Master Teacher Key Study: Who Are We, and Who Is He?

(10-15 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will study Romans 10:8-15 to understand the importance of sharing the gospel with others.

(10-15 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the Master Teacher Key Study. Print one copy for your own use. Also download the Master Teacher Student Worksheet. Print a copy for each learner. Also provide pens.

Pass out pens and copies of the Master Teacher Student Worksheet. Then use the Master Teacher Key Study to teach Romans 10:8-15.

Transform Activity

Deeper Discussion

(5-7 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will discuss the place of good works within the life of a believer.

(5-7 minutes, easy set-up)

Allow students the opportunity to express questions related to God's plan and process for salvation. To facilitate the discussion, ask the following questions:

- **If salvation comes from believing in and confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord, where do all the "good works" that we do fit into the salvation process?**
- **How does it make you feel that salvation is for all people who believe in Christ—your friends, family, and even your enemies?**
- **Do you really think that God expects Christians to share Christ with other people, or is it just a suggestion and a good idea if the opportunity ever comes up?**
- **How has your life been different since you experienced God's salvation?**
- **What needs to change in your life in order for you to feel more comfortable or more**

willing to share Christ's love with others?

Creative Prayer

(5 minutes, easy set-up)

Students will pray for opportunities to share the gospel.

(5 minutes, easy set-up)

Download the "Prayer Litany" activity sheet. Print a copy for each student.

Distribute copies of the "Prayer Litany" activity sheet to students. Guide them to stand in different places throughout the room. Explain that you will read the leader's part and they will read for the students' part. Feel free to dim the lights and use candles and quiet, worshipful music in the background. Lead students into a time in which they have an opportunity to express their faith as they respond to today's lesson.

Reverb Student Book: First Things First

(10 minutes, Reverb student book required)

Students will complete an activity about their personal testimony of salvation in Christ.

(10 minutes, Reverb student book required)

If your church has purchased the Reverb student book, preview the activity on page 221. If possible, provide a copy of the book to reference as you mention the activity to students.

As students work through pages 220-225 in the *Reverb* student book this week, challenge them to take about 10-15 minutes and read through "First Things First" on page 221. Then say: **Everyone has a testimony to share with others about being introduced to Jesus Christ and the transformation process that has taken place since then. Here's an opportunity for you to practice it during the coming week.**

Crux 4, "Getting the Word Out"
Review Questions

1. Paul addressed the fact in Romans 5:6 that while we were still _____, Christ died for us.
 - a. having a great time
 - b. powerless
 - c. sad
 - d. getting to know Him

2. Paul points out that rarely will anyone die for a _____ man.
 - a. bad
 - b. nice
 - c. good
 - d. average

3. Also, while we were still _____, Christ died for us.
 - a. sinners
 - b. atheists
 - c. good people
 - d. Christians

4. In our sinful state, we were _____ of God.
 - a. friends
 - b. children
 - c. believers
 - d. enemies

5. To be reconciled to God means to have our _____.
 - a. toys back
 - b. relationship restored
 - c. just punishment
 - d. just reward

Crux 4, "Getting the Word Out"

Answers

1. Paul addressed the fact in Romans 5:6 that while we were still _____, Christ died for us. (*Lesson 3*)
 - a. having a great time
 - b. powerless**
 - c. sad
 - d. getting to know Him

2. Paul points out that rarely will anyone die for a _____ man. (*Lesson 3*)
 - a. bad
 - b. nice
 - c. good**
 - d. average

3. Also, while we were still _____, Christ died for us. (*Lesson 3*)
 - a. sinners**
 - b. atheists
 - c. good people
 - d. Christians

4. In our sinful state, we were _____ of God. (*Lesson 3*)
 - a. friends
 - b. children
 - c. believers
 - d. enemies**

5. To be reconciled to God means to have our _____. (*Lesson 3*)
 - a. toys back
 - b. relationship restored**
 - c. just punishment
 - d. just reward

Crux 4, "Getting the Word Out"

Drama

Getting the Word Out

Characters:

Jordan
Alex
Jenna
Lacy

Props: chair and sofa

Costumes: Everyone can all be dressed in normal clothes.

Creative Note: Have the actors make it very obvious that they are trying to hit every possible way that one could be in communication with other people.

(JORDAN, ALEX, and JENNA are lounging around on the chair and sofa. Another friend, LACY, enters and addresses the group.)

LACY: Hey, guys.

(JORDAN, ALEX, and JENNA all greet LACY.)

LACY: Thanks so much for coming. I just wanted us to have a chance to talk a little bit about what [insert name of youth minister or Bible study leader] has been challenging us with. But before we get started, I've got to say, I really thought more people would have shown up.

ALEX: Yeah, I know. I mean, I made that announcement in front of the whole group last Wednesday.

LACY: Yeah. And they put it in the announcement pre-roll.

JENNA: I sent an e-vite to my whole address book.

JORDAN: And I printed up a flyer and posted it in all of the lockers.

LACY: Well, did Jacob know?

ALEX: I know Jacob knew. I talked to him about it when we were co-opping *Modern Battlefield* the other night.

JORDAN: Plus, he joined the Facebook group you made.

JENNA: Not only that, I was IMing Taylor a couple of days ago to tell her and she said that Jacob had already told her and Janice and Mackenzie.

LACY: I knew that Mackenzie knew because she commented on the video on YouTube.

ALEX: That's right. I forgot about that video. I know it had, like, 45 views on Vimeo, too.

JORDAN: I bet it has more than that because I tweeted it and I know that at least Jeremy, Manning, Heather and Dune Bug re-tweeted it.

JENNA: Didn't Sam say she was coming?

LACY: Yeah. She did.

ALEX: Hang on. I'll text her and see what's up.

LACY: Did you guys get the reminder I e-mailed out?

JORDAN: I did, and I heard a couple of people talking about it at lunch today.

JENNA: Oh, yeah. And Link mentioned it on his blog, and tons of people were leaving comments asking about it.

ALEX: Plus, I think it went out in the newsletter.

LACY: Okay. Well, maybe some people are just running late.

JENNA: For sure. I mean, when are they ever on time?

JORDAN: I say we just get started and catch them up when they get here.

LACY: Good. Great. Well, as I was saying, you know that [insert name of youth minister or Bible study leader] has been talking about getting out there and letting people know about everything that God's doing in our group and in our own lives and everything. So I thought we could just take some time to try to think of some ideas of just how we could do that—you know, get the word out or whatever. So, there you go. Any ideas?

(They all sit there thinking for a couple of moments. Everyone is silent, and no one is coming up with any ideas.)

ALEX: Let's call Val. She'll think of something.

EVERYONE: Okay.

(The End)

REVERB::CRUX::lesson four

GETTING THE WORD OUT

biblical passage: Romans 10:8–15

memory verse: Romans 10:10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

BEAUTIFUL STEPS

1. Salvation is the result of _____ and _____ (Rom. 10:9–10).
2. Salvation is for all people: _____ and _____ alike (Rom. 10:11–13).
3. Salvation is a _____ to be _____ (Rom. 10:14–15).

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If salvation comes from believing in and confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord, where do all the “good works” that we do fit into the salvation process?
- How does it make you feel that salvation is for all people who believe in Christ—your friends, family, and even your enemies?
- Do you really think that God expects Christians to share Christ with other people, or is it just a suggestion and a good idea if the opportunity ever comes up?
- How has your life been different since you experienced God’s salvation?
- What needs to change in your life in order for you to feel more comfortable or more willing to share Christ’s love with others?

Master Teacher Key Study BEAUTIFUL STEPS

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and any of the corresponding activities to share the Biblical Truth with students.

Intro: What is God's process for salvation?

Description: Believers in the early Church had limited resources available that instructed them as to the specifics of their faith. Scholars suggest that Paul wrote the Letter to the Romans for a number of reasons. From the content of Romans, it seems clear that one of the reasons Paul wrote this book was to introduce and fully describe specific principles of the Christian faith to the believers in Rome. This included the process of salvation.

Illustration: Bring two identical and simple creations to be made out of LEGO blocks. The simplest things to provide are the inexpensive LEGO creations that come in individual boxes with a photograph of the creation to be built on the front of the box. Ask for two volunteers. On separate tables at the front of the room, place the LEGO blocks required to build the item that you have chosen. For one student, provide the LEGO blocks, the box cover with the photograph of the item, and the instructions. For the other student, provide the LEGO blocks and the box cover—but no instructions. Tell students that the first one to assemble their creation will win. Afterward, make the point that when we know the plan, the results can be awesome!

1. Salvation is the result of confession and belief (Rom. 10:9–10).

Description: Paul reminded the believers in the Roman church that salvation doesn't come to individuals who only say the right words. Anyone can just spout out words that don't have any internal meaning. Salvation comes from believing in one's heart that Jesus is Lord so that when those words are spoken they have meaning.

Illustration: Do you ever watch Fox News, CNN, or one of the network newscasts? The newscasters use teleprompters and even cue cards to make sure that they say the correct thing when the camera is on. It is the job of Diane Sawyer, Anderson Cooper, and other television personalities to read what is on the teleprompter or cue cards. But just because they say the words on the screen doesn't mean they believe those words in their heart. Perhaps they are reporting on a political story or a candidate with whom they disagree. It's their job to report news stories in an unbiased way. So they may often share news stories that they disagree with on a personal level.

Application: Those who want to become followers of Christ can't just voice the words of a prayer and expect that they have received salvation if the words of their prayer don't mean anything. People who make a decision for Christ must also believe what they are confessing to believe—that Jesus is Lord and that He died to forgive all believers of their sins.

2. Salvation is for all people: Jew and Gentile alike (Rom. 10:11–13).

Description: All people in the world have the opportunity to receive salvation. It doesn't matter if that person is your best friend, your worst enemy, a stranger, or a relative. It doesn't matter if that person lives

down the street or on the other side of the world. Romans 10:13 says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Illustration: In 1985, Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie wrote and recorded the song “We Are the World” along with many popular music artists at the time, such as Bruce Springsteen, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, and many others. The song was written for the charity organization USA For Africa, and it topped music charts worldwide for months. You can watch the video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrymLA73V-g>. The catchy, happy, positive, peacemaking song seemed to have a great world-unifying affect, but one thing that it never did was bring peace with God to the world. This can only be done through Jesus Christ, who offers the world salvation no matter what race or color.

Application: All people everywhere are in need of learning about God’s love because salvation is offered to everyone. This reality should create a burden in us that so much of the world does not yet know.

3. Salvation is a gift to be shared (Rom. 10:14–15).

Description: God has chosen people to be His messengers of the Good News. There is a natural progression of how the message is to be delivered and how people respond to it. But Paul left it open-ended by wondering who will respond to the call to carry the message.

Illustration: Facebook has become one of the most popular social networking sites on the Internet. There are more than 300 million users currently, with as much as 70 percent of the users being outside of the U.S. The average Facebook user has 130 friends. Think about how often you share messages with your friends on Facebook. Think about how quickly those messages usually spread when you share them with lots of Facebook friends. Maybe some messages get out into the world more quickly than you wish they would. Sometimes there are great things that happen in your life and you can’t wait to share them with others. Facebook is one way to share great news very quickly.

Application: The message of God’s love is the best news that anyone could ever receive. And as Christians, we are called to share that Good News with other people. The easiest (and fastest) way for unbelievers to learn about God’s saving love is for Christians to tell them. And there are many people in the world who still have never heard about God’s love for the first time.

Conclusion: God’s plan for salvation includes a special role for all believers to share the Good News with others.

Description: God didn’t have to include anyone in the process of salvation, but He chose to include Christians. Throughout the New Testament, Christians are reminded that we are to share Christ’s love with others.

Application: God could have chosen other means for His message to go out, but He chose to use us. People might likely be interested and perhaps be ready to receive our message if we would only share it with them.

REVERB::CRUX::Getting the Word Out::lesson four

PRAYER LITANY

Use the following litany as a prayerful response to Romans 10:8–15

Leader: “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith that we are proclaiming: that if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Students: Our mouths proclaim what is on our hearts: We Believe! You are the Christ! The Son of the Living God! You are the Lord!

Leader: For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Students: Lord, may the truth of Jesus Christ always live in our hearts and be spoken from our lips.

Leader: “Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.”

Students: If we glory, we glory in You, O Lord! There is no shame found in your presence.

Leader: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Students: Father, the world is waiting to hear this news. Our eyes see many who do not know the truth and have not believed.

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

Students: Here I am, Lord! Send me!