

# Bible Studies for Youth Groups

Romans 1-4

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# ROMANS

## INTRODUCTION

PAUL & THE THEME OF ROMANS

1:1-17

## CONDEMNATION

UNIVERSAL NEED BECAUSE OF UNIVERSAL SIN

1:18-3:20

## SALVATION

CHRIST PROVIDES JUSTIFICATION FOR SIN

3:21-5:11

## SANCTIFICATION

GROWTH IN HOLINESS IN RESPONSE TO GRACE

5:12-8:39

## VINDICATION

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IN RELATIONSHIP TO ISRAEL

9:1-11:36

## APPLICATION

RIGHTEOUSNESS AT WORK IN DAILY LIVING

12:1-15:13

## CONCLUSION

PAUL'S MISSION AND FINAL GREETINGS

15:14-16:27

## **Romans 1.1-1**

**AIM** – For our young people to know exactly what the gospel is.

**Intro** – Today we start a new book and it's really exciting, it's a letter by Paul who was one of the most significant leaders in the early church, and significant men ever really and this is his letter to the people in Rome, to the church there. And this letter is great because it contains all the big truths that the people in Rome need to know about God. And today we are just looking at his opening greetings, where we might write 'Hi' at the top of a letter Paul writes a lot more!

**GAME** - Consequences. *You write a sentence of a story then fold over the page and pass it on, next person writes a sentence and so on then we read the story.*

Idea behind game: Romans 1.1 shows us that Paul wrote Romans but it was God who gave him the words to write, as we read this letter we can trust it will be consistent because God has written it.

**QUIZ** – What is questions....

- 1) What is the time?
- 2) What is seven times 9?
- 3) What is the country directly below France?
- 4) What is the colour you get if you mix red and blue?
- 5) What is the name of the company who make dairy milk?
- 6) What is the capital city of America?
- 7) What is the most common drink in the UK?
- 8) What is the name of our Prime Minister?
- 9) What is the name of the No1 in the Chart?
- 10) What is the gospel?

Questions 1-9 have an easy answer but 10 is harder- how do we answer that question? What is the gospel?

### **Bible Study – Read Roman 1:1**

- What does v1 tell us about Paul? (*Servant of Jesus, an apostle literally means 'sent one', there were 12 apostles, 11 disciples and Paul, really really significant church leaders, set apart for the gospel of God*).
- Open 1 John 4.10 – What is the gospel? *God made us to be in relationship with him, we broke that relationship, he sent his son to die for us on the cross restoring our relationship with the Father, he left the holy spirit to empower us to live for him, one day he is coming back, and we will live with him.*
- Write out the gospel in your own words, keep it short but not too short!

### **Craft:**

- Make bracelets to remind the kids of the gospel
- Green – God made the world
- Black – we sinned
- Red – Jesus died for us
- White – We are washed clean
- Yellow/Gold – We will get to be with Jesus again when he comes back

### **Activity**

- If time get them to practice sharing the gospel with their friends. 1 minute each, in pairs.

## **Romans 1.1-7**

**AIM** – For our young people to see that they belong to Jesus Christ.

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? *We asked what is the gospel and made bracelets telling us the gospel – God made the world, we sinned, Jesus died, We're now clean, and he's coming again.*

**GAME** – That belongs to me!

Riddle game, come up with a system of things in the room and claim that some but not all belong to you, for example everything touching the floor is yours or everything that is blue is yours. Young people have to work it out. Challenge the young people to have a go at it.

### **Activity**

In Pairs come up with a list of things that belong to you (spread out in room). What does it mean that you own these things? How do you feel about them? Imagine you owned a pet, what would that mean for the pet? *(They'd have to do what you tell them).*

### **Bible Study – Read Romans 1:1-7**

- How did God promise the gospel was going to come? V2 – *Prophets (someone who speaks God's words to Gods people) and Scriptures (the Bible)*
- Who is the gospel about? V3 *Jesus*
- Who was Jesus' ancestor? V3 *King David – What do you remember about him?*
- Who was Jesus? V4 *the Son of God*
- And what's the proof of this? V4 *he rose from the dead!*
- What does this mean for us? V5 *we receive grace*
- Why do we need grace? *Because we sin*
- What does Gentile mean? *Not a Jew, so we are gentiles like these people in Rome.*
- What are the Gentiles called to do v6? *Belong to Jesus Christ*
- What does it mean to belong to him? *He owns us, we need to live his way.*
- What 2 things does Paul want the people in Rome to know they are in v7? *Loved by God and called to be holy and to those people Paul wishes grace and peace from God the Father and the Son.*

### **Craft**

Write a letter to yourself containing the things we have been learning from these verses and make it beautiful. Write to yourself that the gospel is in the Bible, that its about Jesus being the Son of God and that we can be sure because he rose from the dead, and tell yourself in the letter that God loves you and is calling you to be holy. He is calling you to belong to Jesus. **YOU BELONG TO JESUS**, so be holy, live his way.

### **Prayer**

Play some music and ask the young people to reflect and pray on what we have been learning, and read their letters to themselves and pray about these things.

## **Romans 1.8-15**

**Aim-** For our young people to see how important it is to love their Church family (by prayer and encouragement).

**Catch up** – What's new with them?

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? We saw that we belonged to Jesus and are called to be holy. We wrote letters to ourselves.

**Game** – Darling if you love me please smile?

Players take it in turns to go up to someone else get down on one knee, look them in the eyes and say the words 'Darling if you love me please smile?' The person being asked has to respond 'Darling you know I love you but I just cant smile' without smiling or laughing at all, if they laugh they take over and have to ask someone else, if they manage not to smile the player who asked them moves on to someone else.

**Point of Game** – What does it look like to love people? Introducing theme of love.

**Activity** – Brainstorm on flip chart what love looks like, what is love, and how do we show it. Question this morning is how do we love our Church family, how should we show that? (On new page on flip chart). Then say Paul gives us two ways.

### **Bible Study – Read Romans 1:8-15**

- What do you think the two ways Paul gives us of loving our Church family are? *Prayer and Encouragement. It's vital to love our Church family.*
- Let's have a think about the first one, Prayer. In v8 what sort of prayers does Paul have for his fellow believers? *Prayers of thanks.*
- How often does Paul pray for them in v9-10? *Constantly and at all times, he says it twice so it must be important. He never stops praying for them.*
- Do you ever think to pray for your Church family here? What sort of things could we pray for them? *One of the big ways we are called to love our Church family is to pray for them!*
- Okay so the other way, encouragement. What does Paul long to do in v11? *Come and see them. Why? To impart to them a spiritual gift to make them strong, sounds exciting eh.*
- What is that gift, he explains it in v12? *Its mutual encouragement, encouraged by each others faith. What does encouragement mean? Here the encouragement seems to be being present with each other, when we gather together its encouraging to see each other, and I guarantee the older people here are so encouraged to see young people like you at Church.*
- So how can we encourage our church family with our faith? *Main way is being present with them, keep showing up! Why do we sometimes not come to church? How can we encourage others to come so the whole church could be encouraged?*

### **Reflection/Prayer**

Tape together 4 sheets of A3 and place on table, in the middle write 'Church Name' and encourage the young people to write prayers on the sheet, praying mainly that we would grow in our love for one another and our love for God, but also pray for stuff that's going on (get flyers from foyer). On another big sheet on the coffee tables at the sofa's write 'how can we encourage our Church family' and get them to think of ways, the main way will be coming along to things! Then get them together and pray for them that they would do these things.

## **Romans 1. 16-17**

**Aim** – For the young people to not be ashamed of the gospel and to see that we can only be saved by faith not what we do.

**Catch up** – What's new with them?

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? We saw how important it is to love our Church family and how we are called to do that by prayer and encouragement. **10 mins**

**Game** – Prize or forfeit! Put into a hat lots of folded up pieces of paper, some are prizes (feel free to take these from tuck cupboard) and some are forfeits, not nasty things just slightly embarrassing like pulling a silly face etc. Idea behind it is to introduce the theme of embarrassment! **5 mins**

**Drama** – In groups come up with a drama around the theme of being given something you've not earned! Idea to introduce this theme. **10 mins**

### **Bible Study - Read Romans 1.16-17**

- There are 2 main themes to today's passage can anyone guess what they are? *Not being ashamed and the free gift of righteousness.*
- Look at v16 – What is the gospel? Why is Paul not ashamed of it? *Because it's the power of God that brings salvation to all who believe.*
- What does salvation mean? *It means to be saved.*
- Why do we need to be saved? *Our sin (stuff we do wrong) breaks our relationship with God, we are saved from that sin, back into relationship with him. We get to know God! Amazing!*
- Why does Paul mention Jews and Gentiles? What are Gentiles? *Gentiles are anyone who is not a Jew, he mentions Jews and non Jews to show that the gospel is for literally everyone.*
- What does it mean that the righteousness of God has been revealed in v17? *Righteous means 'right with', in the gospel we are made right with God, sins forgiven, relationship with him restored.*
- How do we get righteousness? *Only by faith, we can't earn relationship with God - it's a gift!*
- What is Faith? *Check out Hebrews 11.1. Faith is not wishful thinking or what we do when we can't be sure, it's sure and certain, it's confidence! Might be helpful to use the old Forsaking all I trust Him anagram. Faith is when we trust Jesus to save us.*
- What would it look like for us to not be ashamed of the gospel? *Talk to others about it, to be sure that it's the right way to live, not wishing we could just do whatever we want all the time but wanting to go God's way. **10 mins***

### **Craft**

*Design a poster to put up in your room with the words of v16 (don't include the bit about Jews and Gentiles): I would change it slightly to: 'I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God that saves everyone who believes' Romans 1.16. Get them to make them as nice as they can, not just a rush job! **10 mins***

### **Prayers**

*Give all the young people a sheet of paper and get them to write a place they need help not being ashamed in (might be at school, sports team etc) then get them to make them into a paper aeroplane. Ask them to pray for themselves then throw the plane. Then go and collect someone else's pray for that one and throw again, repeat as often as you like! **5 mins***

## **Romans 1. 18-22 & 29-31**

**Aim** – For the young people to bring glory to God in their lives by seeing what God does not allow.

**Catch up** – What's new with them?

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? We saw that we shouldn't be ashamed of the gospel and that we can only be saved by faith not what we do. **10 mins**

**Game** – When I come to power! On a sheet of paper right down all the rules you would impose if you were the supreme ruler of the universe. Then discuss in the group, why would you impose those rules? What value do they have? **10 mins**

**Illustration** – Take out a coin and flip it, explain that last week and in the last few weeks we've been seeing something incredible, that the gospel means that anyone no matter who they are and what they've done can come to God and ask for forgiveness and get it because of what Jesus has done. But there are two sides to the coin, if you don't come to Jesus for forgiveness, then you are still guilty of your sin and therefore God's anger is against you, because he hates evil. And just like the coin you can't have one side without the other, we can never separate God's love from his wrath.

### **Bible Studies - Read Romans 1.18-22**

- What does the wrath of God mean in v18? *It's his right anger at our sin, like when we see something evil and are annoyed that it's happening. God's wrath is his desire to make all things right, to not let the guilty go unpunished. It's a brilliant thing.*
- Who or what is his wrath directed at in v18? *Against godlessness, and wickedness*
- What does wickedness stop? *It suppresses the truth*
- Which truth particularly in v19? *The truth about God which has been made plain, when people choose wickedness, they turn their backs on God which is exactly what Adam and Eve did in the garden.*
- in v20 why do the people have no excuse? *Because since creation the truth about God is obvious, look around.*
- When do you think God's invisible powers were most clearly seen? *In Jesus.*
- What are people who ignore God like in v22? *They think they're wise but they are foolish.*
- Can you think of anyone who ignores God and thinks they are wise to do so? *Celebrity atheists like Dawkins perhaps, friends at school.*
- In v29-31 we see what these people are like when they ignore God and why he is angry with them, **read v29-31**. What are these people like? *Filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, jealous, murderers, liars, gossips, slanderers, God haters, arrogant (they think they're the best), boastful, they disobey their parents, they have no love, no mercy.*
- Do you think God is right to be angry with them?
- Look again at that list, do we struggle with any of those? *God has saved us so we can live for him, not as if he isn't real. 10 mins.*
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### **Prayers**

Find a space alone in the room and look again at v29 -31. Right down on your sheet all the ways you mess up that are on that list. Pray and ask God to forgive you and to change you. Carefully tear them up into lots of small pieces and put all the bits in the bin. *Background music may be helpful. 5 mins.*

### **Game if needed**

We want to be people who change, who don't always struggle with the same sins, so this game is all about change. Put some change in a bowl on the table (preferably 2s and 1ps so you won't need them back). Blindfold someone to sit next to the bowl. Other people have to sneak up and take the change, 1 coin at a time. If they are pointed at, they don't get their coin, and they wear the blindfold.



## **Romans 2. 1-16**

**AIM** – For the young people to see that God has no favourites.

**Catch up** – What's new with them?

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? We saw that we are called to bring God glory in all of our lives. **5 mins**

**Game** – Yes/No game. The young people have to answer a series of questions without using the words yes or no. And as the theme is favourites, the questions should be themed around that too e.g. 'What's your favourite colour? Really?'  
**5 mins**

**Quiz – What is Britain's favourite?** (Split into teams) – Will want updating with time!

- 1) Pet? *Fish* – 15% of UK households keep fish!
- 2) Car? *Ford Fiesta* sold more than any other in 2013
- 3) Boys name in 2013? *Oliver*
- 4) Girls name in 2013? *Olivia*
- 5) Pub name in Britain? *Red Lion*
- 6) Meal out? *Chinese*
- 7) Sport? *Swimming*
- 8) Surname? *Smith*
- 9) City to live in? *Bristol*
- 10) TV programme in 2014? *Sherlock*

**5 mins**

### **Bible Study**

- What do you think we might be thinking about today? *Favourites!*
- **Read Romans 2.6-11.** What do you think it means that God will repay each person according to what they have done? *We can trust him to be fair. No one will be punished if they don't deserve to be, and no one will get away with things if they shouldn't.*
- What happens to those who seek to do good? *They gain eternal life.*
- And those who do evil? *They get God's wrath. His wrath is his just anger with sin.*
- How does that fit with the forgiveness we get from Jesus? *We are not saved by doing good, but once we are saved by believing in Jesus (chapter 1.16) we continue by doing good. Life doesn't end when you become a Christian we get stuff to do.*
- What do you think v11 means that God shows no favourites? *He judges everyone fairly. Everyone gets the same treatment.*
- Why is favouritism a bad thing?
- Right at the start of Romans in chapter 1 v 7 Paul calls us to be holy, and here he calls us to do good. How can we do good? *Serve others, be kind, patient, caring, considerate, help people out etc.*
- What does God showing no favourites mean for our friends who don't know him? *It's not too late, they have the chance too, he will be fair.* **10 mins**

### **Activity / Prayer**

On a big sheet of paper, draw the outline of a person, get the young people to write on the person things they can do to do good, e.g. hands to help mum carry the shopping, mouths to speak kind words. Encourage those with camera phones to take a picture to remember this, then encourage them to pray in 2s and 3s that this week they will not miss a chance to do good to others. (You may need 2 big sheets if there are lots of them!) **10 mins**

**Play game again if needed.**



## **Romans 2. 17-23**

**AIM** – For the young people to see that hypocrisy is not an option for Christians.

**Catch up** – What's new with them? **5 mins**

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? We saw that God has no favourites and we are called to do good. **5 mins**

**Game-** Simon Says remixed. Play Simon says with the young people with the only change that when the person giving the instructions asks everyone to do something, they are to not do that and do something else. Like saying 'Simon says pat your head' while clapping your hands. This is to bring in the theme of hypocrisy, do as I say not as I do. **10 mins.**

### **Question**

- What does the word hypocrite mean? A hypocrite is someone who tells people to do one thing and then does the other. Here in Romans today Paul is attacking some of the Roman Christians for being hypocrites.
- Can you think of any examples of hypocrisy?

### **Bible Study – Read Romans 2:17-23**

- In v17 what does it mean to rely on the law? *This is to trust that you are good enough to keep the law, to not make any mistakes, people who trust in the law do not trust in grace.*
- Read v19-21, the roman Christians are doing all these things, teaching others really well, but are not teaching themselves, they are not living that way. They are talking the talk but not walking the walk. Why is that a problem?
- Do we ever do that? Do we ever look down on others for the things they do wrong and not ourselves?
- V23 tells us that these Christians are boasting in the law, in rules, but they are not keeping them. Why is that a problem? *Its hypocritical, we are called to be honest about our failings, honest with each other and honest with God.*  
**10 mins.**

### **Craft**

Cut out paper or card into small squares (credit card size) ask the young people to draw a mirror on the card with some of their own words to encourage them not to be hypocritical of others, encourage them to carry these around in their bags or wallets/purses or stick them up by their beds to remind them. **10 mins.**

### **Prayer**

Stick two pieces of paper up on the wall, one with sorry at the top and one with help at the top, encourage the young people to respond in prayer about what we're doing saying sorry for the ways they have let God down this week and been hypocritical and asking for help in their next week. **5 mins.**

**If needed play game again.**

## **Romans 3.1-8**

**AIM** - For the young people to see that God is faithful. He is always God.

**Catch up** – What's new with them? **5 mins.**

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? *We saw that hypocrisy was not an option for us as Christians.*

- Can anyone remember what we did 2 weeks ago? *We saw that God has no favourites, and Paul is still trying to explain that idea to the church in Rome here, many were Jewish and thought they were better because of it, a bit like us thinking we're better than each other because we've been coming to church for longer – we're not – that's rubbish. **5 mins.***

**GAME - You've nullified our agreement!** Explain what nullifying an agreement means, give all the young people a marshmallow and get them to put them in their mouths and tell them they can have another if they don't eat the first one **for 1 whole minute!** If they do, they break the agreement and don't get another. We'll see the point of the game later. **5 mins.**

### **Bible Study - Read Romans 3:1-8**

- Why does Paul start by asking what the advantage of being a Jew is? Chapter 2v11 may help. *Because Paul has shown us God has no favourites, so he asks the question what difference it makes to be Jewish, circumcision here is the sign of being a Jew.*
- What is the advantage Paul mentions in v2? *they have been entrusted with God's words, for thousands of years Jews have walked with the Lord and that's a cool family tradition to be part of.*
- What does Paul's question in v3 mean? *Basically, he's asking if Jews, as God's representatives, were unfaithful would that nullify God's faithfulness, if God's people mess up does that mean God messes us?*
- If this was true now, and you could judge by our behaviour how would that make you feel? *We sin all the time, and are unfaithful, it would be awful if that meant God was like this too.*
- Why then is v4 a good thing for us? *Because God is true, always true, even if everything else in the world is false, God is true. God is always faithful! In fact, our sin shows how great his faithfulness is in contrast to us, like when a really tall person stands next to a little guy you can see how tall he really is.*
- So, Paul asks basically if that makes our sin okay in v5 - What do you think? *No and he says so in v6, certainly not!*
- What do you think the fact that God is always faithful means for us? *We can trust him, he won't let us down, he won't break his promises, so he will always love us, care for us, never leave us, never let us down. **10 mins.***

### **CRAFT**

'Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true'. Romans 3.4 NLT. Give the young people sheets of A4 and split up the bible verse including the reference and get them to write out and colour in part of the verse, then stick it all together!  
**10-15 mins.**

### **PRAYER**

As you finish gather the young people together and say a prayer. Thank God that even though we break our agreement all the time, he never does, thank him that he is always faithful. **1 min.**

## Romans 3.9-20

**AIM** - For the young people to see that living by the law can't save them.

**Catch up** – What's new with them? **5 mins.**

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? *We saw that God is always faithful.*

### **Game**

A volunteer can rule the room for 1 minute and make any laws they like (within reason), then swap this around. **5 mins.**

### **QUIZ: True or false**

- 1) Since 1173 it has been illegal to die in Venice, Italy - **True.**
- 2) Losing your car keys can get you sent to prison in Romania - **False.**
- 3) Bald men must cover their heads at all times in Mumbai, India - **False.**
- 4) Lollipops are banned in Washington DC - **True.**
- 5) Animals can go to prison in Illinois, USA - **True**
- 6) It is illegal to touch the queen in anyway without permission - **False**
- 7) You can shoot a Welsh man with a bow and arrow after midnight in Chester - **True**
- 8) It is illegal to wear a mask in Germany - **True**
- 9) You have to first get permission to paint your own house in Sweden - **True**
- 10) Cheese smuggling can be punished by death in Mexico - **False.**

**5-10mins.**

### **Bible Study – Read Romans 3.9-20**

- We've seen over the past few weeks that God has no favourites, how does what Paul say in v9 back this up? *He asks if Jews are better off than anyone else and says NO! Because both Jews and Gentiles (that's everyone who isn't a Jew) are under the power of sin.*
- Paul then quotes Psalm 36 - What does he mean 'no one is righteous'? *v11 may help... Righteous means right with God, and no one is right with God, v11 shows us this, no one understands, no one seeks God.*
- How does v12 make you feel? *Its hard but none of us are perfect, none of us meet God's standards.*
- In v13-18 what sort of things does everyone do that shows they are not right with God? *Lies, cursing, bitterness, they fight and kill, bring misery, they do not seek peace and they don't fear God.*
- Paul is very stern here, why do you think he wants to be so clear than everyone sins and messes up? *He is desperate for us to get it into our heads, that we are not right with God.*
- What is 'the Law' in the Bible? *Its means all the rules and commands for how to live our lives, we are rubbish at keeping it!*
- v19 says that it is by the law we are held accountable to God. How do you think we are doing if no one is righteous? *Very badly! Read v20. No one is righteous by the law.*
- What is the law's job then in v20? *It shows us our sin, it makes us aware of it. The law is like an x-ray - it doesn't do anything to solve the broken bone it just lets us know it's there; the law is the diagnosis of our illness, but it's not the cure! The law shows us that we need help - only Jesus can cure us and that's what we're doing next week! **10 mins.***

### **Activity.**

In little groups have a go at writing your own version of this bit of the letter v9-20. Imagine you are writing to people who think they are right with God by what they do, explain that doing good stuff can't save you, and if you try it will only reveal how messed up you are!

### **Pray**

Then when you've done this, pray in those groups that we would remember this and be so much more grateful to Jesus that he can save us because we can't save ourselves.

## **Romans 3.21-26**

**AIM** - For the young people to see that they can only be saved (made righteous) by faith in Jesus Christ.

**Catch up** – What's new with them? **5 mins.**

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? *We saw that living by the law (the rules) can't save us, it only shows that we need a saviour.*

**Game - Wink Saviour.** This is a rework of wink murder. Someone goes out of the room, and you select a saviour. The person then comes in to find everyone dead (including the saviour) they need to work out who the saviour is before everyone comes back to life (the saviour can save themselves whenever they like) . Point of the game - to introduce the idea of needing a saviour. **5-10mins**

**Activity** - Design your own superhero, on paper, what powers would they use and how would they save people. **5-10 mins.**

### **Bible Study – Read Romans 3:21-26**

- Last week we saw that the law (the rules) can't save us, it only shows us how much we need help, like an x-ray can't cure a broken bone it can only show us the damage, and today we're going to see the cure.

Now there are some pretty big and difficult words in our passage today, so we need to concentrate.

- What does righteousness mean? *It means being right with God, being in right relationship with God.*
- How do we get to be righteous in v22? *It is given to us through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe.*
- What does faith in Jesus mean here? *It's faith in what he has done for us, faith that he has made a way for us to be right with God, as we can't do it ourselves.*
- Why do we all need saving in v23? *We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*
- How are we saved in v24? What does justified mean? What does redemption mean? *We are saved freely by God's grace in Jesus. Justified means just-as-if-I'd never sinned. Redemption means made right with. So, this verse tells us that all of us are made right with God freely by God's grace in Jesus.*
- How does Jesus make us right with God? What does his grace look like? *He died for us taking the punishment that we deserve for our sin, as our substitute on the Cross. He died in our place.*
- What does atonement mean? *It means at-one-ment, Jesus makes us 'at one' with God, totally restored to perfect friendship and relationship with him.*
- In v25 how much sin does Jesus deal with? *It's all the sin, all the sin that happened before Jesus died and has happened since and will ever happen.*
- **Read Romans 5.6-8.** How does it make you feel that Jesus did all that for you? **10 mins.**

### **Prayer**

Spend some time really thinking about what Jesus has done in saving you, play some music for a time of reflection, young people can write prayers of thanks if they like, or just sit and pray.

**5 mins**

**Play game again if needed.**

## **Romans 3. 27-28**

**AIM** - For the young people to see that we have nothing to boast about other than Jesus.

**Catch up** – What's new with them? **5 mins.**

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? We saw that we can only be saved through faith in Jesus. Read Chapter 3 v22-26 to recap. **5 mins.**

**Game -2 truths and a lie** . Get the young people to write down 2 things that are true about themselves and 1 lie, give them an example like 1) I have never been on a plane, (2) I have recorded my own album (3) I once ate 22 slices of pizza in one sitting. Get the young people to read their facts out and then tell them to go to one part of the room if they think the first was the lie, another place for the second and another for the third. Point of game is to introduce the idea of boasting. **10 mins.**

**Question** - What is boasting? Why do people do it? Is it a good thing?

### **Bible Study – Read Romans 3: 27-28**

- How is it that we can be saved? *Clue - we said it at the start and we did it last week, read Romans 5.6-8 to explain.*
  - So, have we done anything at all to deserve being saved? *No! It's all what Jesus has done, not us!*
  - Do we have anything to boast about in v27? *No, none can boast, everyone who tries to live by the law fails, the only way to be saved is to have faith in Jesus.*
  - Why would people boast about doing good stuff? *They might think it would make them right with God but v28 you are justified by faith not works!*
  - Do we ever boast about doing good stuff? *Why?*
  - Why would God not want us to boast about doing good stuff? *It makes us proud, and if we think we are great we won't think we need Jesus to save us.*
  - So, when we do something good, something to please God, what should we do? *Keep it quiet, God knows all about, he's seen it, we don't need to shout about it.*
  - We should do good deeds in response to what God has done for us, not to make him like us. How is this different? *One is a thankful overflow that Jesus has saved us, one is proud attempt to save ourselves - that won't work!*
  - So, what should we boast about? *Boast that Jesus has died to save us, boast that while we were still sinners Jesus died for us.*
- 10 mins.**

### **Activity**

In small groups come up with ideas for good deeds you could do to serve God because of what he has done for us in Jesus.

**5-10mins.**

### **Pray**

Pray in groups that we would not boast in what we do but in Jesus, pray for opportunities to do good deeds in thanks to God.

**5 mins**

## **Romans 4.1-25**

**AIM** - For the young people to see Abraham as a great example of someone justified by faith.

**Catch up** – What's new with them? **5 mins.**

**RECAP** – What did we do last week? *We saw that we have nothing to boast about other than Jesus. Read chapter 5.6-8.*

**Game - Make it right for me please?** Someone is chosen to make things right for us, they go around the group and people make us something they need fixing. E.g. "I was mean to Sarah... no she won't talk to me" - So the person in the middle must go and try and make it right for them. The requests must be achievable though! Point of game - to show theme of someone else making us right.  
**5-10 mins.**

### **Bible study Read Romans 4:1-25**

- What were we thinking about last week? That we can't boast, because we are all sinners and need Jesus' help.
- Who was Abraham? *Massive character in the Bible, the Father of the Jewish people, amazing man who had great faith in God, who was even willing to sacrifice his own son when God told him to, did a lot of amazing things.*
- So, was Abraham saved by what he did? *NO. Read chapter 4. 1-3.*
- Paul poses the question was Abraham justified by works, what answer does he give in v3? Where does he get his answer from? *His answer is from the Bible so we can trust it and it's that Abraham gained righteousness by believing. Believing not doing. Even Abraham wasn't made right by what he did!*
- How does that encourage us? *We don't need to worry that we're not good enough, because even great Abraham needed to believe to be saved.*
- How was Abraham made righteous? Chapter 3v25 helps...*by Jesus on the cross. God left all the sins from those who believed before Jesus unpunished, until Jesus died on the Cross, bearing that sin in His death.*
- Who was David? *Great King, Jesus was in his line.*
- What does David say in v7-8? *Basically, blessed is the one who's sin is covered by another, who believes.*
- Abraham became a father at about 100 years old - do you think that's likely?  
**Read v19-21.** Abraham had great faith that God would keep his promises. And it was his faith that made him righteous. But what about us in v24? *It's the same - we will gain righteousness if we believe that Jesus died for our sins and was raised so that we might be justified v25, just as if I'd never sinned.*

**10 mins.**

### **Activity**

Flick back through chapters 1-4 what have we learnt in Romans so far? Write it on flip chart. What's the big thing that ties all this together?

*That Jesus died in our place so we could be right with God and enjoy relationship with him. Its Romans 5.6-8.*

**5 mins.**

### **Activity**

In small groups go away and try and memorise Romans 5.6-8 then perform it to everyone, pray to close thanking God that while we still sinners Christ died for us.

**10 mins.**