

THE ROMANS ROAD FOR CHILDREN

Session 6: Complete Demonstration

Do you enjoy working on puzzles? Putting puzzles together was a family activity that we enjoyed during the holidays when I was growing up. My Grandma would put up a card table and put a puzzle on it for everyone to work on. Throughout our time together you could find different ones stopping by to put in another piece of the puzzle on their way to do something else. At times people would sit together for hours as they talked and worked on that puzzle. I think it was the combination of seeing the pieces scattered on the table and watching the picture come together that drew old and young alike in. They had a desire to see the completed picture. Alone, each piece didn't seem to be that significant, but each piece was necessary if the picture was going to be complete.

In the last five sessions we have been going through the message of salvation piece by piece. The verses in the Romans Road each contain a portion of the Gospel message. While studying these verses you have learned how to teach children about God, you've thought about the things children should know about sin, you've thought about the person and work of Christ and the things to include when inviting the children to respond to an invitation to receive Christ as Savior. Each part of the message of salvation was looked at in detail in order that the children you teach would be able to clearly understand what Christ did for them so their sins could be forgiven and they could have a friendship with God.

In this session we want to pull all the pieces together so that you have a complete Gospel presentation to use with the children. To put the pieces together, a demonstration of the whole Romans Road tool will be done. As the demonstration is being presented you will want to have your focus questions in front of you so that you can jot down the truths you hear taught. The demonstration will be taught as if there is a group of children present. Please pay attention to the following things as the demonstration is being done.

First, **how was the Romans Road tool introduced?** In other words, **how was the attention of the children captivated?** Second, **what did the children learn about God and His love?** This is where you are going to focus on the verse used and how the truths about God were explained. Third, **what concepts about sin were taught? How were they made personal?** This is where you are going to listen for specific examples, remember there are two verses you should hear read and explained. Fourth, **what teaching about the person and work of Christ was included?** This is where you are listening to see who Christ is and what He did for the boys and girls. Fifth, you will want to see, **how was the invitation verse explained?** You are going to want to pay close attention to the terms that are explained, and how they are explained because this will help you as you get ready to teach the children in your own presentation. Sixth, **how are the children to indicate they wanted to talk with the teacher further about believing on Jesus as their Savior?** And then seventh, **how were both the Bible and visual aid used in the presentation?**

You will want to pay close attention to this so that you are picking up the Bible and placing your

visual down at the right times. This will help you as you prepare for your presentation. As you watch this presentation, be sure to write down the things that you notice, because we are going to come back and talk about them later.

Demonstration:

“If your parents were going to take you someplace they have never been before, do you think they would need some kind of a guide? Sure they would, maybe they would use a map or perhaps they would go to the internet to see the best way to be able to go from your house to that location. Or perhaps you have a GPS and they just program it to find the best way to get where they are going. Using a good guide allows them to easily find the place they are trying to reach.

Do you know that you and I have a guide book and it comes from God? We do! It is God’s true book the Bible. Now the Bible won’t tell you how to get to Disneyland, or to another vacation place, but it will tell you something even better, it tells you how to have a friendship with God right now and someday you would be able to go and live with Him in His home in Heaven. All throughout the Bible we learn how to have this relationship with God, but rather than looking through many books in the Bible, we are going to look at just one book, and that is the book of Romans. By reading the book of Romans we will find out how to have that special friendship with God.

Romans is found in the second part of your Bible, it is the sixth book in the New Testament. Now since we have been talking about finding the way to get to Heaven, we are going to call this guide the Romans Road. Now it is not really a road you walk on but it is the way, the way that you and I can have that friendship with God. The first stop on the Romans Road will teach us about God. Perhaps you already know about God, did you know that God is the maker of everything? He made the sun, and the moon and the stars that we see at night. He makes the beautiful sun rises and sun sets. He made the huge elephant and those tiny little buzzing mosquitos. He made majestic mountains and He made the lakes, and rivers and oceans we enjoy swimming in. Yet as wonderful as those things are, you are His best creation!

Did you know that God made you special? There’s no one in the whole world that has your voice, or your finger prints, or your abilities and talents. You are so unique! God knows all about you; in fact His true book the Bible says that He even knows how many hairs are on your head. Do you know? I don’t either, but God does. You see when God made you He was pleased with His work, and that’s because He loves you.

Let’s see what God says at our first stop on the Romans Road, found in Romans 5:8a, it says this, *“but God commendeth His love toward us...” Romans 5:8a (KJV)* we don’t hear that word *“commendeth”* very often, but it means to show or demonstrate. In a few minutes we will learn how wonderfully God has shown us His love. His love for you is perfect because He is perfect, or holy; to be perfect, or holy means that you never do anything wrong. That’s hard to imagine isn’t it? But God is 100% good; He can’t

think, say or do anything that would be wrong.

Because God is holy, His home Heaven is perfect too, and He wants you to live with Him someday in His home. God is different from you and me because He's holy. Let's see how God's word the Bible describes us. We find this on the next stop on the Romans Road in Romans 5:12, let's read it right from God's word. It says, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned..." Romans 5:12 (KJV)* This verse says all have sinned this means that all people in the world are sinners, including you and me.

You see ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, every single person who has been born on this earth is born with a desire to do what is wrong. Sometimes we call that desire a "want to". Because you were born with a "want to" to have your own way, you do many sinful things. Well what is sin? Sin is choosing your way instead of God's way. Perhaps you have cut in line, pushing aside someone so that you could be first, that's being selfish and that's sin. Or maybe there is someone at school that you don't like very much, and so you talk badly about him or her. That is unkind and hurtful. Or perhaps when you do a job your parents have asked you to do, you do it, but, you slam things around because you're angry. That shows you have a wrong attitude in your mind even though you are doing the job they gave you.

Being selfish, unkind or having the wrong attitudes are some of the ways boys and girls choose to do things their way instead of God's. Sometimes you may only think the mean thoughts on the inside, but did you know God knows your very thoughts? Each of these wrong things reminds me that you and I are sinners, we do many sinful things that don't please a perfect God, and we deserve to be punished for our sin. This is found in Romans 6:23, the next stop on the Romans road. Let's read romans 6:23 together, it says, *"for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* (KJV) It says the wages of sin are death, wages are what you earn or it's the payment you deserve for your sin. And death here, is not talking about your physical body dying, it's talking about being separated from God forever and ever in a place of punishment.

I want you to look at this gold circle; it reminds us of God because God has no beginning and no end that means He's eternal. I want you to look at this dark symbol that separates us from God; this reminds us of our sin. Sin cannot be with God because it is so terrible. It would spoil his perfect home, Heaven. As sinners we can't get to God on our own; if we looked at only the first part of the verse, *"for the wages of sin is death..."* then we would be really sad, but the verse also says that God offers us a gift. It says that because of God's love for you He made a way that your sins to be forgiven.

Listen to Romans 5:8 the next part on our romans Road, to see if you can hear the way that God made so that your sins could be forgiven. We are going to read the whole verse this time, and it says, *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (KJV) Did you hear the way that He showed His love? We already talked about that He demonstrated it, but now it says that *"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* That means that Jesus, God the Son who had never done anything wrong, died for you and me. Though Jesus was born as a baby just like us, He

grew up never thinking wrong thoughts, never fighting or disobeying His parents. He was the only completely perfect man who ever lived, yet He died in your place.

“Why would Jesus die for me?” you might ask. It is because He loved you so very much and wanted you to have a friendship with Him, but He knew that you could never come to Him on your own because of your sin. Since Jesus was without sin, He could take the punishment we deserved on Himself. He allowed men to put nails in His hands and His feet, and He hung on a cross for all the wrong things you and I have done. Before you were even born Jesus knew that you would do many sinful things, and in order for your sin to be taken away in order that you could have a special friendship with God, a perfect sacrifice had to be given. Jesus was the only one who could take that punishment and make a way to the Father; so He bled and died on that cross for you and for me.

After He died He was placed into a tomb kind of like a cave like this. He was buried there, but guess what? On the third day He came back to life, and after He came back to life He walked on the earth for forty whole days, and lots and lots of people saw Him before He went back to Heaven to be with His Father, God. That’s where He is now, in a place of high honor; He’s getting a place ready for those who believe on Him. Have you believed on Him? If you haven’t believed on the Lord Jesus, then today is the day you could do that.

Our last stop on the Romans Road tells us what you must do in order to be saved from your sin, and have that special friendship with God. We find this in Romans 10:13, listen to what it says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (KJV) whosoever simply means you, if you will call on the name of the Lord; to call on the name of the Lord means that you are putting your trust in Christ Jesus alone to save you from the punishment of your sin. Do you know that you’re a sinner? Do you believe that you can’t do anything to get rid of your own sin? Do you believe that Jesus is the perfect Son of God? Do you believe that He is the only one who could make a way for you to have that special friendship with God; and that He did that by dying on the cross to free you from your sin? When you believe that Jesus is the only way to God, you simply need to call on Him to save you from your sin. When you call on Him God promises right here that He will save you from the punishment of sin; you won’t have to be separated from Him forever. Instead you will be able to have that special friendship with God beginning today. And right now His Holy Spirit will come to live in the real you where you make your choices, where you are happy and sad. He will help you to get to know God better and help you learn how today you can love God and live His way. Then someday you will be able to live with God in His home called Heaven.

Calling on God to save you from your sin is a very serious decision only you can make for yourself. I would like for you to bow your heads and close your eyes; while no one is looking around, perhaps today you have made the decision to call on God to save you, or perhaps you still have some questions about what it means to be saved. If you made that decision or if you have questions, will you please show me that by putting up your first finger? When I see your first finger I will know that you want to talk to me more about calling on the Lord Jesus as your Savior. All of you who have put your first finger up, as soon as our class is over, I would like you to come and sit on a chair right here in the front row, I

will bring my Bible and we will sit together and talk about what it means to be saved.

(This concludes the demonstration.)

Observations:

Let's think about what was taught in the demonstration, first, **did you notice how the Romans Road tool was introduced?** You may choose an introduction that's different from a trip; just make sure it's connected to the presentation. The introduction was only about a minute in length; keep yours brief and relate it to the child, use something that will captivate the children's attention. Second, **what things did you note that the children learned about God and His love?** Several truths were taught before Romans 5:8 remember in this section you are teaching several things, first of all that God is the Creator, and although those words were not used exactly, we talked about His being the Maker. The concept was there and that is what you want to remember.

Remember to place emphasis on the value of the children in God's eyes. This will help you to teach God's love before you actually state, "God loves you". You want to teach God's love specifically and this is done in conjunction with Romans 5:8. Did you notice that only part "A" was used? Remember to read and explain only the first part so you don't give away the rest of the message here. I have had trouble with that myself, so practice before you teach the children.

The last principle taught was God's perfection. Stressing His holiness to the child helps him to see the difference between himself and God; it sets you up to go to the next point which is about sin. Third, **what concepts about sin did you hear taught?** You should have heard teaching taught from Romans 5:12 and Romans 6:23. Romans 5:12 helps the child see that all have sinned and we were born that way. Did you hear how Romans 6:23 was explained? The words wages of sin and death were both explained as payment or what we deserved, and then separation, being away from God forever and ever. Remember to explain both of those verses when teaching about sin.

Did you also hear **what personal examples of sin where used?** Using those specific examples reminds the children of the things they may have done that were sinful, and it causes them to think about their condition in God's eyes; this helps to make the teaching more personal. Remember using the word "you" will also help the child relate what you are saying to his or her own life. Forth, **what teaching about the person and work of Christ was included?** Did you clearly hear who Jesus is? Remembering to teach that Jesus is the perfect Son of God helps the children understand that it was He, and He alone who could take the punishment that they deserved.

Did you notice a complete teaching of the work of Christ? This was done through Romans 5:8 with an emphasis on how much God loves them. The children were asked to listen to how God demonstrated

His love. They heard that the answer is, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. That's an amazing truth isn't it? It ought to cause us give thanks again for our own salvation. Fifth, **which words did you hear explained in the invitation verse?** You should have heard, "whosoever", and it was explained by using the word "you", "calls on the name of the Lord" was also explained, and this was detailed because we want to do a brief review about sin, helping the child to recognize that he is a sinner and can do nothing to save himself. A brief review about the person and work of Christ was also included. The child must believe that Jesus was the one who could forgive his sins, and that He died for him. The phrase "will be saved" was explained by talking about having the child's sins forgiven, and having that special friendship with God now and that someday he would live with God in Heaven.

Remember it is important to explain both the condition and promise parts of the verse. Sixth, **how did the teacher know which children had either made a decision that day or wanted to talk to the teacher about questions they still had?** That's right; they were supposed to put up their first finger. Using only one way to show you they have believed or want to talk with you further, will help you do clearly identify those children who are serious about the decision they are making. It also will help to avoid confusion about what they should do. Remember to meet the children afterwards where you instructed them to go so that you can counsel with them. They will be waiting for you there.

And lastly, **did you notice how the Bible and the visual aid were used in the presentation?** When you need to read from the Bible, you will need to put down the visual aid in order to handle the Bible easily, and then you can pick up the visual aid again. This method of handling the two objects will keep you from fumbling with either one of them. Remember to practice this so it is smooth when you teach the children. Perhaps you have been feeling a little puzzled about how to teach the whole content of the Romans Road. I trust that the demonstration has helped to remove that concern and that now you are able to take each piece of the puzzle and put it together to make a beautiful presentation of the message of salvation. Will you ask the Lord today to give you many opportunities to share this wonderful message of salvation with children? Ask God to help you share it clearly, and ask him to work in the hearts of children to whom it will be presented so that they can trust on Him as their Savior.