

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

JUNE 14, 2020

In our lesson this week we will learn about specific ways that we can love other people. Paul wrote letters to the churches in many cities. This week's scripture comes from the letter that he wrote to the Christians in Rome. Our Bible story shows us that loving people isn't always easy, but it is worth it.

Romans is the first letter, or "epistle" in the New Testament. It immediately follows Acts. We've talked a little about the Letters section of the New Testament, but this is the first time we have actually read from one. This is a letter Paul wrote to the Christians who lived in Rome. Let's start by reading Romans 12:9-12.

Have you ever felt that someone was pretending to like you? How did that make you feel?

Continue reading Romans 12:13-15.

Why do you think Paul says to "be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying"?

Read Romans 12:16-18.

Why do you think Paul added "to the best of your ability" to the last sentence?

Paul gives us a lot of instructions to follow, but he is really saying to love.

Paul wrote his letters to believers who were new to their faith, he was encouraging them and teaching them about Jesus. You have a chance to do the same thing.

I want you to write a letter to someone who is younger than you. Include descriptions of God's love and ways that the younger person can grow in their faith. You can write the letter to your younger brother or sister or you can write to some other younger person who is not in your family. Once you finish your letter you can share them with me or you can share them with the person you wrote to.

Now I want you to think about when you were writing your letter. How did you decide what was important enough to be included. How is your letter like the letter that Paul wrote to the Romans?

Our scripture says to "be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying." (verse 15) We are going to practice showing empathy. To empathize means "to share the same feelings as another person." Empathizing with others can help them feel loved and accepted. Think about a time when you felt really happy. How did the people around you react? How did the way they reacted affect how you felt? How would you feel if someone got angry that you were happy?

For this next portion you will need a partner. One of you will be the "feeler" and the other will be the "reflector". I am going to tell you some situations and I want the "feeler" to show your emotions in that situation. I want the "reflector" to mirror the emotion of the feeler.

How would you look if . . .

You just won the city-wide championship soccer game.

It's your birthday, and all your friends seem to have forgotten.

Now I want you to change places. If you were the feeler, I want you to be the reflector. If you were the reflector, I want you to be the feeler.

How would you look if . . .

It's your birthday and there are presents waiting for you on the breakfast table

You spotted the biggest spider (or ugliest snake) you have ever seen.

How did you feel to see your emotions reflected by someone else? How did you feel when you reflected your partner's emotions?

In addition to paying attention to people's feelings, our scripture gives us some other good advice. Paul told the Christians in Rome to treat people equally, welcome new people and contribute to the needs of God's people. Can you think of some ways that we can do these things here at our church and in our community?

In order to help us remember our verse, we are going to share it. I want you to take a piece of paper and fold it in half and then fold it in half so it is 1/4 size. Think of someone who might need some encouragement. I want you to make a card for him or her. Once you have finished, have your parents help you deliver your card.

As the disciples traveled, setting up Christian communities, they would write letters to the people after they had moved on to another place. Paul wrote a lot of the letters that we have in the New Testament. These books are all letters that Paul wrote to early Christian communities:

Romans	Ephesians	2 Thessalonians	Philemon
1 Corinthians	Philippians	1 Timothy	
2 Corinthians	Colossians	2 Timothy	
Galatians	1 Thessalonians	Titus	

There are more letters in the Bible but they had other authors. Those other letters are:

Hebrews	1 John
James	2 John
1 Peter	3 John
2 Peter	Jude

The last book in the Bible Library is Revelation. It isn't exactly a letter like the other books are but it was probably written by the same person who wrote First, Second and Third John. Next week, I will send you a Bible Library sheet so that you can fill in the names of all the books in the Bible library.

Let's finish with a prayer. Thank you, God for showing us how to really love one another. Thank you for giving us the books of the Bible so that we can read what the early Christians did and guide us to hear the lessons that Paul taught and use them in our daily lives. Continue to keep us safe and we move into summer activities with our families and friends. In Jesus name. Amen.