

11NT7A

The Epistle to The Romans: 15/5/2011

Suggestions to the servants:

The power point starts with a Quiz relating to the lesson before which is an introduction to the Epistle. Suggest to have ready chocolate/confectionary for those who are able to answer the Quiz questions.

The following slide in the power point is about key definitions in the aims and outcomes of the lesson. Suggest to leave this slide up for the teens to refer to during their group study.

The following 7 slides relate to a group each. The idea is to divide the class into 7 groups if you wish to cover all the aims and outcomes of the lesson. Each group made of 1-2 people. I find ,if more, they tend to chat together. Each group is to read through their relevant chapter and the associated guide and come up to present the key messages in 1-2 minutes.

As each group comes up, put on the power point of their relevant slide.

GROUP 1: Chapter 1

Read through Chapter 1, then look at verses 16 and 17.

The 2nd half of chapter 1 is known for its comments on homosexuality amongst other sins. It portrays a society of idol worshiping and ungodliness that existed in Rome.

The 1st half of the chapter holds the key to the Epistle: verse 17:

“the just shall live by faith”.

Think about:

1. The gospel of Christ is a power of God. It is not just a story or a philosophy, rather the dynamic work of God in our life. A work of love that doesn't stop until we reach heavenly glories. So we also say with St Paul: “I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God”. Verse 16.
 2. Salvation: is for everyone who believes that Jesus Christ is God. The Jews, being the people of God in the Old Testament, need to understand the acceptance of God to the gentiles. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant (agreement) between God and His people in the old testament. For us, in the new covenant, after Christ, it is baptism.
 3. “The just shall live by faith”: verse 17. The good person, through his faith in Jesus Christ , Lives by that faith in obedience to God.
-

Group 2: Read through Chapter 3.
Concentrate on verses 21-31

Think about:

1. Jesus Christ alone lived in complete righteousness. Therefore, He alone is our way to God. We can through faith in Christ become righteous. This is made possible through the power of God's presence and actions in His creation (GOD'S GRACE). We are made righteous not because we are good but because we have faith in Him who is good. Think of the salvation of the right thief on the cross. Was he a good person? How then was it possible for him to be the 1st to enter paradise?
2. See verse 23: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. How are we to enter heaven then? We need to be justified to enter heaven. Through faith in Jesus Christ.
3. See verse 24: Through the blood of Jesus Christ, sin was “passed over”: freely forgiven.
4. See verses 27-31: Can I become righteous through my human effort alone? It is impossible. This can only be through my faith in Jesus Christ.
5. Faith is accessible to all: Jews and gentiles.

Group 3: Read through Chapter 4:

You know the story of Abraham and how he had great faith in God and obeyed Him.

Abraham obeyed God when He asked him to move to a new land. He obeyed God when he asked him to offer his only son Isaac as a burnt offering.

Think of:

1. That faith that Abraham had is what made him righteous in the eyes of God.
 2. The Jews believe that only those who are circumcised are the people of God. They could not accept that gentiles (non Jews) could also be saved and be God's people.
 3. St Paul in this chapter is trying to tell them that Abraham's faith in God is what justified him (or made him righteous before God). See verse 3 where St Paul quotes from Genesis 15:6. "Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness". Abraham was not circumcised at that time. So St Paul is trying to teach the Jews that it was Abraham's faith that justified him and not the circumcision. The circumcision was the "seal" of the covenant. See verses 10 and 11.
 4. Is faith alone enough? Read James 2:17 to the class: "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."
-

Group 4: Look at Chapter 5:

This chapter goes through the damage that Adam's sin introduced to humanity and the reconciliation (or repair) that Jesus Christ did for humanity.

Look at verses 12-21.

Think about:

THROUGH ADAM:

1. Sin entered the world
2. And death through sin
3. Death spread to all men
4. Judgement and condemnation resulted.

THROUGH CHRIST:

1. Came God's grace
2. Came our justification
3. We attain righteousness
4. We have access to eternal life.

Read verse 5:19 to the class.

Group 5: Read through Chapter 6:

This chapter is about Baptism.

Concentrate on verses 3-13.

Verse 4 is the key verse to read to the class.

Think about:

1. The sacrament of Baptism signifies our death, burial and resurrection in union with Jesus Christ.
 2. To baptise, literally, means to “immerse”. This gives us a new life in Christ. It is a new birth. It is a rite of passage to enter the Kingdom of God and eternal life.
 3. Look at verse 11. We are dead to sin. Our body members and senses become instruments of good, holy and blameless. “**RIGHTEOUS**”.
-

Group 6: Read through Chapter 7:

In this chapter, St Paul talks to the Christian Jews to tell them that they no longer are bound by the law of Moses.

Think about:

1. When we are under the law of Moses, this law gives us knowledge about what sin is, eg “do not covet”, “do not murder”, etc. However, we are imperfect and without power. It is hard for us to keep the law. We are in a constant war between trying to keep God’s law and breaking it and falling into sin.
 2. Through faith in Jesus Christ, the law of Moses becomes dead in the sense that it doesn’t bind us. Jesus gives us a new life. We live by the Spirit of God that dwells in us, not by the letter (literal words) of the law.
 3. So St Paul tells an analogy of a woman (us) bound by her husband (the law of Moses) and after the death of her husband (the law of Moses), she is married to “another”, who is Jesus Christ. See verse 4.
 4. In the rest of the chapter, St Paul describes a war within him: on one hand, a desire to do what is good and on the other a desire to sin. Verses 21-23.
-

Group 7: Read through Chapter 8:

St Paul highlights the difference between those who live according to the flesh (living in sin and not accepting Christ), and those who live according to the Spirit.

Think about:

Living according to the flesh:

1. Leads to death (destruction on Earth and eternal condemnation)
2. A carnal mind (in sin) is enmity against God. (not in harmony with God)
3. Can not please God.

Living according to the Spirit:

1. Spirit of God dwells in us.
2. We become children of God.
3. We have peace and life (with God on earth and in heaven)
4. We put to death the deeds of the body (sinful deeds).
5. Read verse 13 in your presentation.