

Paul's Letters

Family Worship Guide

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God Centered Family

An Introduction to Paul's Letters

For Parents

The Apostle Paul was one of the most influential leaders in the early church and, through the 13 letters he contributed to the New Testament, continues to influence Christians today. As we read Paul's letters, we can continually be amazed by the wonder and glory of God's magnificent grace.

Who Wrote these Letters?

Before becoming a Christian himself, Paul was a Pharisee and opponent of the Christian movement. He oversaw the assassination of Stephen, the first Christian martyr (Acts 8:1). But, after Christ confronted him on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9), Paul became an influential church leader and missionary.

When Were These Letters Written?

The exact dates of Paul's writings are unknown and highly debated. These are our best guesses:

- ▶ 33 AD — Jesus dies, rises, ascends to heaven, and sends the Holy Spirit; the church is born; Paul is converted (Acts 1–9)
- ▶ 46–47 AD — Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13–14)
- ▶ 48 AD — The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- ▶ 48 AD — Paul writes Galatians (Widely believed to be his earliest letter)
- ▶ 49–51 AD — Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16–19), writes 1–2 Thessalonians
- ▶ 52–57 AD — Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 19–20)
- ▶ 53–55 AD — Paul stays in Ephesus, writes 1 Corinthians
- ▶ 55–56 AD — Paul writes 2 Corinthians
- ▶ 57 AD — Paul writes Romans from Corinth.
- ▶ 57 AD — Paul arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21)
- ▶ 57–67 AD — Paul imprisoned in Rome (on two separate occasions); writes Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon
- ▶ 64–67 AD — Paul martyred in Rome

Key Themes in Paul's Letters

- ▶ **The Grace of God** — People are really, really sinful, and God is really, really kind. We are covered by the blood of Christ and raised to life in the resurrection of Christ. Paul begins every one of his letters with "Grace and Peace," to remind his readers that God's grace has brought us peace with God — we are no longer his enemies, but his family (Romans 5:6–11).
- ▶ **The Gentiles are Welcomed** — Paul was a missionary to the Gentiles. Despite his Jewish background, he spent most of his life as a Christian bringing the gospel to places outside of Israel. Many of his letters explain that Gentiles can be saved, not by becoming Jewish, but by trusting in Christ alone. In this way, Paul's letters teach us about how missionaries should think today.
- ▶ **The Church** — If you have any questions about how local churches should function, check out Paul's letters. He writes about how the church was created (Ephesians), how the church should be structured (1–2 Timothy, Titus), how church services should be structured (1 Corinthians), what the church's mission is (Romans), and more.

Why Read Paul's Letters to Your Kids?

Sinners Who Need a Savior — It probably doesn't surprise you to hear that your children are sinners (but it may surprise them). We all need to be constantly reminded of our sin, so that we can be open to receive the free gift of God's grace in Christ. Paul consistently brings the grace of God to our attention. This is our only hope to be saved, to fight sin, and to be a part of the church.

The Letters of Paul Song

Sung to the Tune of the ABC's

Sing this song each day before family worship to help your kids memorize the books written by Paul and where to find them in their Bibles.

Chords are provided if you want to play this song on a guitar, ukulele, or other instrument.

C **F** **C**
Romans, First and Second Corinthians,

F **C** **G** **C**
Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians.

C **F** **C** **G**
Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians.

C **F** **C** **G**
First and Second Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.

C **F** **C**
These are the thirteen letters written by Paul,

F **C** **G** **C**
I hope you will read them all.



Listen to the song — scan this QR Code with your phone
or visit GodCenteredFamily.org/letters-of-paul/

Paul's Letters Listening Guide

Ages 2–3

Parents, each day before reading the Bible passage, instruct your toddler to listen for the Key Word:

“Listen for the word _____.”

- ▶ Romans 1 — God
- ▶ Romans 2 — Law
- ▶ Romans 3 — Righteousness
- ▶ Romans 4 — Abraham
- ▶ Romans 5 — Christ
- ▶ Romans 6 — Slaves
- ▶ Romans 7 — Commandment
- ▶ Romans 8:1-17 — Spirit
- ▶ Romans 8:18-39 — Hope
- ▶ Romans 9 — Children
- ▶ Romans 10 — Believes
- ▶ Romans 11 — Gentiles
- ▶ Romans 12 — Body
- ▶ Romans 13 — Authority
- ▶ Romans 14 — Lord
- ▶ Romans 15 — Christ
- ▶ Romans 16 — Greet
- ▶ 1 Cor 1 — Wisdom
- ▶ 1 Cor 2 — Spirit
- ▶ 1 Cor 3 — Foundation
- ▶ 1 Cor 4 — Arrogant
- ▶ 1 Cor 5:1-6:11 — Judge
- ▶ 1 Cor 6:12-7:16 — Husband
- ▶ 1 Cor 7:17-40 — Called
- ▶ 1 Cor 8:1-9:18 — Knowledge
- ▶ 1 Cor 9:19-10:22 — People
- ▶ 1 Cor 10:23-11:16 — Woman
- ▶ 1 Cor 11:17-34 — Bread
- ▶ 1 Cor 12 — Gifts
- ▶ 1 Cor 13:1-14:5 — Love
- ▶ 1 Cor 14:6-40 — Tongues
- ▶ 1 Cor 15:1-34 — Raised
- ▶ 1 Cor 15:35-58 — Body
- ▶ 1 Cor 16 — Send
- ▶ 2 Cor 1:1-22 — Comfort
- ▶ 2 Cor 1:23-2:17 — Pain
- ▶ 2 Cor 3:1-4:6 — Glory
- ▶ 2 Cor 4:7-5:21 — Body
- ▶ 2 Cor 6:1-7:1 — God
- ▶ 2 Cor 7:2-16 — Grieved
- ▶ 2 Cor 8-9 — Gift
- ▶ 2 Cor 10 — Flesh
- ▶ 2 Cor 11 — Boast
- ▶ 2 Cor 12 — Burden
- ▶ 2 Cor 13 — Weak
- ▶ Galatians 1 — Gospel
- ▶ Galatians 2 — Circumcised
- ▶ Galatians 3:1-4:7 — Law
- ▶ Galatians 4:8-4:31 — Woman
- ▶ Galatians 5 — Spirit
- ▶ Galatians 6 — Good
- ▶ Ephesians 1 — Inheritance
- ▶ Ephesians 2 — Grace
- ▶ Ephesians 3 — Power
- ▶ Ephesians 4 — Another
- ▶ Ephesians 5 — Church
- ▶ Ephesians 6 — Lord
- ▶ Phil 1 — Imprisonment
- ▶ Phil 2 — Interests
- ▶ Phil 3 — Righteousness
- ▶ Philippians 4 — Whatever
- ▶ Colossians 1 — Things
- ▶ Colossians 2 — Body
- ▶ Colossians 3 — Another
- ▶ Colossians 4 — Greetings
- ▶ 1 Thess 1:1-2:12 — Gospel
- ▶ 1 Thess 2:13-3:13 — Timothy
- ▶ 1 Thess 4 — Brothers
- ▶ 1 Thess 5 — Lord
- ▶ 2 Thess 1:1-2:12 — God
- ▶ 2 Thess 2-3 — Command
- ▶ 1 Timothy 1 — Christ
- ▶ 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13 — Good
- ▶ 1 Timothy 3:14-5:2 — Teaching
- ▶ 1 Timothy 5:3-25 — Children
- ▶ 1 Timothy 6 — Godliness
- ▶ 2 Timothy 1 — Ashamed
- ▶ 2 Timothy 2 — Dishonorable
- ▶ 2 Timothy 3 — People
- ▶ 2 Timothy 4 — Come
- ▶ Titus 1 — Faith
- ▶ Titus 2 — Sound
- ▶ Titus 3 — Good
- ▶ Philemon — Brother

Toddler Bible Reading Questions

Parents, ask your child these questions every day before reading the Bible passage.

As you repeat them, your children will learn the answers.

- ▶ **What book of the Bible are we reading today?**
- ▶ **Is it in the Old Testament or the New Testament?**
- ▶ **Who wrote this book? (Paul)**
- ▶ **Paul wrote 13 books in the New Testament. Can you name them? (See the song on the previous page)**

Leviticus Listening Guide

Ages 4-5

Each day, listen for these words in the Bible and make a tally mark every time you hear them.

God

Christ

Spirit

Grace

Amen

Paul's Letters Listening Guide

Ages 6–11

Each day, listen for these words or quotes as we read Paul's Letters. When you hear one of these events, you can mark it off. Let's see if you can fill your card!

B	I	N	G	O
David	"Rejoice in the Lord always"	Crete	Church	Grace and Peace
Love is kind	False Teachers	Heaven	Gentiles	Angel
"Walk by the Spirit"	Abraham	FREE SPACE	Elder	"Saved by grace"
Good Work	"My grace is sufficient for you."	Head	Teaching	Epaphroditus
"Jesus Christ is Lord"	Zenas	Prisoner	Baptism	"There is one mediator"

Paul's Letters Listening Guide

Ages 12+

Instructions

- Each day, follow along in your Bible and listen for these events in Paul's Letters.
- When you hear one of these events, write down where to find it in the Bible.
- Read that passage again on your own after family worship and write down what it teaches us about God.

What Paul Wrote About	Where in the Bible?	What Does This Teach Us About God?
<i>Example: Jesus is “a descendant of David according to the flesh”</i>	Romans 1:3	Jesus is a king and completes the story of the Old Testament.
“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”		
“How can they hear without someone preaching?”		
“The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.”		
	1 Corinthians 12	
Paul had a conflict with Peter (Cephas)		
“You are saved by grace”		
“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”		
	2 Thessalonians 1:6–12	
False teachers in Crete		

People Group Focus

Pray for the Moor of Spain



Fast Facts About the Moor:

- ▶ Population: 11,000
- ▶ Religion: Islam
- ▶ Language: Hassaniyya
- ▶ In 1492, the Moors were expelled from their homeland. Since then, many have come to countries like Spain in hopes of finding a better future.
- ▶ The New Testament has been translated into their language.
- ▶ Paul wrote Romans to ask for help in bringing the gospel to unreached peoples in Spain — his work is still unfinished!

Learn More About the Moor:

- ▶ [Joshua Project](#)

Praying for the Moor:

- ▶ Pray that God would send workers to preach the good news of Christ to the Moor.
- ▶ Pray that the translated Bible would be widely distributed among the Moor.
- ▶ Pray that Christians in Spain would reach out to the Moor with compassion and hope.
- ▶ Pray that many Moor would come to know Christ.

“How, then, can they call on him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about him?”

Romans 10:14

An Introduction to Romans

For Parents

Countless Christians around the world consider Romans their favorite book of the Bible. God has used this book to save many, call many into ministry, and encourage many who need to remember the hope of God's grace.

But many people miss the main point of Romans.

Romans is NOT just a theological treatise — it is a missionary support letter. Paul wrote to the church in Rome to ask them to support his missionary work in Spain, a place where no one had ever heard the name of Jesus (Romans 15:20–24).

Who Wrote Romans?

Paul was a leader in the early church — as a missionary, he traveled and planted churches throughout much of the known world.

When Was Romans Written?

Paul wrote Romans in 57 AD. This was after his second missionary journey, while he was staying in the city of Corinth, before being arrested for preaching the gospel.

Structure of Romans

Understanding the overall structure of a book can help us understand how all the passages fit together (and what they mean.)

- ▶ Romans 1:1–17 — Introduction
- ▶ Romans 1:18–3:20 — God's Wrath Against Sin (Why All Need Salvation)
- ▶ Romans 3:21–5:21 — God's Grace in Christ (How All Can Be Saved)
- ▶ Romans 6–8 — God's Power Against Sin (How We Can Grow Today)
- ▶ Romans 9–11 — God's Sovereignty in Salvation (How God Accomplishes Salvation)
- ▶ Romans 12–16 — God's Call for All Christians (How We Live and Support God's Mission)

Key Themes in Romans

See also, "Key Themes in Paul's Letters" on page 2.

- ▶ **The Righteousness of God** — God is righteous (free from all moral impurity) in the way he judges and saves. His law is a perfect picture of this righteousness, which we all "fall short of" (Romans 3:23).
- ▶ **The Mission of God** — Because God is worthy of worship from all nations and all nations have sinned against him, Christians must send missionaries (like Paul) to all nations — so that "those who were not told about him will see" (Romans 15:21).

Why Read Romans to Your Kids?

A Gospel Worth Giving Everything For — The gospel of Christ is the best news in the whole world. Sinners CAN be saved through the blood and resurrection of Christ! As we read Romans, our prayer is that our children will believe this gospel AND give their lives to spread this gospel to the ends of the earth.

If you want your kids to live for the American Dream, Romans is a very dangerous book. But if you want your kids to lay their lives down for the glory of God and the spread of his gospel to all nations, then Romans is the book for you.

Let's pray that our children will have beautiful feet as they carry the good news to the ends of the earth, that many may hear, believe, and be saved (Romans 10:15).

Family Worship Guide

Romans 1–7 | May 1–7



God Centered Family

Sunday, May 1

“

Before Reading

Today we're going to read Paul's introduction to his letter to the Romans **As we read**, listen for what Paul says about the gospel.

Read Romans 1

?

Ask

- ▶ “Gospel” means good news. Read 1:16 again. What does this good news do?
- ▶ Read 1:1–3 again. What is this good news about?
- ▶ How do you think this “good news” relates to the message about sin in this chapter? How can God save us from our sin?

^

Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that your family would believe in Christ alone for salvation.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray for your pastors, that they would boldly preach the bad news of sin and the good news of the gospel.
- ▶ **For the Nations:** Paul was working to “bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of the name among all the Gentiles” (1:5). Pray that the gospel would spread to the Moor of Spain*.

♪

Sing

Suggested Hymn for the Week: “What Wondrous Love Is This” or “I Will Glory in My Redeemer” by Sovereign Grace Music
This week, we will read some gloriously wonderful good news — that though we are stained with sin, we can be washed by the blood of Christ. These songs celebrate that good news.

BONUS ACTIVITY (SEE NEXT PAGE)

**For more information on the Moor of Spain, see the People Group Focus sheet on page 9 of this packet.*

Monday, May 2

“

Before Reading

Today we're going to read Paul's proof that everyone is a sinner, no matter where they came from. **As we read**, listen for what will happen to sinners.

Read Romans 2

?

Ask

- ▶ Read 2:12–13 again. What does it mean to “hear the law” and “do the law?” How are these two things different?
- ▶ Can you think of a time when it was hard for you to do the right thing (“do the law”) even though you knew what it was (“hear the law”)?
- ▶ Why is it important to really understand our own sin? How does thinking about our sin get us ready to believe in Jesus?

^

Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that everyone in your family would see your sin clearly.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray that your church would be full of people willing to help one another fight sin.
- ▶ **For the Nations:** Pray that the Moor of Spain would see their sin and their need for a Savior.

♪

Sing

Tuesday, May 3

“

Before Reading

Today we're going to read more of Paul's explanation of sin and how it brings us to Jesus. **As we read**, listen for what Paul says about people.

Read Romans 3

?

Ask

- ▶ Read 3:23–24 again. Who has sinned?
- ▶ If we have all sinned, how can we be saved?
- ▶ Paul ends this chapter by saying no one is allowed to boast anymore. What does it mean to boast? How does this good news about being saved by grace stop us from boasting?

^

Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that your family would encourage one another every day by remembering that your sins have been forgiven.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray that your pastors would always preach this message — we are justified freely by his grace!
- ▶ **For the Nations:** Pray for the Moor of Spain, that they would know this good news and be saved from their sin.

♪

Sing

BONUS ACTIVITY (MONDAY)

Homosexuality is a big theme in this chapter and an important topic to discuss with our kids. Use your reading from Romans 1 to start a conversation with your kids. Here are some questions to get the conversation started:

- ▶ Re What did God say about homosexuality in Romans 1?
- ▶ We know that God's commands keep us safe. Why do you think God forbids homosexuality?
- ▶ What is God's design for marriage? (See Genesis 2:21–25)
- ▶ Have you ever seen someone celebrating or promoting homosexuality?
- ▶ Why can we trust God in all things, including his design for marriage?
- ▶ People who practice homosexuality are sinful, but we are sinful too. What is the only hope for sinful people? (See 1 Corinthians 6:9–11)

Make sure you leave room for questions from your children as well. Let your kids know that your home is a SAFE place to talk about marriage and sex — tell them that if they have any questions or see/feel something that makes them uncomfortable, they can always come to you.

Wednesday, May 4

“

Before Reading

Today we're going to read about how this plan of salvation by grace alone has always been God's plan. **As we read**, listen for how Abraham was saved.

Read Romans 4

?

Ask

- ▶ Do you know who Abraham was? Did he live before or after Jesus?
- ▶ Abraham did a good work (circumcision) to follow God. Did this work save him?
- ▶ God didn't love and forgive Abraham because of his good works — God loved and forgave Abraham because his grace! What does this tell us about God?

^

Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that God would help your family share this good news about salvation by grace with non-Christians that you know.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray that your church would always remember that church activities cannot save us or make us right with God — only Jesus can do that.
- ▶ **For the Nations:** God promised to make Abraham “the father of many nations” (4:18). Pray that Abraham's children among the Moor of Spain would come home through faith in Christ.

♪

Sing

Thursday, May 5



Before Reading

Today we're going to read about how Jesus is like the first man, Adam. **As we read**, listen for what Adam did.

Read Romans 5



Ask

- ▶ What was the name of the first man?
- ▶ What happened when Adam sinned? How did it affect everyone in the world?
- ▶ How is Jesus' righteousness like Adam's sin? How can "the many be made righteous" (5:19)?



Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that your family would be patient with one another, as Christ was patient with all of us in our sin.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray that your church would help one another in affliction, which ultimately leads to hope (5:3-5).
- ▶ **For the Nations:** Pray that the Moor of Spain would know that God is calling them to Christ, even though they are sinful and ungodly.



Sing

Friday, May 6



Before Reading

Today we're going to read about how we should respond to God's grace. **As we read**, listen for why Christians fight sin.

Read Romans 6



Ask

- ▶ How does Paul describe Christians and sin? We are _____ to sin?
- ▶ Paul describes an old self (controlled by sin) that died with Christ and a new self (able to avoid sin and live in righteousness) that rose with Christ (6:4). How can someone be raised with Christ?
- ▶ What is a sin that you want God's help in fighting? If you are a Christian, you have the strength (from God, not from yourself) that you need to fight that sin! Let's pray about that together. (*Parents, lead by example on this one by being quick to confess your own sin*)



Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that God would strengthen each of you to fight the specific sins you confessed.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray that your church would always remember the new life that we have in Christ when you get to baptize someone.
- ▶ **For the Nations:** Pray that the Moor of Spain would one day know this new life and be strengthened to fight sin.



Sing

Saturday, May 7



Before Reading

Today we're going to read more about the Christian's fight with sin. **As we read**, listen for what Paul says his only hope is as he fights sin.

Read Romans 7



Ask

- ▶ Read Romans 7:4 again. Why do we “belong to God?”
- ▶ Because we belong to God, “we may bear fruit for God” (7:4). What does it mean to “bear fruit for God?”
- ▶ Has it ever been hard for you to “bear fruit for God?” Why do you think that is?



Pray

- ▶ **For Your Family:** Pray that your family would be very fruitful — serving one another in love.
- ▶ **For Your Church:** Pray that your church would be very fruitful — reaching out to the community with bold proclamation.
- ▶ **For the Nations:** Pray that missionaries, dead to sin and alive to Christ, would go to the Moor of Spain with the hope of the gospel.



Sing

Bonus Weekend Activity

Print out a copy of the Paul's Letters Word Find (see next page) for everyone in your family. As your kids find the words, talk about what each one means.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23

Paul's Letters Word Search

E R G J Y E X V H J D G R A C E A R G B S A Z F J P Y F S C
E U A V B G Y J M M K L A U F E T R F V U I O C O P C V C H
P A E L E N G E N T I L E S R B H J O L J D Q H R T E B X S
R I P K F E V B T Y H P K D C V G H E R H U Y U G H Y A A U
G V I M O T H Y U C H E G E N H K U I M A C R R T A D G C I
S D S E D F G H Y U T I M O T H Y Y U K L O P C B H E R K E
M A T I L H T E Q W V B I H U K M G D C N M D H F R E T T P
B H L X B H B N K L J G S D G N H I O E D V B E P I T J E S
S P E L H G U H M P I O S T G E R S H A R T E S I G O P U T
W E R G A P S T E L S T I M O T H U I M F B H U J H W F O L
A F J Y L F S F H H G D O N M D H T B E N H F G N T K N G E
P A U M G E Y E F T Y I N U E R T Y U N O U E T Y E U I O P
L J D F G H J K F I R G A C E E F G E Y U J D Q I O L K P I
U A U G L P A B H U I O R D A P O S T L E V B N J U E S T O
R S G U O C H E N T Y I Y L E S E O U G H T S N E S T S G N
M O Y S T S Y T I M U T H E R G H I U J D F C V U N Y E R G
A B R A G A P M F H E K I Y R V B H E P S D U I O E T G H I
N A T H Y U I E U O H S V G J I W D R A E F H U C S S F H U
W E R A C F A U L P G B J U D W R E U U C F G B I S O U B D
P A T H B N F D S E G H J I K R T C H L S E R B E J U I O P

Find each of these words in the Word Search...

- ▶ Paul
- ▶ Apostle
- ▶ Gospel
- ▶ Timothy
- ▶ Churches
- ▶ Epistle
- ▶ Missionary
- ▶ Grace
- ▶ Peace
- ▶ Righteousness
- ▶ Gentiles
- ▶ Amen