**July 12, 2020: Elementary Sunday school lesson**

**ROMAN'S ROAD: Death and life**

***The children will learn that God has given us the victory over both death and life. by Leah Pittsinger***

**ACTIVITY: MY GIFTS FROM GOD (Materials: Activity page pdf, pencils, crayons, markers)
PREPARATION:** Print the handouts and place a handout, pencil, and crayons/markers at each child’s place.

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** As the children arrive, ask them to choose a place at the table and work on the handout. Be prepared to give suggestions to the children if they need a little help getting started. **Application:** Was it easy or hard to think of six things God has given you? It’s good to admit that God has given us many amazing things, such as families, toys, and a church where we can learn more about Him. But what is the best gift He has ever given us (eternal life/salvation)? Because of Jesus, we don’t have to worry about paying for our sins – He paid the cost by dying on the cross. So, when we think about everything God has given us, the most important gift is salvation because there is no way we could have ever received it without Jesus life, death, and resurrection.

 **OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE AND MEMORY WORK**

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 NIV**
Sing the verse to the tune of “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” until the verse is familiar to the class. If needed, you may use the suggested phrasing below:

For-- the wages o-f sin is death,
But-- the gift of G-od is eternal life,
I-n- Je-sus Christ o-ur Lord
Ro-mans 6-23

**SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:** Last week we learned that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and gave the hope of salvation to the world. Today we will learn the next part of the “Roman’s Road” (a collection of verses that tell us how we can be saved) and how the payment for our sins, death, is overcome by the gift of eternal life.

**Read Romans 5:12, 6:9-14, 6:22-23 (Jesus defeated death and God gives us eternal life.)**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. How did sin enter the world? *(Through one man - Adam.)*
2. What is the consequence of sin?*(Death.)*
3. So why is everyone sinful?*(Because we were born into sin.)*
4. Why can’t Jesus die again? *(Because He defeated sin by coming back to life.)*
5. Whose sin did Jesus defeat?*(Everyone’s sin!)*
6. Why can we be “alive to God”? *(Because Jesus paid for our sins.)*
7. How can we keep sin from taking over our lives? *(By obeying God, relying on His strength, and taking part in what He is doing.)*
8. What is the result of following God? *(Holiness and eternal life.)*
9. Why can we receive the gift of eternal life?*(Because of Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection/victory over death.)*

**Conclusion:** When the first man who was ever created, Adam, sinned against God, it meant everyone who would be born after him would sin too. And, because God knew that sin would separate us from Him forever, He sent Jesus to die and pay the price of our sins with His own life. However, because Jesus came back to life, He was victorious over death and we can be victorious too. Anyone who believes in Jesus and turns away from their sin can have eternal life because of His sacrifice. And we can share this special message of eternal life with everyone we meet!

**OBJECT TALK: PAY FOR MY SIN (Materials: Play Money pdf, 5 grocery store items, paper with pencils)**

***The children will learn that paying the price for sin is impossible without Jesus.***
**PREPARATION:** Purchase the grocery items and keep a list of the prices in your pocket (round up or down to the nearest dollar). Display the items on a table in front of the room. Print enough handouts for each child to have at least 10 dollars. Cut out the play money.
**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Show the children the items on the table and ask them to think about how much each item costs. Then give them a piece of paper and a pencil so they can write down their guesses for each item and total the amount. Next, give the children the amount of play money they guessed for the total amount. Starting with the first item, announce the actual cost and have the children lay down the amount on the table. Continue this process with the other items to see how well the children guessed and if anyone runs out of money or has any money left over.
**Application:** Were you surprised by the cost of each item? Why or why not? While many things on earth are given monetary prices, there is one thing we could never pay for on our own – sin! We could print money forever and still not have enough to cover the cost of our sins because sin keeps us from righteousness (perfection). However, because Jesus led a perfect life and never sinned, He was able to pay for the sins of the world by dying on the cross. When we believe in Him, turn away from sin, and dedicate our lives to obeying God, the Bible tells us that the Spirit has moved in our hearts and we become children of God. The cost for our sin was definitely great, and we should thank Jesus for paying the cost.

**ACTIVITY: ETERNAL LIFE SCAVENGER HUNT (Props: Play-doh, wire hanger, hammer, bag of candy, ruler, small wrapped gift)**

***In this Sunday school activity, children will search for items to learn about God’s gift of salvation.***
**PREPARATION:** Before class hide the props throughout the classroom.
**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Give each clue and challenge the children to find the items:
1. This is something we use to form objects. It’s very soft and fun to use. *(Play-doh)*
2. We use this at home to keep our clothes organized. It has a weird shape. *(Wire hanger)*
3. Now look for a tool that’s handy for hanging pictures on the wall or building something out of wood. It’s long and a little heavy. *(Hammer)*
4. This is something that can give us cavities if we eat too much. It’s small and has a lot of pieces. *(Bag of candy)*
5. We use this next item to measure something’s length. It’s skinny and light. *(Ruler)*
6. Lastly, look for an item you like to get on a special holiday. It’s small and pretty. *(Gift)***Application:** Hold up each item as you explain the eternal life message:
1. Play-doh: “God wants to ‘mold’ us into who He created us to be.”
2. Wire hanger: “The problem is, we are ‘bent’ on sin and want to do what we desire.”
3. Hammer: “And it seems easier to be able to ‘work’ for our own salvation by doing a few good things here and there.”
4. Bag of candy: “But Jesus is the only ‘good’ person who ever lived on earth because He’s the only person has never sinned.”
5. Ruler: “So, we can’t follow our own ‘rules’ for getting into Heaven. Without trusting in Jesus as our Savior, God says we can’t pay for our sins.”
6. Gift: “But the good news of the Gospel is that God gives us the ‘gift’ of eternal life because Jesus died for our sins. And we can receive the gift of salvation when we believe in Jesus and turn away from our sins.”

**APPLICATION** Bring a small potted plant or flower. Ask the kids to describe the plant and how they know it’s alive (such as it has bright colors, it’s not dry, it looks to be getting bigger, etc.). Then explain that plants are alive because of God’s power, and that same power has given us the chance to become spiritually alive by trusting in Jesus Christ as our Savior. And, when we believe in Jesus, we will be like the plant that grows more beautiful as we trust God to take care of us and show us how to live and obey His Word.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**What we learned:** Today we learned another part of the “Roman’s Road” (a collection of verses that tell us how we can be saved) and how the payment for our sins, death, is overcome by the gift of eternal life. When the first man who was ever created, Adam, sinned against God, it meant everyone who would be born after him would sin too. And, because God knew that sin would separate us from Him forever, He sent Jesus to die and pay the price of our sins with His own life. However, because Jesus came back to life, He was victorious over death and we can be victorious too. Anyone who believes in Jesus and turns away from their sins can have eternal life because of His sacrifice. And we can share this special message of eternal life with everyone we meet! Scriptures used: Romans 5:12, 6:9-14, 6:22-23

**Memory Verse:** “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 NIV Sing the verse to the tune of “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.” If needed, you may use the suggested phrasing below: For-- the wages o-f sin is death, But-- the gift of G-od is eternal life, I-n- Je-sus Christ o-ur Lord Ro-mans 6-23

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Go for a walk outside with your child and admire the beautiful plants and flower that you see. Ask your child to describe how he or she know if the plants are alive or dead (their color, shape, texture, etc.). Then explain that plants are alive because of God’s power, and that same power has given us the chance to become spiritually alive by trusting in Jesus Christ as our Savior. And, when we believe in Jesus, we will be like the plants that grow more beautiful as we trust God to take care of us and show us how to live and obey His word.

**Daily Prayer:** Thank You, God, for giving us the gift of eternal life! Help us trust You, turn from our sins, and believe in Jesus. And thank You for Jesus’ example and for His sacrifice. Amen.