

QUARTER & SUBJECT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

BIBLE PASSAGES

Fall 2014 James	The book of James presents steps of spiritual growth; e.g., correct response to trials and temptations; how to practice tongue control; avoiding partiality.	James
Winter 2014–15 Proverbs	Spiritual fitness comes through applying God's Word to daily situations, so the student will be challenged to apply Biblical principles to daily life.	Proverbs
Spring 2015 Joshua	Principles from the book of Joshua can be applied to living a victorious Christian life; e.g., obey God's commands; move forward by faith; remember that sin always has a price.	Joshua
Summer 2015 Current Issues	God's Word has answers to today's issues, such as war, homosexuality, postmodernism, substance abuse, the media, and suicide.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Fall 2015 The Bible	Beginning with inspiration, this course includes Bible study fundamentals and Bible study methods.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Winter 2015–16 Cults & False Religions	Recognizing that the Bible warns against false teachings and presents Jesus Christ as the only way to God, this course helps today's students understand the cults and false religions in our world today.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
 Spring 2016 Romans	The book of Romans teaches us how to be Right with God and how to have Right Thinking and Right Living.	Romans
Summer 2016 Choices	We can learn from the choices made by Biblical characters such as Ruth, Jonathan, Ahab, Nehemiah, Judas, Peter, and others.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Fall 2016 Genesis	God's sovereignty and man's accountability are presented through the major events and characters of Genesis: creation, the Fall, the Flood, Babel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.	Genesis
Winter 2016–17 Baptist Distinctives	The Biblical distinctives of eternal security, baptism, Communion, church polity, and the priesthood of believers are foundational Baptist beliefs.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Spring 2017 John	Jesus' Public Ministry, Jesus' Private Ministry, and Jesus' Passion Ministry are presented in this study of the book of John.	John
Summer 2017 Exodus	Covering events from Israel's slavery in Egypt to worship in the tabernacle, this course deals with events and topics that have significance for today's teens.	Exodus
Fall 2017 1, 2 Timothy; Titus	The letters Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus provide instruction for young people today in the areas of Christian living, Christian service, and godly lifestyles.	1, 2 Timothy; Titus
Winter 2017–18 Future Events	This study of "last things" gives an overview of Biblical prophecy and then looks in detail at events from the Rapture of the church to the Great White Throne Judgment.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Spring 2018 Philippians	Paul's letter helps believers realize that joy, an inward quality produced by the Holy Spirit, is expressed in a number of ways, including fellowship, the gospel, harmony, and contentment.	Philippians
Summer 2018 Acts	This study on the book of Acts emphasizes evangelism and missions in the early church and challenges today's teens to reach their world for Christ.	Acts



BEYOND THE ROAD:

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

CONTENTS

How to Teach Real Faith Lessons	2
Notes for This Quarter	3
Leading a Student to Christ	4
1 Righteousness Revealed	5
2 Nobody's Perfect	14
3 Right through Christ	23
4 Through Faith Alone	32
5 Membership Privileges	40
6 Alive to God	47
7 Victory in Jesus!	54
8 Hope, Sweet Hope	61
9 Available to All	70
10 A Living Sacrifice	78
11 Honor and Love	86
12 Unity in Christ	92
13 Romans Review	100
Answers	108



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Building Lives by the Book

THE DOCTRINAL BASIS OF OUR CURRICULUM

A more detailed statement with
references is available upon
request.

- The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures
- Only one true God
- The Trinity of the Godhead
- The Holy Spirit and His ministry
- The personality of Satan
- The Genesis account of creation
- Original sin and the fall of man
- The virgin birth of Christ
- Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ
- The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ
- Grace and the new birth
- Justification by faith
- Sanctification of the believer
- The security of the believer
- The church
- The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper
- Biblical separation—ecclesiastical and personal
- Obedience to civil government
- The place of Israel
- The pretribulation rapture of the church
- The premillennial return of Christ
- The millennial reign of Christ
- Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous
- Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked

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HOW TO TEACH *REAL FAITH* LESSONS

Thank you for choosing *Real Faith in Life* as your Sunday School curriculum for senior high youth. This material has been designed to help you, a senior high teacher, clearly present God's Word to your students. It will guide you in using active learning methods that allow your students to interact with God's Word for themselves. It offers application ideas that will encourage your students to be *doers* of God's Word, not merely hearers (James 1:22).

Take a few moments to become familiar with the layout of this teacher book and with the other *Real Faith* products: the student book, the resource CD, and the memory verse card pack. All of these products work together. Notice these icons in the teacher book; they will help you know when to use the other products.



Use the suggested item from the **resource CD**.



Refer to the **daily devotions** or the **in-class** page in the **student book**.



Quote (or read) the **memory verse** in class, or use the verse in some other way.



Use the **worksheet** (from the resource CD) as part of a learning activity.

As you look through your materials, you will notice that we have built this course and the individual lessons around a central theme. As you emphasize the theme (and even decorate your room with the theme in mind), we believe your students will have an effective learning experience.

IN PREPARATION FOR TEACHING . . .

- read the Scripture focus passage(s) several times. Look up words or concepts that you cannot clearly explain. Use Bible study tools as necessary to help you understand the passage(s).

- do the daily devotions in the student book. You need to know what your students are studying each day.
- memorize the memory verse throughout the week. (Note the suggested activities in the student book.)
- look at the materials list early in the week; note the items you will need from the resource CD.
- choose the activity you will use to focus students' attention on the Bible lesson. Usually two or more activities are suggested. You will not have time to do everything; choose the one best suited for your class. (Remember, this part of the lesson should take only five to ten minutes.)
- work through the Bible study section. Notice the active learning methods. Decide how you will involve your students in the Bible passage. These thirty to forty minutes are the heart of the lesson. Plan them carefully. Make notes in the margins of your book. Strive for maximum participation.
- decide how to apply the Bible truths and bring the lesson to a close. If more than one application idea is suggested, use the one best suited for your class. Don't assume your students will "just get it." Plan these final ten minutes of the class time carefully.
- pray for yourself, your students, and your lesson. The Holy Spirit is your divine Helper. Without Him, you cannot do anything of eternal value (John 14:16, 17; 15:5; 16:13).

ON SUNDAY MORNING . . .

- make sure you arrive in your classroom before the first student.
- look at your room. Is it attractive and inviting to students?
- commit yourself and your class to the Lord.
- teach with the confidence that God will work in your students' lives.

God has promised that His Word will not return to Him void; it will accomplish its intended purposes (Isa. 55:11). You can teach with confidence!

NOTES FOR THIS QUARTER

People today are enslaved, or held hostage, in many different ways. In some parts of the world, physical bondage is a real possibility. In the more affluent nations, bondage to material things is prevalent. But all over the globe, in poverty or wealth, and regardless of age, people are in bondage to sin and Satan. “All have sinned,” and “death passed upon all men,” wrote Paul to the Romans.

Against this dark background come the words, “Set free!” The great truths of the book of Romans have to do with freedom. Initially, people need to be set free from sin and its eternal punishment. God provides this freedom through justification—declaring the sinner righteous because of the finished work of Christ. Believers need to be set free from the grip of the sin nature. God provides this freedom through sanctification—the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The teens you teach are somewhere on this spectrum: in need of salvation or sanctification. Many of them probably know the “Romans Road” (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9, 10) by heart and may have even used these verses in their own evangelistic efforts. However, this course is intended to get them beyond the Romans Road, into the deeper meat of the doctrines found in Romans. As you teach this quarter, you will emphasize the need to be right with God (salvation) and then right in our thinking and living (sanctification). To keep these truths before your class, plan to post the Right with God statement (from the resource CD) on the wall or bulletin board each week.

An ongoing feature (beginning with lesson 2) is a wall mural. At the close of each lesson, provide supplies for students to design (or add to) a mural that depicts key truths from Romans. Encourage creativity: drawings, poetry, brief essays. As students recall, create, and discuss, the book of Romans will take hold in their hearts and minds.

You are about to embark on a great study! Rely on the Holy Spirit for His guidance as you lead your students in Bible study and application each week.

SENIOR HIGH MATERIALS LIST

- Teacher’s personal Bible
- Students’ personal Bibles and extra Bibles for visitors or students who do not bring Bibles to class
- Whiteboard and colored markers or chalkboard and chalk
- Pens (assorted kinds) and pencils (well sharpened; with erasers)
- Felt-tip markers (various widths and assorted colors)
- Colored pencils
- Pads of self-stick notes (various colors; ruled and unruled)
- 3 x 5 cards
- Masking tape (or other adhesive for mounting items on the wall)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors for teacher’s and students’ use
- Poster-size paper or butcher paper
- Construction paper; poster board

LEADING A STUDENT TO CHRIST

The highest privilege you have as a teacher is the opportunity to lead your students to Christ and help them strengthen their relationship with Him. Be prepared to talk to students about salvation or about other problems or decisions in their lives.

There is no set pattern for talking to someone about the Lord. In each situation, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in your own heart and mind and to the needs of the individual teen. Deal with a student separately, rather than in a group. Allow the teen to tell you in his own words what his need is. Don't put words in his mouth. This is his decision, not yours!

EXPLAINING SALVATION

Stress the need for personal salvation, particularly if the student has grown up in the church. She may confuse her knowledge of Bible stories, her church-centered activities, her parents' salvation, or an external code of conduct with individual faith.

Thoughtfully rephrase the Christian clichés that your students may have heard so often or that may seem like a foreign language to some; e.g., ask Jesus into your heart; ask Jesus to be your Savior; have faith; trust in Jesus. Help the student understand that "trust" is having confidence that someone or something is always right; "Jesus died for me" means that I was condemned to die, but Jesus voluntarily took my place on the cross; "believe" means accepting/deciding that something is true and then acting on it. Don't let the personal nature of salvation become misunderstood through the use of trite phrases or pat answers.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Keep these basic points in mind when dealing with someone about salvation.

- Everyone is a sinner. No one can live up to God's standard (Rom. 3:23).

- Sin's penalty is death (Rom. 6:23).
- God loves us and sent His Son to pay the penalty for our sin. Christ died as our substitute, in our place (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
- When a person places his confidence in Jesus and what He did as sufficient payment for sins, Christ becomes his Savior. His sins are forgiven, and he receives God's gift of everlasting life (John 1:12; 5:24).
- Everlasting life begins immediately and is not temporary. (Use any verse where the word "eternal" or "everlasting" is used, such as in John 3:16.) Nothing we can ever do will take us out of God's hand; we are secure (John 10:27–29).
- The Christian should tell others of his decision (Rom. 10:9, 10).
- The experience of the new birth (being born into God's family) is not based on a feeling, but on confidence in God's Word (1 John 5:11, 12).

Encourage the student to pray, no matter how hesitantly. Prayer does not save a person, but it is the means of expressing to God what is in the heart.

Ask the new believer to explain to you what he has done and what has happened in his life.

DISCIPLESHIP

Encourage the new convert to read the Bible, and explain the importance of prayer. Help him understand how to pray. Point out 1 John 1:9 as God's instruction for dealing with sin in the Christian life.

Make it a priority to follow up with the new Christian. Visit in his home; encourage him to attend Sunday School and church regularly; help him with Bible study and prayer; guide him in his new life as a Christian.

LESSON 1

RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 1

MEMORY VERSE

“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

TOPIC

The revelation of God

THEME

God has revealed His righteousness and His attributes to all mankind.

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Each student will recognize his or her standing before a righteous God.

MATERIALS

(in addition to supplies listed on page 3)

- *Real Faith in Life* student books, lesson 1 devotions (pp. 1–6)
- A bottle of liquid laundry detergent
- A clean rag
- Lipstick
- Ink pen
- Mud
- Three large jars with lids
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup measuring cup
- Warm water
- Copies of worksheet 1 from the resource CD
- Right with God statement for week 1 from the resource CD

NOTES TO THE TEACHER

The heart of the gospel message is the righteousness of God. God provides His righteousness to sinners through His Son, Jesus Christ. Mankind cannot obtain righteousness apart from believing in Christ as the payment for sin. This theme of God's righteousness is the central focus of the book of Romans. Romans 1 reveals the righteousness of God and compares it to mankind's sinful state. While this contrast is not a popular message in today's society or in modern churches, it is Biblical truth that you—and your students—must face.

As you prepare this lesson, examine your heart. Do you take God's righteous character lightly? Are you grateful for your standing as a believer before the holy, righteous God?

Also, pray for your students' salvation. It is easy for young people to ignore the truth of God's righteousness and their sinful standing and instead claim a false sense of salvation based on church attendance or growing up in a Christian home. Be ready to share the truth of the gospel with any student who is unsure of his or her standing before the righteous God.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (Rom. 1:1–17)
 - A. The writer
 - B. The recipients
 - C. The purpose
 - 1. To encourage the believers
 - 2. To present a clear defense of the gospel
- II. Mankind's Condemnation before God (Rom. 1:18–23)
 - A. Mankind ignores the truth
 - B. Mankind ignores Who God is
 - C. Mankind perverts God's glory
- III. God's Abandonment (Rom. 1:24–32)
 - A. God gives mankind over to sexual impurity
 - B. God gives mankind over to a reprobate mind

BEFORE CLASS

Bring a bottle of detergent to class. Cut a clean rag into three pieces. Obtain a container of lipstick, a small amount of mud, an ink pen, a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup measuring cup, and three large jars with lids.

Place all the supplies on a table at the front of the room. Fill each jar with warm water. Use these supplies for the Cleansing Power activity.

FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION (5–10 MINUTES)

CLEANSING POWER

Display the bottle of detergent, and explain to students that you will be testing its power. Have a volunteer rub mud into the first piece of cloth. Have a second volunteer smear lipstick into the second cloth. Have a third volunteer put an ink blot on the third cloth.

Ask: Is the detergent strong enough to remove the first stain? the second? the third?

Have volunteers place their cloths in the water, add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup detergent, cap the jars, and shake the jars vigorously. At your signal, have students place the jars back on the table, remove the cloths, and show the results to the class. Then discuss the following questions:

- How powerful is this detergent?
- Is there something that can clean all stains?
- How are sins like stains?
- How does God view the sin stains of mankind? (Help students understand that mankind's sin makes everyone guilty before God.)

STUDY THE BIBLE (30–40 MINUTES)

I. Introduction (Rom. 1:1–17)

A. The writer

Review students' answers to Monday's *Real Faith in Life* devotions. Ask: How would you describe Paul's relationship with God? Using the following commentary as a guide, briefly give an overview of Paul's ministry and his authority to write the book of Romans.

In the opening of the epistle, Paul identified himself (Rom. 1:1), his readers (v. 7), and his reason for writing (vv. 2–6, 8–17). By using the descriptive phrases “a servant of Jesus Christ,” “called to be an apostle,” and “separated unto the gospel” (v. 1), Paul defined his relationship with Jesus Christ and the purpose for which he lived. The word “servant,” or literally “bond slave,” expresses the extent of Paul's commitment in serving the Lord. A bond slave was a servant who willingly chose to bind him- or herself to his or her master when given the opportunity to go free (cf. Exod. 21:2–6;



Deut. 15:12–17). The slave had found a home with the master and had love for and from that master. Paul, recognizing how God had declared him righteous through the sacrifice of His Son, willingly bound himself to God's will and, out of love, served Him no matter the cost (Phil. 1:21).

Paul also referred to himself as one "called to be an apostle" (Rom. 1:1). The word "apostle" means "an ambassador or messenger who represents and carries out the orders of the one sending him or her." Paul met the qualifications of an apostle because he had actually seen the Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 9:1) and because he had been directly called by God to serve Him (Acts 9:1–22).

In pursuing this lifelong commission, Paul boldly proclaimed the gospel wherever he went (Rom. 1:16) and was largely responsible for its declaration throughout the Roman Empire (15:19).

As a servant and apostle, Paul was "separated unto the gospel" (1:1). He was set apart for the sole purpose of preaching the salvation message. To be an effective emissary of God, Paul cut himself adrift from any personal interests or ambitions that would hinder the furtherance of the gospel (Phil. 3:7–14).

B. The recipients

Briefly discuss with students the corrupt conditions of the city of Rome during Paul's time. Explain that the believers in Rome were facing intense persecution and that the message of the book of Romans encouraged them and strengthened them in their faith.

Even though Paul did not play an instrumental part in starting the church at Rome, he wrote his letter "to all that be in Rome, . . . called to be saints" (Rom. 1:7). Those "called of Jesus Christ" (v. 6) were people who had heard the gospel and responded to it in faith. Both Jewish and Gentile saints constituted the Roman church's membership, for Paul referred specifically to both groups throughout his letter (1:16; 3:29, 30; 9:1–11:32).

These particular believers found themselves in the midst of a corrupt civilization. The city was so puffed up by its powers, victories, and greed that the people even worshiped their emperors as deities. With great contempt they attacked the gospel message and its followers (3:8). Though small in number, the Christians in Rome stood in the midst of the world's wickedness like a city set on a hill and continually defended their faith.

C. The purpose

1. To encourage the believers

Paul commended the Romans' witness (1:8), and he greatly desired to fellowship with them (vv. 10–12). On several occasions he had made arrangements to visit the Roman church, but his plans were hindered, either by Satan's intervention to thwart the gospel's proclamation or by God's redirection of Paul's itinerary to further His sovereign plans (Rom. 1:13; cf. 1 Thess. 2:18). Nonetheless, Paul longed to minister to the Roman believers just as he ministered to the other saints he visited during his missionary journeys. Desiring to be a blessing, he wanted to strengthen them in their spiritual growth and service as well as personally benefit from their fellowship and wisdom (Rom. 1:11, 12).

2. To present a clear defense of the gospel

Have volunteers read Romans 1:14–16 aloud. Review students' answers to Tuesday's devotions and ask students to describe Paul's attitude toward the gospel.

Paul's foremost reason for writing the epistle was to present a clear defense of God's gospel of righteousness. Paul knew that the good news of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection was far superior to any philosophy or religion on earth. It alone had—and still has—the power to save people from sin and its penalty, to secure pardon for sinners, and to set apart lives for God's service.

God's gospel of righteousness dramatically changes lives (1 Thess. 1:5–10). Grateful for what God had done in his life, Paul became a debtor to the gospel and shared its message wherever he went (Rom. 1:14, 15). It made no difference to him who his audience was. He was compelled to proclaim Christ to the rich and the poor, to the educated and the uneducated, to the Jew and the Greek. He was ready to present the gospel at any time and in any circumstance. Knowing of the intense persecution and horrible death that fell upon those who identified with Christ, Paul still eagerly preached Christ's gospel (Eph. 6:18–20). Paul was not ashamed of the gospel message, for even the Greeks' logic, the Romans' power, and the Hebrews' law paled before its truths. He personally knew that the power of the gospel transforms people's lives and brings salvation and eternal life to all who believe (Rom. 1:16). By quoting from Habakkuk 2:4, Paul connected the Old Testament with the New Testament and reinforced the truth that a right standing before God comes only by faith (v. 17).



II. Mankind's Condemnation before God (Rom. 1:18–23)

Although the theme of Romans focuses on the righteousness of God, Paul had to begin with mankind's unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18–23). Until an individual knows that he or she is a sinner, that person cannot appreciate the salvation God offers through His Son, Jesus Christ. People stand condemned before God and must see their hopeless state apart from God's grace. Paul addressed this section of his epistle to the Gentiles, a group of people he called "heathens." Their knowledge of God was limited to His revelation in creation and in their consciences (vv. 19, 20). God's righteousness demands that His wrath be declared against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. God's wrath is His settled indignation against all that is evil. Because of His righteous character, God never condemns without a reason. In verses 18–23 Paul clearly pointed to mankind's lack of proper reverence for God and the specific reasons that people are guilty and without excuse.



Direct students to the worksheet in their student books (p. 8). Organize students into three groups and assign a section of the worksheet to each group.

A. Mankind ignores the truth

After five minutes, ask the first group to briefly overview section 1. Review students' answers to Wednesday's devotions as you discuss how mankind ignores the truth of God's revelation.

First, mankind stands guilty before God because people suppress the truth and ignore God's revelation concerning His character. The word "truth" used in Romans 1:18 is not referring to the gospel, but to the fact that God has revealed Himself to all people through creation (Ps. 19:1–6). Creation reveals God's eternal power and deity (Rom. 1:20). By observing the world around them, people know that a God exists Who has the wisdom to plan and the power to create the universe (Job 38:1—40:2). They also recognize the eternality of this God because the Creator had to exist before the world that He created (Job 36:26; Ps. 90:2).

Through these revelations in creation, people realize that there is a God to Whom worship and obedience are due. It is this truth, which they refuse to accept, that leaves people without excuse before God. Condemnation of the human race is based on people's willful denial of and opposition to God's supremacy as seen through His revelation in nature.

MEMORY VERSE: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 1:20. Ask: What does nature reveal about God? Based on Romans 1:20, what is the condition of unbelievers who ignore these truths?



B. Mankind ignores Who God is

Have the second group present section 2 of the worksheet. Use the following to discuss how mankind ignores Who God is.



Second, mankind is guilty before God because people ignore Who God is (Rom. 1:19–21). Knowing of God's goodness and greatness from His works in creation, people still refuse to acknowledge Who God is. They do not appreciate the blessings they receive from their Creator (Ps. 65:9–13; Acts 14:15–17) and do not give God the honor and praise due Him. By ignoring the truth of God, individuals become vain in their imaginations, or irrational in their thinking. In time, their ability to recognize and receive truth is impaired. The result is foolish hearts darkened by empty wisdom (1 Cor. 1:18–31).

C. Mankind perverts God's glory

Have the third group present section 3 of the worksheet. Review students' answers to Thursday's devotions as you discuss how mankind perverts God's glory.



Third, mankind stands condemned for perverting God's glory. Because people have rejected God, they must find someone or something else to worship. Believing their wisdom to be superior to God's, they turn to idol worship (Rom. 1:22, 23). People do the very act that God had forbidden (Exod. 20:4, 5). They descend so low in their thinking that they worship not only humans, but also birds, beasts, and bugs. Eventually people become enslaved to the objects they worship (Isa. 44:9–20).

III. God's Abandonment (Rom. 1:24–32)

Review students' answers to questions 1–3 of Friday's devotions. Discuss with students the consequences of mankind's denial of God's revelation.



While every human being is depraved, or sinful, and therefore deserving of punishment, not everyone is as bad as he or she could be. In Romans 1 Paul presented a picture of extreme depravity.



A. God gives mankind over to sexual impurity

Because people reject the truth, God abandons them to live out the lie they have deliberately chosen (Rom. 1:24–32). This lie tells them that they can live independently of God and, ultimately, that they replace God (v. 25). They then seek to gratify their own desires and sinful lusts. One indication of human sinful indulgence is overt sexual sin (vv. 26, 27). Knowing that they will eventually face God’s judgment, sinners harden their hearts and find great pleasure in their sin as well as in the sins of others (v. 32). God reveals His wrath against such unrighteousness by delivering such people over to the very lifestyle that condemns them to death.

B. God gives mankind over to a reprobate mind

Because men and women do not think it necessary to retain God in their knowledge, God gives them over to a “reprobate mind” (v. 28), a mind that is worthless and has an evil disposition. Human beings put God on trial and decide that He doesn’t meet the specifications they require, so they refuse to approve God as the One to be worshiped and honored. Because of their actions, God gives them over to a mind where right and wrong are confused and lost; their minds know no boundaries for sin (Eph. 4:18, 19).

Have students briefly scan Romans 1:29–31. List on the board the twenty-three vices that characterize those who refuse to acknowledge God as God.

Paul listed twenty-three vices that characterize the lives of those who refuse to acknowledge God as God (Rom 1:29–31). Human beings reach the depth of their moral decline when they not only sin against God but also applaud others who do the same. After vividly depicting the extensiveness of mankind’s unrighteousness, Paul ended his case against people who leave God out of their thinking. Without a doubt those people stand guilty before a righteous God (v. 20).

APPLY THE TRUTH

(10 MINUTES)

WHERE DO I STAND?

Review with students Saturday’s devotions and the list on the board. Ask: How do Paul’s descriptions of the unbeliever compare to unbelievers today? Discuss the similarities of these two groups.

Ask students to prayerfully consider their position before a righteous and holy God. Remind students that attending church or

being in a Christian family does not affect their personal standing before God.

Distribute copies of worksheet 1 and ask each student to record on the worksheet his or her personal standing before God. Encourage those who are unsure of their standing before God to speak with you or another leader.

Close in prayer, thanking God for His righteousness.

Take a moment to highlight the bulletin board or display area where you'll be posting ways we can know we are right with God. Allow a student to add the Right with God summary statement for lesson 1: I know I am right with God when I recognize my standing before a righteous God.

Direct students' attention to the lesson 2 devotions in their student books. Ask: Why do some people believe their moral standing can gain them a place in Heaven? Explain that next week's lesson will help students respond and witness to those who trust in good works and moral standing for their salvation. Encourage students to complete their devotions and to bring their books to class next week.

