

Sharing The Gospel

ROMANS 10:1-11:36

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

“Pretty Feet” template for each child, glue sticks, sequins, glitter, markers and other "pretty" stuff.

Red construction paper, several cardboard templates of the “Confessing mouth,” scissors, and pencils or markers.

You will need two coffee cans, string, and a big taped off circle or square to be the special "clubhouse."

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Pretty Feet

Have the children decorate the feet on the worksheet. Use sequins, glitter, markers or other “pretty stuff.”

As they decorate the feet, ask if they know what the "lovely feet" in the memory verse means. Help them imagine being one soldier in a great army that is at war. “You’re with a group of soldiers stationed far from home base in the hot desert. You have not had any supplies of food or water for two weeks. Two days ago you ran out of food and today your strictly rationed water supply will be gone. As you sit sweltering in the heat, thinking your army has all been killed and you will also die, someone spots a figure moving down the side of the mountain. As he gets closer, you see he is jogging! He must be well fed and have had plenty of water to drink. As he gets closer and closer, you make out that he is a friend. With tears you receive his news. Supplies are headed this way. In fact they're just on the other side of the mountain, and your army has won the war! Aren't you thankful for his feet that carried him and his good news? How lovely are the feet of the one who brings good news!”

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever been really excited about something? Maybe you had really great news that you couldn't wait to share! Maybe you wanted to tell everyone you knew about something terrific that happened to you personally, or maybe it was something you heard. Paul felt this way about the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he wanted everyone to know God's plan of salvation for them. We too, should be excited about sharing the gospel with others, it is the most exciting and wonderful news anyone can hear and God wants everyone to know. **We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

ROMANS 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' "(that is, to bring Christ down from above)

or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' "(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? "The word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

Paul had a real desire for the people of Israel to know Jesus and be saved. As we begin this passage Paul is expressing his concern and love for them. His prayer was that the Jewish people would be saved. They had an enthusiasm for honoring God, but they didn't understand that Christ died to make them right with God. Instead they were trying to gain favor with God by keeping the Jewish laws and customs, but that's not God's way of salvation. The Jews didn't understand about God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ and that is why they kept trying to establish their own through keeping the law. But Jesus fulfilled the law by living a sinless life, and then He gave His life in payment for the penalty of sin and the broken laws. Christ has done everything necessary for salvation. The Bible tells us what is necessary for us in Romans 10:9 **We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

Just as Paul had a burden for the Jewish people to know Jesus and to be saved, we too should have a burden for those who don't know Jesus. We are told in the Bible that God desires for everyone to be saved. He wants us to share the good news with others.

ROMANS 10:11-21

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?"

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will anger you by a foolish nation."

But Isaiah is very bold and says: "I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Paul goes on to say that no one who believes in Christ will ever be disappointed. God will save ALL that call upon His name. God promises that everyone who prays in faith to Him will be saved and richly blessed. Paul explains that faith comes from hearing the Word of God, and the Word of God has been told to the ends of the earth, so everyone will hear it.

Unfortunately, even though everyone will hear the Word of God some will still reject it. That was the problem with the Jewish people. They were rejecting God's plan of salvation, when God had made it so clear to them. God told them that **We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

We can be encouraged knowing that God will never disappoint us. Other people might disappoint us and some situations might disappoint us, but God will never disappoint us. God not only wants to save us, but He wants to bless us too if we have faith in Him and are saved.

ROMANS 11:1-6

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,

"Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?

But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

The Jewish people thought that they were the only ones that God would save, and so when Paul was sharing with them that God shows no partiality between Jews and Gentiles and that He desires for all to be saved, they didn't understand this. They wondered if God was rejecting the Jewish people. Paul reminds them that He is a Jew, and that God has shown His kindness to all people. And if it is by God's kindness that we are saved, then it is not by being a good person. Because then the free gift of salvation would no longer be free. It isn't free if it has to be earned. The only thing that is required for us to be saved is to believe in Jesus and ask Him into our hearts. **We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

It's good to know that we don't have to work at being saved, and that God doesn't show any favoritism, but loves all of us and wants to show kindness to everyone. He wants everyone to be saved and to receive His free gift of salvation. Have you received His free gift? God has made it very simple for us to come to Him. We don't have to do anything, just receive His gift.

Confessing Mouth

Let kids trace and cut out a big red mouth for confessing that Jesus is Lord. You may want to have it traced ahead of time for the younger kids.

Have them say the main point through the small hole in the lips.

ROMANS 11:7-12

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were hardened.

Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."

And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them;

"let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always."

I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

Even with all the information and facts given to them about God's plan of salvation for everyone, some of the Jews refused to receive God's truth. Paul explains that those who still reject God's truth will be spiritually blinded and deaf. In the Old Testament, King David said that for those who reject Christ, they would be like people who walk around with their backs bent carrying a heavy load. This doesn't mean that God has rejected the Jewish people forever, because His purpose is to make His plan of salvation open to the whole world. All He asks is that we believe in Him. **We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

Unfortunately people still reject God's plan of salvation, not just the Jews. God says that those who reject Him become spiritually blinded and deaf and their hearts become hard. It's like they're no longer able to hear or see God's truth and they end up carrying a heavy burden because they don't know the freedom that Jesus offers. He already paid for the burden of our sins, and He doesn't want us to be deaf, blind or burdened from sin or disbelief. He desires to save everyone.

ROMANS 11:13-21

For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.

For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,

do not boast against the branches. But if you boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."

Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.

For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

Paul explains that he is sent as a messenger by God to the Gentiles to offer to them what the Jewish people rejected (which is God's salvation.) Originally in the Old Testament, the Jewish people were God's chosen people. When the Jewish people rejected God's plan, He turned away from them for a time and offered His plan to the Gentiles, hoping that the Jews would want what they had and that they too would be saved.

Paul was so excited about how wonderful it would be for the Jewish people to become Christians. It will be like dead people coming back to life. He wanted the Gentiles to be careful not to brag about the fact that God had offered His salvation to the Gentiles first then the Jews, because that wasn't important. What mattered was that they were part of God's family, and that they believed in Christ. He warned them to be careful and not to be proud, but to be humble and grateful, because if God didn't spare the Jews from judgment for rejecting Him, then He wouldn't spare the Gentiles either.

ROMANS 11:22-36

Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, how much more will these, who are the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

"For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,

even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.

For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?

"Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?"

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Paul wanted them to notice how God was both kind and severe. God is hard on those who disobey, but very good to those who continue to love and trust Him. Paul reminds the Gentiles they once were rebels against God, and that when the Jewish people refused His gift God was merciful to the Gentiles. And now the Jews were the rebels, they had become enemies of the gospel. They hated it, but someday they too will share in God's mercy upon them. God still loves the Jewish people and will not withdraw His promises to save them, but they must believe in Jesus to be saved. **We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

God loved the Jewish people so much that even though they hated Him and rejected Him He still continued to love them and show mercy to them. He hasn't given up on them. If someone hates us or mistreats us it might be hard for us to love them, or to show mercy to them, but that's exactly what God wants us to do. In John 15:12 Jesus said that He commands us to "love each other as I have loved you." And in Matthew 5:44, Jesus tells us to love our enemies and to pray for them. Just as God has shown kindness and mercy towards us, He wants us to show kindness and mercy toward others.

Whoever Calls

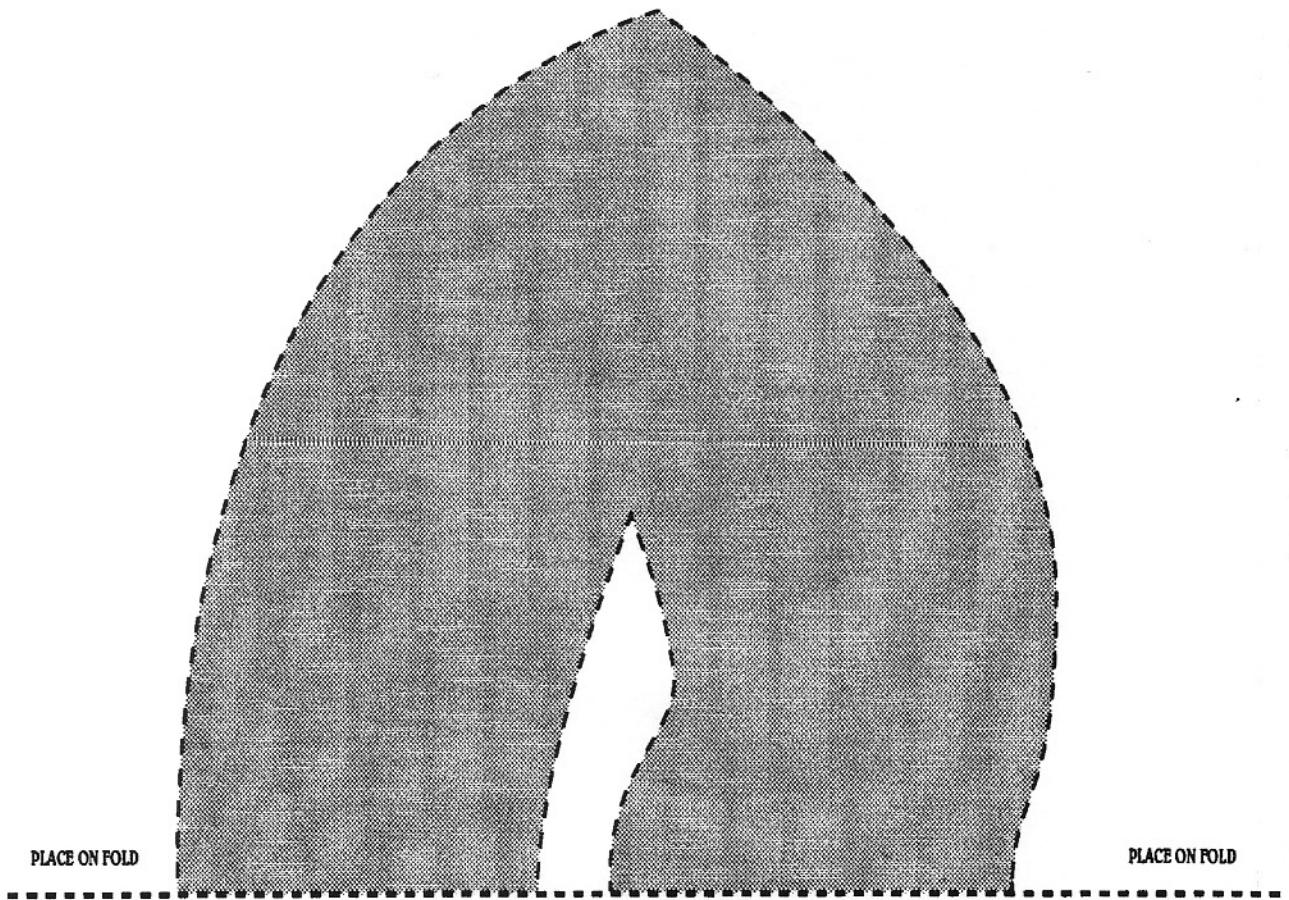
Make a tin can phone ahead of time by punching a hole in the bottom of each can then tying a very secure and somewhat large knot in the string after it has been threaded through the holes. The string should come out of the bottom of one can and go into the bottom of the other.

The teacher stands in the clubhouse holding one end of the phone and asks who would like to be in your special club. If someone would like to join you, have him pick up the other can and pull the string tight to call you. They must ask to be in the club. (If you are too nerdy, you will have to choose one of the kids to have the special club...but you must still oversee it to make sure that "whoever calls" may come in!) If they are older, you could make them try to guess for a while to see if they can figure out how to gain admittance into your special club. Relate to Romans 10:13 "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord..."

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonderful salvation bought for us by Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Confessing Mouth



1. CUT THIS TEMPLATE OUT OF STIFF PAPER OR CARDBOARD.
2. FOLD SHEET OF RED OR PINK CONSTRUCTION PAPER IN HALF.
3. PLACE TEMPLATE ON FOLD, TRACE.
4. CUT ON THE LINES, UNFOLD.

