Family Discipleship Guide

Romans 3:1-8 | Privilege Isn't Salvation

Big Idea:

Having God's Word is a great blessing, but only Jesus can save us. God's grace is never an excuse for sin.

Main Truth:

We can't trust in our background, our goodness, or our excuses. We must trust in Jesus.

1. Welcome & Icebreaker

Ask:

"What is an advantage you've been given?"

Examples:

- A coach who helped you learn a sport
- Parents who taught you something important
- An older sibling who showed you how something works
- A teacher who helped you succeed

Follow up:

Did that advantage guarantee success, or did you still have to make your own choices?

Explain:

Having an advantage is a blessing, but it doesn't do the work for you.

That's exactly what Paul is teaching in Romans 3.

2. Read God's Word

Read *Romans 3:1-8* together.

For younger children, summarize:

God gave His people the Bible and many blessings. Those blessings were good, but they couldn't save people. People still needed to trust God. Some people thought God's grace gave them permission to sin, but Paul said that is never true.

3. Dig Into the Passage

Question 1:

What advantage did the Jewish people have?

Answer: They were entrusted with God's Word.

Discuss:

- They knew who God was.
- They knew God's promises.

- They had God's truth.

Family Discussion

What advantages has God given our family?

Possible answers:

- A Bible
- Church
- Christian friends
- Parents and grandparents who love Jesus
- Access to Christian books and teaching

Remind everyone:

These are wonderful gifts from God.

Question 2:

Does having those advantages automatically make someone right with God? **No.**

Explain:

A person can:

- Attend church
- Know Bible stories
- Memorize verses

And still need Jesus.

Just like knowing about a doctor doesn't heal you, knowing about Jesus isn't the same as trusting Him.

Question 3:

What happens when people are unfaithful? Does God stop being faithful? **No.**

Romans 3 teaches:

God remains:

- Holy
- Good
- Loving
- Faithful

Even when people fail.

Ask:

Can you think of a time when you failed at something?

After everyone shares, remind them:

Our failures never change God's character.

Question 4:

Does God's grace give us permission to sin? **Absolutely not.**

Explain:

Imagine a child breaks something valuable.

A loving parent forgives them.

Would that mean the child should intentionally break more things? **Of course not!**

Forgiveness should lead us to love and obey more, not less.

4. Object Lesson

The Flashlight and Map

You'll need:

- A flashlight (or phone light)
- A map, directions, or piece of paper

Turn off the lights if possible.

Ask:

Would a flashlight help you find your way in the dark? **Yes**.

Then ask:

Can the flashlight walk for you? **No.**

Explain:

God's Word is like a flashlight.

It shows us:

- Truth
- The right path
- Who God is

But the Bible points us to Jesus.

The light shows the path, but we still must follow Christ.

Read *John 5:39*:

"These are the very Scriptures that testify about me."

5. Family Application

Ask everyone:

- For Younger Kids
- What did you learn about God tonight?
- Why do we need Jesus?
- How can we thank God for giving us His Word?

For Older Kids & Adults:

- Are you relying on your relationship with Jesus or simply your religious background?
- Have you ever treated God's grace casually?
- Is there a sin God is calling you to repent of?
- How can you make better use of the privilege of having God's Word?

6. Family Challenge for the Week

Choose one:

Option 1

Read one chapter of Romans together each night.

Option 2

Memorize *Romans 3:4*a

"Let God be true, and every human being a liar."

Option 3

Each day thank God for one spiritual blessing He has given your family.

Examples:

- A Bible
- Church family
- Christian friends
- Parents who pray
- The gospel

Closing Prayer

"Father, thank You for giving us Your Word. Thank You for the privilege of knowing You and hearing Your truth. Help us never trust in our background, our religion, or our own goodness. Help us trust in Jesus alone. Thank You that You remain faithful even when we fail. Teach us to love Your grace and never use it as an excuse for sin. Help our family follow You this week. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Key Takeaway

Having God's Word is a wonderful advantage, but our greatest need isn't more information, it's a Savior. Jesus is the One we need.