

Lesson 4.3: Romans Road- Becoming Friends with God

Topic: Peace with God

Subtopic: Becoming Friends with God

3c- Reconciliation and Peacemaking

3a – Made New in Christ Jesus

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to explain the diagram about salvation.

**Attitude:** Students will want to become Friends with God by trusting in Jesus.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

Romans Road Illustration – Diagram A

Peace Circles Chart

*Optional* index cards

References: Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8 and 10:9

Memory Verse: Begin learning the four verses from Romans. Romans 3:23

### Teacher Activities

**Introduction:** Ask someone to give the definition of peace. Last week we learned that Adam and Eve hid from God after they sinned. How do we try to hide from God? When we sin and avoid God, how do we feel? Today we will learn how to change that by making peace with God and becoming God's friend.

**Bible Story:** Explain the way to be reconciled with God using the verses from Romans and the illustration below. *See Teacher's Notes*  
Review the Peace Circles from last week.

**Application:**  
Find a partner and pretend that your partner wants to become a friend of God and needs you to explain the illustration and verses from Romans to him or her.

**Evaluation:**  
Do students understand the illustration and verses in Romans? Do they show a desire to be friends of God?

### Student Activities

**Introduction:** "Peace is harmonious living and respect for human life through God's guidance."  
We avoid God by not going to church or reading the Bible, by keeping busy or by thinking about other things. Sin makes us feel lonely and guilty.

**Bible Story:** After the teacher has explained the Romans Road illustration students will copy the verses and the illustration into their exercise book.

**Application:**  
Students will explain the illustration and verses to a friend.  
If anyone expresses an interest in becoming a friend of God, pray with them privately.

**Evaluation:** Were students able to explain the illustration?

### Extension Activities:

1. *Share your story:* If you are a Christian, share about when you asked God to forgive your sins OR invite a pastor or Christian friend to share their story with the class.
2. *Pantomime:* Continue the pantomimes you started in the first lesson. Groups of 2-3 students act out one way friends are good to each other without talking. The class guesses how they are being friends.
3. *Memory Verse:* Practice Romans 3:23 by going around the room. Have the first child say the first verse, second child the second verse, and so on. Repeat the verse until everyone has had a turn. *Optional index cards:* Have students write the verse on one side of 3"x5" index card and the reference on the other side. Repeat for all four verses. Have them practice saying the verses by looking at the reference and then flipping the card over to see if they did correctly.

### Notes for Teacher

This is a very important lesson. You will be reviewing many very important Biblical concepts for this lesson. Review the notes below until you can comfortably explain the illustration. Be sensitive to students who want to pray to be forgiven and become friends of God. Find a time to pray to with them privately.

Key Point: If you confess Jesus as your Lord and believe in your heart that God sent Jesus to die for your sins, you can be reconciled with God and become His friend.

Introduction: Before starting on this lesson, review the definition of peace we learned in the last lesson. "**Peace is harmonious living and respect for human life through God's guidance.**" A chart with this definition could be posted in the room where everyone can see it.

Romans Road Illustration: Below is a detailed explanation of the Romans Road Illustration. The bold type is what the teacher would say. Read it through several times until you are comfortable presenting it to the students. You could have a different student read each verse. Then ask the questions. Make sure someone gives the correct answer before going on

**Today we will learn how we can have our sins forgiven and become Friends with God.** Have a student read Romans 3:23. [Draw the pictures to illustrate the meaning of the verses as you read. See *Diagram A* that accompanies this lesson. On the board draw two cliffs with a pit in between. Write God on the right and draw a man and a woman—stick figures—on the left.] **The man and woman feel lonely and separated from God because of their sin.**

**2. There are several verses in the Bible in the book of Romans that tell us how to be forgiven for our sin. They are sometimes called The Romans Road to Salvation.**

Read Romans 6:23 – **What does this verse mean?** (Those who are not forgiven for their sins will face the anger of God when they die. They will go to hell and face eternal punishment. But God offers a free gift – a way to escape from sin and from God's anger—that is Jesus Christ. [Draw flames in the pit to represent eternal punishment.]

3. Read Romans 5:8-10 – **Why does it matter to us that Jesus died on the cross?** (He faced the anger of God, the punishment for sin, so we wouldn't have to. We can be forgiven because of what Jesus did. Verse 9 says we are saved from the anger of God by the blood of Jesus.) [Draw the cross as a bridge.] **On one side of bridge we are lonely and separated from God. On the other side of the bridge we are close to God and He is there to help us all the time. We don't have to face anything alone ever again. We are friends with God.**

4. Read Romans 10: 9-10 – **Every person has a choice. We can continue sinning and hiding from God. We can continue feeling lonely and separated from God and know we will face God’s anger and punishment when we die OR we can repent and go in a different direction. Repent means to turn around.** (Demonstrate by walking in one direction and then say, “If I repent, I turn around.” Then turn and walk in the other direction.) **If I stop sinning and decide to turn around** (turn around as you say this and walk in the opposite direction) **and be God’s friend, then I am going towards God instead of away from him. Remember we said that obeying God means we trust him. We do what he tells us to because we know He loves us and wants the best for us.**

5. **Remember last week we learned who God’s friends are. Do you remember the verse from John?** (Have someone repeat John 15:14: “You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.”)

6. **When someone decides they want to follow Jesus they show that by telling God they want to change. If you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and you want to obey God and be His friend, you tell him that in prayer. You can pray something like this:**

*Jesus, I know I have sinned and done things I should not have done. I am sorry and want to do what is right. Thank you for your forgiveness. I am going to obey you. Amen.*

Read Romans 10:10. **This verse says if you pray and believe you are forgiven, you will be saved. This is what makes you a Christian—when you repent (turn around) and decide to be friends with God.** [Draw a stick person crossing the bridge.] **Some people say they are Christians but if they have not turned away from sin, asked Jesus to forgive them, and now trust and obey God, they are not really friends of God.**

8. **God knows you may make mistakes and sin again even though you are trying to obey. He will forgive you again if, in your heart, you are really sorry and will try not to do it again. He looks at your heart and knows what you are really thinking and feeling and if you really want to be His friend. He wants you as His friend as much as you want to be His friend. He loves you and will help you.**

9. **The most important decision you will make is: do you want to be friends with God by trusting Jesus?** You may want to have a few minutes of silence for students to think about this and possibly pray a silent prayer.

Peace Circles: Have a student explain the peace circles as a review.

**Where does peace start?** (It starts between you and God. It starts when you make peace in your heart by asking Jesus to forgive your sins. )

**How does that change you?** (You are not angry, afraid and lonely anymore because you know God loves you.)

**How does that make it easier to live peacefully with others?** (You are loved so you can love others; you are forgiven so you can forgive others. The God of righteous and justice is your friend so you try to live in a way that is righteous and just.)

