**Week 1**

**Email 1: What We Learned This Week**

**Romans (Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23)**

**Brite Idea: Jesus is greater than our sin.**

Paul, a follower of Jesus, wrote the book of Romans to help the church at Rome understand the Gospel message. Paul shared with the believers about God’s amazing grace—how He loved us so much that He made a way for us to be saved and receive the gift of eternal life. God sent Jesus to die for us and pay the price of our sins. Whoever trusts in Jesus receives God’s grace and a restored relationship with Him both now and forever.

From the beginning, God has loved people and desired to be in a relationship with them. When this relationship was broken by the disobedience of the people He loved, God did not give up on them. Instead, He made a plan to restore the broken relationship. By sending His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for sin, God made a way for people to again experience close relationship with Him. This relationship would be something that those who trusted Jesus could experience both now and for eternity.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)*

**Week 1**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Is There More Than One Way to Go to Heaven?**

Many people believe we work our way to heaven.The default for most people, even when we know Jesus, is a works-based approach to our faith. Combine this with the plurality of religious beliefs kids are exposed to, and kids can be confused about salvation. In this week’s lesson, kids learn God provided a way for us to be saved by faith in Jesus. Some kids may have heard that everyone who is good goes to heaven. Some may have heard all religions are the same. Encourage your kids to talk about what they have heard. Gently correct theology.. Avoid sounding judgmental by pointing to Scripture and being cautious with broad statements. Remind kids that only God knows individuals’ hearts and He gives us the big job of sharing His truth with others.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss it at home:***

**Discuss:** Have you ever heard someone say something like, “All paths lead to God”? What would that mean?

**Discuss:** Have you ever heard kids talk about other ways that people can go to heaven?

**Discuss:** What does God have to say about that?

**Say:** Some people say that if God loves everyone, He will make many paths to get to Him. Some people think all gods and religions are ultimately the same and if you just believe in anything, you will go to heaven. All of that sounds good, but the truth is we can only go to heaven when our sin is removed. There are no other paths that remove our sin. Being good doesn’t remove our sin because we will always sin more. No one else sacrificed to pay for our sin. We need grace and forgiveness. That only comes through Jesus. The most loving thing we can do for the people is to tell them the truth about how God has made a way for them to be with Him.

**Week 2**

**Email 1: What We Learned This Week**

**Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18)**

**Brite Idea: God is greater than evil.**

Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians while under house arrest in Rome. Paul had been arrested for preaching about Jesus, but he knew that his real battle wasn’t with the officials. Paul told the Ephesians that we are in a battle with the devil and his spiritual forces that want to stop God’s plan in the world. He taught that believers must put on the armor of God. We can only fight against the devil’s schemes in God’s power and with His spiritual weapons. While we may battle evil, God is greater!

Way back in Genesis 3, God told Satan that one day there would be One whose heel Satan would bruise but that the One would crush Satan’s head. Though Satan thought he had won when Jesus died on the cross, Jesus defeated death and evil when He rose from the dead. One day, Jesus will return to earth and will make all things new, including destroying the devil and evil forever. Until then, we can know that He is stronger than anything that comes our way. He is our true armor. Jesus is greater!

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)*

**Week 2**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Is Evil Real?**

Many of us grew up with the devil pictured as a cartoon in a red suit with a pitchfork or as a terrifying force in a horror movie. Discussing evil with kids can be challenging because we don’t want to frighten them. Because there is so much confusion in the world, kids must develop a biblical worldview of who Satan is and an understanding that evil is very real. In this week’s Brite lesson, kids learn that God is greater than all evil. While we should be aware and prepared to fight the enemy, we do not have to live in fear.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss it at home:***

**Discuss:** How is “evil” usually shown in movies or shows you have watched?

**Discuss:** Do you feel some kids might think evil is just pretend or made up by movies? Why would they think that?

**Discuss:** What do you think God has to say about that?

**Say:** Some people don’t believe evil is real or they think of the devil as a cartoon who is the opposite of God. Most people don’t really understand the devil is real. While they may picture him as a guy with a pitchfork, the Bible tells us he is dangerous. First Peter 5:8 tells us: *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* However, the devil is not equal to God. He is tricky, and one of his tricks is to make the world think he isn’t real or isn’t that bad. It is important to know what the Bible says about evil so we know how to stand up against it.

**Week 3**

**Email 1: What We Learned This Week**

**Living Hope (1 Peter 1–5; 2 Peter 3)**

**Brite Idea: God is greater than our suffering.**

Peter wrote a letter to churches where believers were scattered through the Roman Empire. The believers were being persecuted for following Jesus. Paul assured them that Jesus is our living hope. When we suffer for doing good, our faith grows stronger. We can trust God because we find our hope in Him.

The perfect world God created was broken by sin. As a result, we will all face painful circumstances. Jesus gives us hope no matter what is happening around us. When we believe that He died on the cross and rose from the grave, turn from our sins and trust Him for forgiveness we can have eternal life with Him. Every person must make this choice for themselves. We know that one day He will make all things new, and there will be no more sadness or pain. He is our hope!

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)*

**Week 3**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Persecution**

Millions of Christians experience significant persecution in the countries in which they live, including kidnapping, jail and even loss of life. Believers around the world risk their lives by following the one true God. American children are not facing this level of persecution, but our post-Christian culture is certainly less friendly to believers. As culture continues on this pathway, our challenge to build resilient disciples is crucial. In this week’s lesson, kids learn that our true hope is found in Jesus and that sometimes we share in His suffering. Lead your kids to pray for believers around the world who experience daily persecution.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss it at home:***

**Discuss:** Have you heard about countries where people are treated badly for believing in Jesus?

**Discuss:** Why would people mistreat Christians?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** There are people all over the world who are hurt or put in jail because they believe in Jesus. Another word for this is “persecution.” In some countries around the world, Christians are harmed every day. Most of us do not have to live in fear because we follow Christ, but we may encounter times where we are treated differently because of our faith or when we must make some hard choices to honor Jesus when no one else is. In Matthew 5 Jesus says we are blessed when we are persecuted. He told the people that persecution happened to the Old Testament prophets and it would keep happening. We know people persecuted Jesus too. We can remember that God is with us. We can continue to live for Him and share His love because we are not alone, even if we are treated badly. We can also pray for believers all over the world who face true persecution, risking their lives to follow Jesus.

***Additional Resource:*** [***www.persecution.com***](http://www.persecution.com)

**Week 4**

**Email 1: What We Learned This Week**

**Philemon (Philemon 1)**

**Brite Idea: God is greater than our circumstances.**

Onesimus was a slave who escaped from his slave owner, Philemon. After Onesimus escaped, he made his way to Rome, where he met Paul. Paul was a prisoner in Rome. He was arrested after preaching about Jesus. Paul shared with Onesimus about Jesus, and Onesimus trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Paul wrote Philemon a letter, asking for kindness for Onesimus.

Paul’s offer to pay Onesimus’ debt is a beautiful picture of what Jesus did for us. We were all slaves to sin and we owed a debt we couldn’t pay. Romans 6:23 says: *the wages of sin is death.* Though He never sinned and didn’t deserve punishment, Jesus died on the cross, paying the debt for our sin.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)*

**Week 4**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is growing in our culture, and our younger generations are likely most in touch with it. Technology on its own can’t be evil, but in a broken world technology such as AI can certainly be used in evil ways. Technology changes too quickly for us to simply give kids a list of do’s and don’ts. Rather, we can help them learn to be discerning—knowing God’s Word well enough that they can evaluate technology biblically. When kids bring up topics about artificial intelligence, ask them questions such as “What have you heard about that?” or “What do you think?” or “How does that fit in with God’s Word?” Help kids begin to think about cultural topics on their own while guiding them to God’s truth.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss it at home:***

**Discuss:** Have you ever used artificial intelligence (AI) for anything or seen it in videos or movies?

**Discuss:** What is cool about it? What is scary about it?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** Technology by itself isn’t necessarily good or evil, but rather it can be based on how people use it. Artificial intelligence can be a helpful tool for research and advancements in many areas. If AI is used for cheating or hurting others or trying to do things outside of God’s way, that is sin and something we should avoid. We should always rely on God’s wisdom above any information or advice from artificial sources. AI will continue to grow and change, becoming even more present in our world. We must continue to be discerning — thinking about things through God’s point of view. Philippians 1:9-10 says: *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.*

**Week 5**

**Email 1: What We Learned This Week**

**Jesus’ Return (Revelation 1, 21, 22)**

**Brite Idea: God will make all things new.**

John was sent to the Greek island of Patmos as punishment for spreading the good news of Jesus. While in exile, an angel appeared to John. The angel showed him visions, gave instructions and encouraged believers. John recorded what he was shown, including how Jesus will return and God’s new heaven and new Earth. Because of Jesus, we can have eternal life with God in heaven.

God had a perfect plan from before the world was created. His perfect creation was broken by sin, but He sent His son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead to make a way for us to be forgiven. And one day, His plan will be completed when Jesus returns and the world is restored to God’s original perfection. When we believe in Jesus and trust in Him as our Savior, we can live forever with God where there is no more brokenness, no more pain and no more tears. We can live in His perfect presence forever.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. (Psalm 103:19)*

**Week 5**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - The End of the World**

Many of us have grown up watching movies that depicted scenarios of the end of the world that include asteroids, aliens and even zombies. According to a 2022 survey, 39 percent of American adults believe that we are living in the end times. In this week’s lesson, kids learn more about how Jesus will return one day and bring about a new heaven and new earth. The unknowns, combined with cultural influence, can make this a frightening concept for some kids. Help kids discuss this with excitement, not dread or fear. Jesus will come to make everything new again and take away everything broken. Revelation does share scary things that will happen in the end times, but it is a book filled with hope with the repeated message that Jesus is coming back to make all things new and that God will be with His people.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss it at home:***

**Discuss:** Have you ever watched a movie about the end of the world? What happened?

**Discuss:** Why do you think people may be scared about the world ending?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** You may have seen movies that were about the end of the world. Maybe the world was going to be destroyed by zombies, evil villains, disasters or even aliens.The Bible is clear that our world will come to an end one day. But we don’t have to be afraid of zombies or something else strange! God has a perfect plan and will make all things new with a perfect new heaven and earth. We don’t know when Jesus will return, but we can trust that God is in complete control. It will be a good thing for followers of Jesus because we know there will be no more pain or sadness or death when we are living in eternity with God.