TOTAL VICTORY
eight sessions on Romans 8

Primary School Groups
Lunchtime Group Resources
The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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Welcome

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

What’s Inside?

- 9 sets of leader’s notes for regular meetings. The leader’s notes provide an aim, fun activity, guidelines for an interactive talk as well as prayer, memory verse and song ideas.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the ‘CRU School Groups’ logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

Before You Start

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders requests each school or church purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and talk before the group meets.
- A variety of video clips and other resources are used in this series. All resources, including video clips, should be checked before the meeting to make sure they are appropriate for your group and there are not technical problems. The resources can be accessed from the Web Extras section of the CRU website:
  
  www.crusaders.edu.au/school-ministry/resources/web-extras/

- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the fun activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- All suggested songs are linked to the theme of the talk. The intention of including a wide variety of songs from different CDs is so that you have options if your group enjoys singing - please do not feel it necessary to buy every CD listed. The CDs listed are available in Christian bookstores and many include sheet music.
- Several meetings involve volunteer students eating confectionery and other food. Please take care to ensure that this food is suitable for students in your group, particularly considering allergies.
- Note that the outreach meeting (Week 2) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs to be done.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God’s work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me.”

Colossians 1:28–29
## Total Victory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Main Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Who Can Please God?</td>
<td>Romans 8:5-8</td>
<td>Without Jesus, our sin makes us unable to please God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Set Free Outreach Week</td>
<td>Romans 8:2-3</td>
<td>Jesus is the only one who sets us free from sin and death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No Condemnation</td>
<td>Romans 8:1</td>
<td>Jesus frees us from all condemnation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Members of the Family</td>
<td>Romans 8:14-17a</td>
<td>God makes us His children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Suffering Will End</td>
<td>Romans 8:17-21</td>
<td>Hard times will come but it will be worth it in the end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>God's Perfect Recipe</td>
<td>Romans 8:28-30</td>
<td>God is working in all circumstances to enable us to be more like Jesus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>On Our Side</td>
<td>Romans 8:31-32</td>
<td>We can be confident that God is on our side.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Never Let Go</td>
<td>Romans 8:38-39</td>
<td>God’s love is always guaranteed for His people.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 1  Leader’s Notes  Romans 8:5-8

**Aim**

To help students to see that without Jesus our sin makes us unable to please God.

**Prepare**

- Pray as you prepare that God’s will might be done and the students are drawn closer to Him.
- Read through Romans 8:5-8 familiarising yourself with the context and content of the passage.
- Bring some prizes for the fun activity - optional.
- Bring some strong cable ties and a remote control without batteries.

**Intro**

Tell your group that over the next term you’re going to be looking at one chapter of the Bible. That chapter is Romans 8. It may sound strange spending a whole term looking at just one chapter of the Bible but this chapter is one amazingly, exciting chapter of the Bible that’s so full of good stuff it’s going to take a whole term to be able to properly explore all the great things that are in it.

**Fun Activity**

Handcuff Push-ups

Explain to the group that today you are running a push up challenge. The aim of this challenge is to do 10 push-ups. Whoever can do 10 push-ups in one minute will get a prize. Ask for three volunteers.

While the volunteers will think it’s easy, tell them there is just one small catch. At that point take your cable ties and bind their hands together behind their back. Now tell them to do their push-ups. It should be quite amusing for everyone else to watch your volunteers struggling on the ground trying to do push-ups with no arms. Be sure to spend a bit of time encouraging them to do better and work harder because push-ups are easy.

When the minute is up carefully cut the volunteers loose. You may want to give them all a prize for participating.

**Read**

Explain that in today’s passage Paul talks about how people who are not friends with God are unable to please God. No matter how hard they try, it’s impossible. It’s like someone trying to do push-ups with their hands tied behind their back. They can try all they want, but they will never succeed until someone frees them.

Read Romans 8:5-8

**Short Talk**

A - The Wrong Power Source

Show the group the remote without batteries. Ask the group what the remote can be used for, what the best things are about remotes and what life would be like without remotes.

Now show the group the remote’s battery housing. Ask the group if they still think the remote is good. When they say no, ask them why not. It can, theoretically, do all the same things, it still has all the same buttons and it’s still a remote control. But it actually can’t do anything and will never achieve what it was meant to achieve because it doesn’t have a power source.

Explain that in today’s passage, in verse eight, the Bible says that people who don’t know Jesus cannot
please God, because they do not have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a bit like the batteries in the remote. The only way we can do what we were made to do (that is, live for God) is if we have the right power source motivating us, the Holy Spirit. (Of course the Holy Spirit is also much more than just a power source.) Someone who doesn’t know God may look similar to a Christian and they may be able to do many of the same things, but their power source is wrong. In fact, the Bible says their power source is their selfishness and wrong desires. Only through the Holy Spirit can we please God. But you can only have the Holy Spirit leading you when you know, love and follow Jesus.

B - Good things, Bad motives

Ask the group, if God asks people to love Him and others, why would He not be pleased when people who are not followers of Jesus do good things and love other people.

Tell the group that when you don’t follow Jesus, you are rejecting God, and saying to God that you don’t need Him and don’t love Him. This is what verse 7 is talking about when it says we cannot obey God, because our desires fight against Him.

Imagine someone making you an ice cream while saying to you: “I hate you” or “You’re nothing to me.” Would you be happy when they gave you the ice cream, knowing that they hated you? You might think the ice cream tasted nice but you would feel sad that the person hated you. No matter how nice the ice cream was you would still not be pleased.

That’s what we are like before we meet Jesus. We might do good things but they aren’t pleasing to God when they come from a bad place. God is not happy when good things come from people who are rejecting Him.

Tell the group that we were made to please God, but if we want to be able to do that, we must put our trust in Jesus. Otherwise the things we do wrong and our rejection of God will stop us from pleasing God. When we trust Jesus we are forgiven for our sin and we show that we love God, because we love what He has done for us in Jesus. Accepting Jesus as your King and Saviour is how you show this love. Also when we trust Jesus, God promises in the Bible that we will receive the Holy Spirit. Then we will have the right power source to do good things out of love for God and we can please Him.

Challenge the group to be thanking God that He has allowed them to trust in Jesus so that they might be able to please Him. Challenge them to tell their friends about Jesus too.

PRAYER

Have your group divide into small groups to thank God for Jesus and the people who have helped them know Jesus better. Encourage them to pray for others they know to trust Jesus.

SONG IDEA

I Believe in Jesus - Super Strong God - Hillsong Kids
Praise Crazy - Praise Crazy - Johnny Burns