



Stand "Alone" - November 1

Parents: Our children will be exposed to the world view of many—that we are born good and if we haven't done too many bad things we'll end up in heaven. Our kids may even feel alone by disagreeing with this view. Let's go to the source of truth, the Bible, and take a look at what Paul says in Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Is this a hopeless situation? No, not at all because we have grace and forgiveness in Jesus.

Read: Romans 3:19-28 **9** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. **20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. **21** But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—**26** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. **27** Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. **28** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Discuss: What is the law? *They are the commands God gave the Israelites. They're found in the Old Testament. Can you name one of the Ten Commandments? You shall not steal. Honor your father and mother. Take a look at Exodus Chapter 20 for more.* What does it mean to be conscious, or aware, of our sin through the law? *It means that we realize we sometimes break the commandments.* Can anyone follow the law or commandments perfectly? *There's only one person that could.* Do you have an idea of who? *Jesus. So all (except Jesus) have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* What does this mean for us? *Even though Jesus didn't have any sin He died on the cross for your sin, my sin, and all of our sins. God forgave us through Jesus! That makes us want to love and serve Jesus out of a thankful heart for what He did.*

What will you say if someone says they're good and haven't done anything really bad. *Share that we all have sinned. The goodness we show is by the grace of Jesus.*

Key Point: Jesus Forgives Me

Jesus Forgives (Place pointer finger in center of opposite palm, flatten hand, clap hands together moving one in front)
Me (Point to your heart)

Family Activity: (This activity involves preparation. Purchase a balloon from the dollar store and have rocks, string, and scissors available.) Let's show our children how important it is to stay connected to Jesus. Here's what you can say, "Let's pretend this balloon is like our soul. A soul that loves Jesus is light and free. However, when we sin, the sin weighs us down." (Tie the strings with rocks to the balloon and watch how it brings the balloon down.) "How can we be free again and not be weighed down? Ask Jesus to forgive us" (take out the scissors and cut away the rock strings). "Jesus forgives us. Stay tied to Jesus and He will keep you free!"



Prayer: Dear God, I praise You for sending Jesus to save us. I confess that I make bad choices sometimes. Thank You for forgiving me and making me free from the burden of sin. Help me read your Word and pray to stay connected to You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

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Romans 3:23-24

