

# Word Aflame Teen

## Table of Contents

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor in Chief:** Robin Johnston

**Associate Editor, Curriculum:**

Lee Ann Alexander

**Student Editor:** Evan Zenobia

**Designers:** Chris Anderson,

Tim Cummings, Dennis Fiorini,

Elizabeth Loyd

### WRITERS

Jennifer Smith, Kyle Loyd, David Molina,

Rachel Thorne, Evan Zenobia

### DESIGN

**Layout:** Dennis Fiorini

**Cover Design:** Elizabeth Loyd

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**Teen Teacher's Manual**

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36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304--5616

Editorial	2
Theme Development	3
A Look at Next Quarter	back cover of the Teacher's Manual

## Unit 1: Letters to Rome

**Unit Aim:** Paul's letter to the Romans contains doctrinal, theological, and practical application about how we should live and interact with God and each other. This unit reveals how the righteousness of God can impact our daily lives.

<i>Week of</i> 03.05.2017	1 • The Struggle	4
03.12.2017	2 • The Truth	10
03.19.2017	3 • The Path to Righteousness	15
03.26.2017	4 • The Call	21

## Unit 2: The Easter Experience

**Unit Aim:** In our society the cross is commonly displayed but superficially understood. Easter is more than a legend. It is relevant not only on Easter Sunday, but throughout every day of our lives.

<i>Week of</i> 04.02.2017	5 • Journey to the Cross	26
04.09.2017	6 • Committed to the Cross	32
04.16.2017	7 • Victory at the Cross	39
04.23.2017	8 • Message of the Cross	44

## Unit 3: Beautiful Things

**Unit Aim:** Living in a generation programmed to determine its worth by pop-culture standards, teens can have a hard time realizing how valuable they are to the kingdom of God. This unit is designed to help teens understand the importance of being themselves, obtaining their identity from Christ, and seeing their worth through God's eyes.

<i>Week of</i> 04.30.2017	9 • Who Are You Meant to Be?	50
05.07.2017	10 • Christian Identity	55
05.14.2017	11 • What You Have to Offer	60
05.21.2017	12 • You Are Valuable	65

## Review Lesson

05.28.2017	13 • Quarterly Review: • Redeemed and Qualified for a Purpose	70
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# Editorial


by Evan Zenobia



**W**ith this new quarter comes new units, theme ideas, and challenges for our students to work through and learn from. And in much the same way I imagine you, our teachers, may have new questions too. First, there are three icons appearing frequently throughout the curriculum:

**The Gear Icon** : This icon denotes a suggested time for discussion or student/teacher input.

**The Pencil Icon** : This icon denotes a specific answer to a question within the student handbook or other student writing prompt.

**The Power Point Icon** : This icon denotes the use of the designated item within the power point slides provided with the lesson such as fill-in-the-blank answers or Bible verses.

Word Aflame curriculum is committed to the ministry of providing quality Apostolic resources to serve the church. As part of our ongoing quest to improve our resources, we have slowly introduced a new kind of format driven by a fresh focus on biblical foundations with a contemporary outlook that is as relevant as it is applicable.

I am thoroughly excited to report that on the heels of the previous Fall and Winter quarters, we have received great and informative feedback regarding Word Aflame as we

continue to try and innovate curriculum for today's Pentecostal classroom.

Though we have come a long way, we are committed to making changes we see fit, stemming from such wonderful feedback. We will continue to keep our users posted on any further developments.

Let me reiterate that we at the Pentecostal Publishing House are intent on not only improving our own efforts in creating new and relevant literature, but we are also committed to empowering, training, and educating our teachers. We understand that the key to discipleship and proper spiritual growth begins at a very young age. Especially when we consider the dropout rates and culture of high school and middle school students, we will continue to be active in creating materials that will train up these young people in the way they ought to live.

It is because of your feedback that we continue to strive for quality and positive changes. I would like to personally thank all of you who put time in to reflect on the changes and spoke with us regarding the future of Word Aflame. We welcome your feedback and hope that you will share with us your thoughts on this fresh direction. Thank you all for being a part of this exciting new chapter of Word Aflame!

ezenobia@upci.org

## CUSTOMIZE THE CURRICULUM

The Teen Teacher's Manual is available as PDF and DOC documents that can be customized to fit your teaching style, classroom setting, and schedule. Cut and paste, edit material out of or into the lesson, and make it your own using the following instructions.

Downloadable resources for both the teacher's manual and the teacher's resource packet (TRP) are available through access codes.

### Downloadable Resources

1. Visit [www.pentecostalpublishing.com](http://www.pentecostalpublishing.com) to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click *sign in* to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click *create an account* to open an account for the site.
3. Hover over the *view cart* menu link and click the *view cart* button.
4. Enter in the Coupon Code box on the screen and click *update cart*. (The file should display on the screen and reflect that the download comes at no charge.)
5. Click *continue* and then *submit order*. You will see a button with the name of the zip file. Click on this button to download the resource.
6. This coupon code will be valid for one year from the date of the first lesson.

### Teacher's Resource Packet

#### Downloadable Resources

To access the reproducible items from the resource packet (TRP), see the resource packet instruction sheet. If you have not purchased a packet, you can do so by going to [www.pentecostalpublishing.com](http://www.pentecostalpublishing.com) or calling 866-819-7667.

# Theme Development

## Unit 1: Letters to Rome

- This series is meant to convey an understanding of Paul's letters to the church at Rome, offer spiritual encouragement, and promote discussion on salvation and the path to righteousness.
- Consider the use of Roman-themed items such as pillars or the use of Romanesque backdrops.
- Consider a more generic theme for this series with the use of old books and repurposed wood for a rustic feel.
- Finally, consider the use of can or LED lighting to add ambiance to the room or stage.

## Unit 2: The Easter Experience

- This series is meant to convey the Easter message and place emphasis on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, as well as all that we as Christians gain from the events during the Passion Week.
- Consider a traditional approach to decorating with your normal Easter props.
- Consider the use of a cross and/or tomb.
- Consider a weekly transition to represent the lessons themselves, beginning with a court scene, then a cross, next a tomb scene, and finally a representation of the open tomb to signify resurrection.
- Finally, consider the use of Easter props and costumes for you and your helper, or if available, allowing your students to dress in provided robes to make it feel as if they are a part of the crowd during the Passion Week events.

## Unit 3: Beautiful Things

- This series is meant to convey understanding of personal worth and your respective place in the church. We all have gifts and talents, and even quirks, but we are all beautiful in God's sight and we serve a purpose for the Kingdom.
- Consider the use of art or beautiful landscapes to adorn the walls.
- Consider the use of ambient lighting with can or LED lights.
- Finally, consider putting up portraits of your students or including a picture taking station in your classroom. This may help to show the importance of your students and place emphasis on making them feel beautiful and valuable.

**Embark:** This opening section is meant to elicit discussion and promote activity to encourage the learning process of students while creating a fun and engaging atmosphere.

**Explore:** This section is the basis for the lesson with various biblical references, key points, as well as personal examples to effectively convey the big idea in a logical and practical manner.


**Expand:** This section is intended to provide a consolidated yet effective means of closure perpetuated by closing discussions, activities, or prayers.

# LESSON 1

# THE STRUGGLE

MARCH 5, 2017

## BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Romans 3:9–18, 23 

## BIBLE POINT

In Romans, Paul reminded us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are all products of a broken, fallen world, and we all desperately need God's righteousness.



## SUPPLIES

List of popular slogans, balloons, masking tape

### Legend:



PowerPoint Slide



Student Handbook



Activity

**Unit Aim:** Paul's letter to the Romans contains doctrinal, theological, and practical application about how we should live and interact with God and each other. This unit reveals how the righteousness of God can impact our daily lives.

## EMBARK

### A. Option 1 — A Culture of Indulgence


1. View Coca-Cola's list of slogans for the United States for the years 1886–2016 in the following article: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Coca-Cola\\_slogans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Coca-Cola_slogans)
2. Choose your favorites to read aloud to your class.
3. How many of these slogans were crafted to appeal to our desires?
4. These slogans are from a single company. Thousands more advertisements bombard us daily for every kind of product imaginable. Most of these ads use concepts that play to our desires, such as “Because you deserve nice things” or “You deserve a break today.”
5. Ask teens to give examples of slogans like this that they hear regularly.
6. We live in a culture that promotes indulgence. The culture says to take our fill of whatever we want. Instead of acknowledging that we are sinners who deserve death, we are encouraged to believe we deserve to indulge ourselves.





### B. Option 2 — Name That Slogan

1. Make a list of popular advertising slogans that appeal to our desires, such as “Have it your way,” “You deserve a break today,” or “It's my money, and I need it now.”
2. As you read the slogans, have the class compete to see who can correctly identify the most brands or products based on their slogans.
3. What is a common theme of these slogans?
4. As a group, discuss possible reasons why modern slogans tend to promote pampering yourself or indulging your desires. How is this different from how God wants us to live?


## EXPLORE

### A. Strong Words

1. Read Romans 3:9–18, 23. 



2. When you have to relay bad news to someone, do you try to sugarcoat your words? How many of you just tell it like it is? What are your reasons for your communication style? 
3. Paul did not have a habit of sugarcoating anything, and he used strong language when he reminded the Romans that they were all under sin.
4. Paul also did not mince words earlier in his letter in Romans 1 and 2.
  - a. In Romans 1, Paul described the sins and consequences of the unrighteous (Romans 1:18–32).
  - b. In Romans 2, Paul informed the church at Rome that it was guilty of some of the same sins it was judging others for (Romans 2:1–5).
  - c. Have you ever noticed someone criticizing another person for something they themselves were doing? Have you ever found yourself doing this? 
5. Paul made it clear that judging others for things you are doing is like storing up God’s wrath for yourself.
6. **While some people think God, in His love and patience, will put up with their sin, Paul said God’s kindness is actually meant to lead us into repentance.**  

## B. The Struggle



1. Read Romans 7:14–25. 

### Discussion

- *Have you ever found yourself doing something you hate doing, but you can’t seem to stop?*
  - a. Maybe you catch yourself snapping at your mom, though you’ve been trying to talk more respectfully to her.
  - b. Maybe you find yourself thinking, *I’ll give up sodas tomorrow*, as you unscrew the lid on a new bottle.
  - c. Maybe you’re prone to gossip, and you know God hates it, but you always seem to find yourself getting involved in the latest scoop anyway.
  - d. What other struggles with flesh do teens often deal with?

2. In Romans 7, Paul described a struggle between the spirit and the flesh. He said, “So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand” (Romans 7:21, ESV).
3. From the time Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree in the Garden, humanity has been enslaved to sin.
4. **Because we were born into sin, we struggle with our flesh—our selfish, carnal nature.**  
5. Though we were born sinful, we have no excuse to stay that way. Paul recognized that the battle between spirit and flesh was an issue that should be addressed.
6. As humans, we will face these conditions all our lives:
  - a. a war between our spirit and our flesh,
  - b. unrelenting temptation,
  - c. the ever-present influence of a sinful world that continually grows darker.

## C. Our Hope



1. Though we will always struggle with our flesh, we don't have to be discouraged, because the Holy Spirit is our hope.
2. **Because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, we have power to overcome sin through the Spirit.** 
  - a. The Holy Spirit sets us free from the dominion of sin.
  - b. The Holy Spirit helps guide us into wholesome decisions.
  - c. The Holy Spirit gives us strength when we face struggles with temptation.
  - d. The Holy Spirit causes us to crave the pure, holy ways of God.
  - e. The Holy Spirit troubles us when we override our convictions about sin.
3. If you're filled with the Holy Spirit, can you think of times when you made bad choices and you weren't happy until you repented? 
  - a. When we're filled with God's Spirit, making choices that go against His Word makes us uncomfortable.
4. It is God's goodness that leads us into repentance, so we won't be lost in eternity without Him.
  - a. This is one reason the basics of the Christian walk—prayer, fasting, and reading the Word—are so important.
  - b. Like going to the gym to build muscle, these are the disciplines that make us strong and fit in our spirits.

### A Full Spirit


1. Give each teen a deflated balloon. Tell teens you are going to read a list of instructions. Between each instruction, they are to hold their balloon closed to keep air from escaping. When teens blow into the balloon, they should blow one short, firm breath, no more than two seconds long.
2. Blow once into the balloon if you've read your Bible (other than in church or this class) anytime over the past 48 hours.
3. Blow once into the balloon if you've set aside time for prayer over the past 48 hours. (Blessing meals does not count.)
4. Blow twice into the balloon if you've fasted or abstained from anything over the past 48 hours in a direct effort to bolster your walk with God.
5. Let out some air if you haven't spent time in prayer over the past 48 hours.
6. Let out some air if you haven't read or studied the Word on your own over the past 48 hours.
7. Blow once into the balloon if you've witnessed to someone over the past 48 hours.
8. Let out some air if you've spent time engaging in any form of mindless, unproductive entertainment. This includes anything you've watched, read, listened to, or browsed on the Internet that had no spiritual value.
9. Let out some air if you lied about any of these statements.
10. Blow once into the balloon if you were tempted to lie about one of these statements but you didn't.

11. How does your balloon look? Though God is the only one who knows your heart or what your spiritual walk has truly been like over the past two days, this balloon may be a representation of how full your spirit is right now.
12. We should make it our goal to have a healthy spirit full of God's righteousness.

## D. The Righteousness of God


1. Throughout his letter to the Romans, Paul used the phrase "the righteousness of God." We are to walk and live in God's righteousness. 
  - a. What do you think that means? 
  - b. One of the simplest definitions of righteousness is that it is behavior that is morally right.
  - c. God's Word is the standard that determines what is right and holy.
  - d. God's righteousness is His perfection in measuring up to His own word: it is His perfection in every aspect of what He is.
2. We are to follow God in His righteousness, and yet on our own, there is no way we can ever hope to be righteous.
3. Thankfully, by the cleansing blood of Jesus and the continual indwelling of His Spirit in our hearts, when we stand before God, He will not see our shortcomings, but He will see Jesus' righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21).
4. Because of God's righteousness alive in us through the Holy Spirit, we are free from the power of sin.

## E. Temptation Abounds

1. Satan is the god of this world and the father of all lies (II Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44).
2. Under the influence of Satan, our culture tells us we deserve to feed our fleshly desires.
3. What are some examples of this that you see on a regular basis? 
  - a. No doubt, from the passenger's seat of a car, you've seen plenty of billboards that scream the world's agenda.
  - b. The most popular songs of our culture are about sex, drugs, and violence.
  - c. Unwholesome scenarios and themes litter movies and other entertainment options.
  - d. Video games normalize and desensitize us to the act of murder.
  - e. Advertisements glamorize sensuality and promote self-indulgence.
  - f. The mind-set of the age urges us to live without boundaries.
4. Those who will choose to live righteously in our world will face no shortage of opposition and temptation to go astray.

## F. Defending against Temptation

1. As Spirit-filled teens, we must practice being sensitive to the voice of God.
  - a. Read the Bible. It is the only place you'll find God's words and laws. It provides direction and counteracts falsehoods.

- b. Fast regularly. Fasting weakens the flesh and gives the spirit a boost. It's like taking a spiritual bath or cleaning out your spiritual ears—after fasting, you can hear God's voice better than before.
  - c. Pray for direction. Prayer builds relationship. Just as your friendships would fade away if you never saw or interacted with your friends, you cannot say you walk with God when you've had no prayer.
2. When we are in tune with God's Spirit, we are more likely and more empowered to make the right choices.
    - a. The more time we spend in prayer, in fasting, and in God's Word, the easier it is for us to recognize His voice when He speaks.
    - b. Sometimes when we think God is not speaking to us, it may just be that we have not yet learned to recognize His voice.
  3. Think of a time when you gave in to your flesh and did something you knew was wrong or stupid.
    - a. Were you at a place in your life where you were praying, fasting, and reading the Word regularly?
  4. Now think of a time when you resisted your flesh.
    - a. How strong was your prayer life? How much were you thinking on the Word?
  5. **Just like your physical health depends on proper nourishment and exercise, your spiritual health suffers or thrives depending on whether it's nourished through prayer, fasting, and the Word.** 

### A Struggle of Two Wills

1. Make a long line on your classroom floor with masking tape. Ask for three volunteers. One represents a Christian teen, one represents the strength of the flesh, and one represents the power of the Holy Spirit. The masking tape line represents the straight path we are to walk when following the Lord.
2. Have the volunteer who represents the Christian teen stand at the beginning of the line. The teen should try to walk the line across the room, staying on the tape, while the teen who represents the flesh walks beside him, applying pressure to push him off the line. The student representing the flesh should not shove the Christian, but he should apply firm, steady pressure.
3. The Christian teen must try his best to walk a straight line without stepping very far off the tape. How hard is this?
4. Now, have the Christian teen try again. This time, the teen who represents the power of the Holy Spirit should stand on the Christian teen's other side, applying the same pressure. The Christian teen may stumble and may not always stay directly on the line, but it should be much easier for him to walk the line without veering far off now that he has some balance.
5. When the power of the Holy Spirit is healthy in our lives, we are far less likely to veer off God's path.



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## EXPAND

### Prayer


1. *Invite those who have not received the gift of the Holy Spirit to respond to God's call.*
2. *Pray that teens would not neglect their spiritual duties and privileges as Christians and that they would be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit. Remind them that the only way they will ever avoid the lure of this world's temptation is to walk in God's righteousness.*

# LESSON 2


# THE TRUTH

MARCH 12, 2017

## BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Romans 4:1–5, 8 

## BIBLE POINT

God sees us as guiltless, not because of our own works, but because of the work of Christ on the cross. 

## SUPPLIES

Small crosses, paper (one sheet per teen) with a different word from the lesson written at the top of each one, pens or pencils, paper (one sheet per pair or small group), pens

### Legend:



PowerPoint Slide



Student Handbook



Activity

**Unit Aim:** Paul's letter to the Romans contains doctrinal, theological, and practical application about how we should live and interact with God and each other. This unit reveals how the righteousness of God can impact our daily lives.

## EMBARK

### A. Option 1 — What Does the Cross Mean to You?

1. Pass out small crosses.
2. What do you think of when you hear about the cross? What are some of the first images or ideas to come to mind?
3. Have you ever had a time in your life when you found special significance in the cross? Has there ever been a moment when what happened on the cross became incredibly real to you—more than just part of the Easter story?
4. Allow teens to discuss and define what the cross means to them.
5. To many, the cross is like a good luck charm: it's something they display in their homes, lockers, cars, or jewelry in hopes that it will somehow align them with Jesus and keep them safe.
6. To others, it's a trendy way they identify themselves as Christians. If being a Christian is cool at their school or among their peers, they display a cross where everyone will see it.
7. To others, the cross is a representation of what Jesus did for us so long ago: the cross has been defeated and Jesus has made a way for our sins to be washed clean and our spirits to come alive in newness, hope, and love.

### B. Option 2 — Word Association

1. Before class, prepare sheets of paper (one for each teen) with a word or short concept from the lesson written at the top of each one (e.g., paycheck, hard work, reward, grace, redeem, earnings, wages, gift, blessed, forgiven, pardon).
2. Hand one sheet to each teen, along with a pen or pencil. Each teen is to read the word on his or her paper and, directly underneath it, write the first word that comes to mind. Teens do not need to spend a lot of time overthinking their responses; there are no right or wrong answers.
3. Teens will then pass their papers to the left and repeat the process, this time using the last word that was written.
4. Repeat until each teen has his or her original paper back. Discuss how far removed or how closely related the end words are to the original words.