

# The Romans

## God is our Redeemer, Life and Peace

### Spiritual Awareness: God is Lord and King

God used the Roman civilization to prepare a way for the life of Jesus on earth. God's timing for sending Jesus was perfect. Through the Roman Empire, things were in place for the spread of the Gospel. The Romans had developed the means of transport by which the Gospel could be taken to other nations.

Although the Roman government was cruel and authoritarian, it was well organized. God used the Romans to achieve His purposes. In Biblical history we see other examples of governments that were used to achieve God's purposes. Joseph became ruler in Egypt and was used to provide for his family. Moses was brought up by Pharaoh's daughter. Esther was used to save God's people.

### Our response to 'God is our Redeemer'

Because God is my redeemer I will...  
Ask Jesus to forgive me for my sin  
Invite Him to live in my life  
Make Jesus Lord of my life  
Live with Him forever  
Thank Him for what He did on the cross  
Thank Him that I am His child  
Tell others that they can have eternal life

### Biblical references

Matthew 1:18-24; Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 1:1-21 - The Birth of Jesus  
Galatians 4:4 - When the right time finally came, God sent His own Son. He came as the son of a human mother...so we might become God's sons.  
Isaiah 9:6-7 - He will govern and reign.  
Luke 2 - Birth of Christ  
John 19-20 - The crucifixion  
Acts - The apostles take the gospel to other lands

### Key Questions

Who ruled Israel at the time of Jesus Christ?  
How did God use the Roman Government to make His plan come about?  
Why could we say that the time was right for the coming of Jesus?  
How did the Roman transport system help the spreading of the Gospel?

### Outcomes

Students will  
*Knowledge*

- show how God used the Roman civilization to prepare a way for the coming of Jesus

- gain an understanding of the Roman government, army, religion and transport system
- show how the Gospel was spread, with transport technology in place

#### *Skills*

- pose questions
- research
- order events in chronological order
- collate and record data

#### *Values*

- trust in God's plan for us
- trust that God is in control

### **Activities**

- Make a list of the Roman Emperors, in chronological order, and relate this to the New Testament. Find out which emperor ruled when Jesus was born, when Jesus was crucified.
- Use a concordance to find Biblical reference to the following: King Herod, Caesar, Pilot, Felix, Festus, King Agrippa.
- Find out the names of the countries that were ruled by the Roman Empire in New Testament times. Compare this with countries ruled towards the end of its reign.
- Research the way in which the Roman government was organized.
- Find out about home life in Roman times and look for similarities with home life of Jesus.
- Dress up in Roman costume.
- Write a report on the preserved city of Pompeii after the eruption of Vesuvius. What can we learn?
- Research Roman religion and explain why this was a challenge to early Christian missionaries.
- Research the Roman army. List the lands they conquered and find reference to Roman soldiers in the Bible.
- Trace the development of Roman transport. Describe construction of roads, bridges and aqueducts. Explain how transport created excellent links between provinces of the Empire.
- Trace Paul's sea voyages. Draw different types of Roman ships.
- Study examples of Roman art. Try making some mosaics.
- Read about the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Research information on the amphitheatre, the persecution of Jesus' followers, and way in which persecution strengthened their faith.
- Research the way in which the early church functioned in secret, using secret signs.

### **Assessment**

1. Present information on one aspect of life in Roman times, e.g. home life, recreation, travel/transport, government

2. What have I learned from the study of the Romans...  
about God?  
about way in which God used the Roman civilization to carry out His  
master plan?

**Related Building Blocks Unit:** Government