

Romans Road for Children

Course Syllabus for CMI Online

I. Course description

The *Romans Road* is a method of presenting the message of salvation that has been successfully used for many years to lead people to Christ. In this course, students will learn how to use this method to share the Gospel in a simplified way with children. Through lectures, online class interaction, demonstrations and practice, students will gain confidence in their ability to share the truths of the Gospel using the *Romans Road*. Practical experience will be gained through using this tool with children, enabling students to effectively lead children to Christ.

II. Rationale

Welcome to the *Romans Road for Children*! During the next three weeks you will learn how to use a simple tool to effectively share the message of salvation and lead children to Christ. This course will cover the rationale for leading children to Christ, foundational truths of the Gospel, and how to express those truths in a child's language.

Before we begin, let's talk about our rationale and some of our starting assumptions. Statistics show that approximately 1/3 of the world's population is comprised of children under the age of 15. We also know that, according to researcher George Barna, the probability of accepting Christ as Savior is highest among children under age 14 (www.barna.org). God's heart is that not one child should perish without Christ (Matthew 18:14). The evidence is clear—we have a great mission field before us!

We assume students in this course:

- Believe children can come to know Christ as their personal Savior at an early age.
- Believe children should be given an opportunity to respond to the message of salvation.
- Believe salvation must be the starting point before spiritual growth can take place.

III. Prerequisites

Born-again Christian

Minimum age of 18 (for CMI Online course)

IV. Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Discuss God's view of children and the child's need to know Christ as Savior.

2. Understand the foundational truths necessary for a person to trust in Christ as Savior.
3. Identify and explain key verses used in teaching the Romans Road.
4. Articulate the truths of the message of salvation on a child's level.
5. Clearly present the Romans Road following the procedures given in this course.

V. Instructional procedures

This course consists of eight pre-recorded class sessions that can be watched at any time. Sessions 1-6 are available in both English and American Sign Language. Session 1 presents an overview of the foundational truths of the Gospel, reviewing the message of salvation and causing you to appreciate anew your own salvation experience. Sessions 2—5 present a visual tool with detailed explanations of how you would teach each part of the Gospel to children. Brief demonstrations are given at the end of each session to provide a model for you to follow in presenting the Gospel. At the end of each session, you will be asked to practice that part of the presentation to solidify it in your own mind. Session 6 presents a video demonstration of the complete message of salvation using the Romans Road tool. Sessions 7 and 8 will provide you with the knowledge of how to counsel children for salvation and how to teach saved children to grow in their faith. You will be able to measure your competency in this course through your experience in presenting the Romans Road to a child or children as well as through forum discussions, reading, a quiz and end of course survey.

VI. Course materials

- A. Student Notes for class sessions
- B. Romans Road visual aid

VII. Participation policies

You can anticipate spending 6-8 hours per week on course activities and assignments. This includes time spent watching the videos that deliver the course content and completing assignments.

It is expected that all assignments, including forum posts, be submitted on time. Failure to submit assignments on time will negatively affect your grade. In the case of an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, contact your online instructor before the assignment is due to make arrangements for a late submission of an assignment.

Participation in the forum discussions and live chat should be characterized by Christian courtesy. You may disagree with another student's (or instructor's) point of view, but please do so respectfully. Read the communication section of the student handbook for more details about forum, chat, and email expectations.

At the end of the first week, the course will be reviewed to determine if you are actively participating. If there is no evidence of participation, you will be dropped from the course

roster. If you have problems accessing the website or the forum during the first week, promptly contact your online instructor at 1-800-300-4033 ext. 1161.

VIII. Grading policies and information

All students are encouraged to strive for excellence in every aspect of their training to bring honor to the Lord and to develop to their fullest potential. Therefore, all assignments must be presented on time and each assignment will be graded according to the evaluation criteria of the course. The *Romans Road for Children* is a pass or fail course. 70 out of the possible 100 points (70%) are needed to pass.

It is expected that all assignments, including forum posts, be submitted on time. Failure to post forum items on time affects not only you but also your classmates and their learning. Therefore, late forum posts will negatively affect your grade. Please refer to the downloadable forum grading rubric included in the online Grading Policies and Information section of the course for information on how forums are evaluated.

Failure to submit any other assignment on time will also negatively affect your grade. In the case of an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, contact your online instructor before the assignment due date and make arrangements for a late submission.

All assignments must be posted or submitted by 11:55 PM Central Time of the day the assignment is due. The final grade for this course will be based on a 100-point scale. Each assignment is weighted based on the percentage of this total grade.

Assignment	Percentage	Point Value
Week 1 Forum Discussion: Introduction	20%	20
Week 1 Forum Discussion: Why do Children Need to Know?	20%	20
Week 1 Quiz	20%	20
Week 2 Forum Discussion	20%	20
Week 3 Forum Discussion	20%	20
TOTAL GRADE	100%	100
PASSING GRADE	70%	70

The Week 3 Forum Discussion on teaching the Romans Road **MUST** be completed in order to pass this course. A main objective for this course is to “clearly present the Romans Road following the procedures given in this course.” This assignment informs the online instructor how the student met that objective.

IX. Learning outcomes and activities for each week

The following information can serve as your checklist as you navigate through the course. Printing this sequential checklist and checking off each activity or assignment as they are completed will help keep you on track throughout the course.

Before the course begins

- ☐ Find a place where you can share the *Romans Road* tool with a child/group of children during week three of the course.

Week 1

This week of the Romans Road for Children will introduce you to the foundational truths of the message of salvation and help you begin to think through some specific areas of teaching. You'll begin by posting a brief introduction about yourself to the other participants on the forum. This "getting to know you" exercise will help you begin to feel connected to other students participating in your learning community. You will also respond to the question, "Why do you believe children need to know Christ as Savior?" Be sure to post your response to the question on the forum no later than Friday. By Monday you will need to respond to at least two other students' posts. At the end of this week, you will complete an online quiz reviewing the material presented.

Your assignments and activities for this week will be described below in the recommended order of completion.

- ☐ Introduce yourself to the class by posting in the Week 1: Introduction Forum. (Due Thursday.)
- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Foundational Truths of the Gospel.
- ☐ Assemble the Romans Road tool.
- ☐ Post your answer to the question, "Why do you believe children need to know Christ as Savior?" in the Week 1 Forum. (Due Friday.)
- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Truths about God.
- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Truths about Man and His Sinful Condition.
- ☐ Complete the Week 1 Quiz. (Due Monday).
- ☐ Post your responses to at least two classmates' posts in the Week 1 Introduction Forum (between Friday and Monday).
- ☐ Post your responses to at least two classmates' posts in the Week 1 Forum (between Friday and Monday).

Week 2

In this week, you will view sessions 4-6, taking careful notes. You will also continue to observe demonstrations of various parts of the Romans Road presentation. Be sure to practice each part before proceeding to the next session. A discussion topic is listed in this week's forum. Be sure to submit your post on the forum no later than Friday. Your response to at least two other students' posts should be completed by Monday.

Your assignments and activities for this week will be described below in the recommended order of completion.

- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Truths about the Person and Work of Christ.
- ☐ Participate in a live chat with your classmates! See details about meeting in the course.
- ☐ Download and read the paper *Philosophy of Child Conversion* by Lynne M. Herlein.

- ☐ Refute one of the four philosophies of child conversion in the Week 2 Forum. (Due Friday.)
- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: The Appropriation.
- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Putting it All Together.
- ☐ Post your responses to at least two classmates' posts in the Week 2 Forum (between Friday and Monday).
- ☐ Confirm the date, time, and location of your *Romans Road* presentation for next week if needed. (Date: _____; Time: _____)

Week 3

This week, you will have the opportunity to teach the Romans Road to a child or group of children. You will need to post on the forum about your experience by Saturday. In addition, you will need to respond to at least two other students' posts on the forum and fill out the online survey by Monday.

Your assignments and activities for this week will be described below in the recommended order of completion.

- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Counseling a Child – The Art of Asking Questions.
- ☐ Watch the Video Class Session: Teaching Young Christians to Grow.
- ☐ Complete your *Romans Road* presentation with a child/group of children. (Due Friday.) (Date: _____; Time: _____).
- ☐ Post about your *Romans Road* presentation in the Week 3 Forum. (Due Saturday.)
- ☐ Post your responses to at least two classmates' posts in the Week 3 Forum (between Friday and Monday).
- ☐ Complete the End of Course Survey. (Due Monday.)