





SCHEDULE

DISCUSSION GROUPS

9:15 - 9:50 / 6:30 - 7:05



MOVE TO WORSHIP CENTER

9:50 - 9:55 / 7:05 - 7:10

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS


9:55 - 10:00 / 7:10 - 7:15

MESSAGE

10:00 - 10:45 / 7:15 - 8:00

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WEEK 1

Discussion Group Questions

JESUS IS MY...EVERYTHING

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- a. Please share your name with the group.
- b. Please share one thing that intrigues you about the title of this study.
- c. What is one meaningful attribute of God that you appreciate, and why?

2. SCHEDULE:

- a. Please look over the schedule in the front of your notebook. Are there any questions about the schedule?
- b. If at all possible, please come a few minutes early so that you can enjoy the time in your group to the fullest extent.
- c. We'd like to honor your time, so we'll try to stick as closely to the schedule as possible. In order to help with that, Jonna (or someone) will text your leader with a 5-minute warning before you need to close in prayer.

3. DAILY INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME:

- a. Please start each study time with prayer in order to invite the Lord to be part of your study time. He wants to meet with you and teach you from His word.
- b. We will have 5 days of individual study time. We recommend that you spend time in study each day rather than trying to get it in all at once so that you can get the most out of your study time. (Even if you don't get it all finished, you're still totally welcome here. Please come anyway.)
- c. Study questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. PREPARE YOUR HEART:

- a. In this study, we'll look at how Jesus is our...Peace, Righteousness, Victory, Master, Deliverer, Life, and Love. What quality of Jesus most intrigues you, and why?
- b. What obstacles do you think get in the way of relying on the Lord in all our circumstances?
- c. What truths about Jesus help us to overcome those obstacles?
- d. As you look forward to this study over the next seven weeks, what is one question about the Lord or your relationship with Him that you hope to have answered?

5. PLEASE CLOSE THIS TIME IN PRAYER.

- a. Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you're about to hear.
- b. Please ask the Lord to help you open your heart and mind to what He wants to teach you over the next several weeks.

JESUS IS MY...PEACE

ROMANS 5:1-11



3. Because Jesus is my Peace, I have _____ in God's love and _____
_____ ! (6-11)

DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to guide your study today as you consider what it means for you to say “Jesus is my everything.”

MEMORIZE: During this study, we will memorize Romans 8:35-39. This week we will focus on verse 35. Write this verse on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week. What is this verse teaching you about Jesus?

STUDY: For the next seven weeks we will study Romans 5-8 focusing on the theme of Jesus Is My Everything. Each week we will explore the various ways in which Jesus provides for us all that we need. The overarching question that we will ask ourselves is, “Can I truly say that Jesus is my everything?” As we study each of these facets of who Jesus is, we will be challenged to move beyond the limits of our current understanding of His nature and His place in our lives so that we can more fully experience the depth of His love for us and the completeness of His provision for every part of our lives.

1. Please read Romans 8:31-32. What do you learn about the character of God from this verse?

2. What does it mean to you that God has graciously given you all things?

3. *Consider the phrase “Jesus is my Everything”.

a. As you think through who Jesus is to you, what other words do you use to describe Jesus? Jesus is my

_____.

b. As you think through your priorities, expectations, and perceived needs, what other words do you sometimes put in place of Jesus? _____ is my everything.

4. In what ways have you limited your relationship with Jesus to fit with your perceived needs in the moment?

5. *How would you (your words, attitudes, expectations, etc.) change if you fully embrace Jesus as your everything during the times when you feel that you are lacking in some areas of life?

Prayerfully commit the next 7 weeks to the Lord. Ask Him to help you receive all that He has provided for you and to fully embrace Jesus as your everything.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you better understand the many benefits He provides us when we're justified by faith.

MEMORIZE: Romans 8:35. Unscramble the phrases below to write out the verse.

or sword? Shall tribulation, or distress, of Christ? or nakedness, or danger,
Who shall separate or persecution, or famine, us from the love

STUDY: In these verses, we learn that being justified by faith means a lot for us. Most important is the fact that our eternal future is settled. Through Jesus Christ, we are at peace with God. However, not only is our future secure, our justification also has a profound impact on today as well. In chapter five, we will learn about the present, daily benefits of our salvation. Please read Romans 5:1-11.

1. *Today we will focus on Romans 5:1-2. What benefits of your salvation do you see in these verses?

2. How does peace with God differ from the peace of God (such as mentioned in Philippians 4:7)?

3. What is the source of our peace with God? Read also Ephesians 2:12-14.

4. *What does it mean that you are able to stand in His grace every day? How is this different from trusting His grace for your salvation?

5. According to verse 2, what is our reason for rejoicing? How does this impact your outlook on your present situation?

Close your study by praising God for the ways your salvation impacts your life every day.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to help you better understand how He can use even your hardest days to bring good benefits in your life.

MEMORIZE: Read or say Romans 8:35 out loud several times. Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:

Who shall _____ from the love of _____? Shall _____, or _____, or persecution, or famine, or _____, or _____, or sword?

STUDY: So far in Romans 5, we have learned about the benefits we experience as a result of being justified by faith. We have peace with God, we have continual access to His grace, and we can rejoice with the assurance that we will experience God's glory in eternity someday. Today, we'll turn our thoughts to how all of these help us in the midst of life's difficult moments. Please read Romans 5:1-5.

1. In addition to rejoicing in the hope of our future glory, what else can we rejoice in?

2. *According to these verses, list the positive results that come about from our suffering.

3. *What are you tempted to put your hope in rather than in God? How does suffering draw you to rely more on God than on those other things?

4. How does it change your view of suffering to trust that you are justified by faith rather than being justified by works?

5. *Think of a difficulty you have experienced or are currently experiencing. Ask yourself the following questions:

a. Did this experience help you focus more on prayer, worship, gratitude for what God has done for you?

b. Did you see growth in your life in the areas of endurance, character, and hope?

c. Did you grow closer to the Lord during this time?

If you answer “no” to these questions, analyze why.

d. Did you not spend time with the Lord during this season? Did you fail to follow Him in obedience?

e. What other things did you put your hope in?

f. Did you fail to understand the gospel or doubt God’s love?

g. In what ways could you respond differently during difficult experiences to allow God to use that time in your life for spiritual growth and maturity?

Close your study today by prayerfully reflecting on the ways God has used suffering in your life. Confess any areas where you have placed your hope in other things rather than drawing closer to Him during these times. Commit yourself to trusting His love and guidance during seasons of suffering.

***Question 5 adapted from “Romans 1-7 for You” by Timothy Keller. Pages 114-115*

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Begin your study time today by praising the Lord that there is no situation and no one on this earth that can separate you from His love.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:35. Personalize this verse to your life by asking, “Who or what shall separate me from the love of Christ?” Ask the Lord to show you any situations where you are tempted to believe that He doesn’t love you.

STUDY: At this point in Romans chapter 5, the question you may be asking is, “How can we confidently rejoice in the hope of future glory when there are so many struggles on this earth?” In these next verses, Paul anticipates and answers this question. Please read Romans 5:5-8.

1. *From these verses, how does God show His love to us?

2. *According to verse 5, we experience God’s love through His Spirit within us. Please read the following verses to explain why we may doubt God’s love for us.

a. 1 John 2:3-6

b. 1 John 4:13-21

3. According to verses 6-8 what is another way that God has shown His love to us?

4. *How can these verses encourage you at times when you feel like you’re messing up or somehow disappointing God?

5. After studying these verses, how do you answer the question above? “How can we confidently rejoice in the hope of future glory when there are so many struggles on this earth?”

Close out your study today by praising God for the ways that He has shown His love for you.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask God to give you a greater understanding of all He has done for you in the process of justification.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:35 using the letters below to help you remember. Each letter is the first letter of the words of the verse.

W S S U F T L O C ? S T, O D, O P, O F, O N, O D, O S?

STUDY: In this passage, we have learned that as a result of our justification by faith, we are at peace with God - through Jesus - for all eternity. These verses are filled with the language of abundance. Words like also, not only that, poured, more, and much more encourage us to recognize that our peace with God is but the beginning of what Jesus has done and continues to do for us through justification. Please read Romans 5:1-11.

1. *From Romans 5:1-11, what are we to rejoice in?

2. In this passage about the benefits of our justification, why do you think the idea of rejoicing is repeated?

3. *What can you do to practice daily “rejoicing in God” rather than becoming distracted or depressed by difficulties, disappointment, or other worldly issues?

4. In verses 9 -11, we see the word “more” three times. In addition to justification, what more has the death of Christ given us?

5. *Write a brief summary of these verses using the prompt below:

Because I have been justified by faith through Jesus Christ. . .

Close in prayer by thanking the Lord for what He has taught you this week. Be specific as you pray about the ways you have been challenged.

JESUS IS MY...RIGHTEOUSNESS

ROMANS 5:12-21



1. _____ the reason for your _____ of Jesus' gift of salvation. (12-14)

2. Worship and _____ Jesus for His _____ and all that it brings. (15-17)

3. _____ God for His _____ that is greater than our sin. (18-21)

DAY ONE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to open your heart to what He wants to teach you. Please ask Him to show you anything in your understanding that doesn't align with His word.

MEMORIZE: This week we will memorize Romans 8:36, "As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.'" This passage is taken from a psalm of lament, Psalm 44:22, in which the Israelites were crying out to the Lord asking why He had abandoned them. As we will see in context of Romans 8:35-39, God never abandons His own. Please read Romans 8:36 out loud several times, emphasizing different words each time you read it. Then recite it with your memory verse from last week, Romans 8:35.

STUDY: To prepare for studying Romans 5:12-21, we'll start by looking at some passages in Genesis for context. As you read these passages, please consider them as though you had never heard the story before. Imagine the setting. Imagine the conversations. How does this story impact your view of God and His plan? Today we'll look at Genesis 1:26, 2:5-7, 15-17, 19-23, and 3:1-24.

1. When God created the world and all that was in it, He SPOKE it into being. He did something different for Adam and Eve. From Genesis 2:5-7, what was different about the way He formed Adam?

2. From Genesis 2:19-23, what was different about the way God formed Eve?

3. *In Genesis 1:26, we see the reason God made Adam and Eve different than all the rest. What is that reason? How does that impact your understanding of God's view of you?

4. Please read Genesis 2:15-17 and Genesis 3:1-24 and give a summary statement of how sin came into the world.

5. *Why do you think God chose to put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden?

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord something that caught you by surprise or any questions you hope He'll answer through the course of this week.

DAY TWO

PRAY: 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of the victory you have in Him.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete Romans 8:36.

"As it is _____, 'For your sake we are _____ killed all the day long; we are _____ as sheep to be slaughtered.'"

STUDY: In 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, we read, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Today we will read of the devastation that Adam brought into the world through his sin. Even before God gave the law to Moses, we will see how sin was evident without "the rules." Please read Romans 5:12-14 and answer the following.

1. Romans 5:12 starts with "therefore." It refers back to verse 11, "therefore, since we have now received reconciliation..." Please read verses 12-13 and explain WHY we needed reconciliation.

2. *Some people say they believe the Bible, but they don't believe God really created the world, and that man evolved into being. How does Romans 5:12 refute that argument?

3. According to verse 14, what was the evidence of the effects of sin before God gave the law through Moses?

4. “A type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament” (Gotquestions.org). How was Adam a type of Jesus? See also, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.

5. *In a sense, Adam’s sin put sin into our DNA so that we are born with sin running through our veins before we ever commit a sin. How does that impact your view of your need for Jesus’ sacrifice? How will it impact the way you face your day? How will it impact the way you handle those who sin against you?

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord what you have found about the victory you have in Him, and ask Him to help you live out 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

DAY THREE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give a deeper insight into His grace.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete Romans 8:36.

“As it is _____, ‘For your _____ we are _____ killed _____ the day _____; we are _____ as sheep to be _____.’”

STUDY: Today we will study Romans 5:15-16, and the contrast of what came through Adam’s sin versus what came through Jesus’ free gift to us. How does that impact our understanding of God and the way we apply His word to our lives? Please read Romans 5:15-16 and look especially for the reasons we can be confident in our relationship with the Lord.

1. *These two verses mention the “free gift” four times. When words are repeated in scripture it means we need to take extra notice because the words are very important. Please look ahead to verse 17. What is the “free gift” to which Paul is referring? Why do you think he made sure to repeat it so many times?

2. Please list the devastating effects of Adam’s one trespass.

3. What hope comes through the free gift that Jesus brought?

4. *Please use a Bible dictionary or the internet to search the biblical definitions of the following words and explain their importance in your life.

a. Grace

b. Justification

5. Please look ahead to verse 20. What do you see about the power of sin versus the power of grace? How does this impact your view of God's goodness?

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord what impact His grace and justification have in your life.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to help you to understand the significance of His reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word of Romans 8:36 to help you remember and write the verse.

“A I I W, ‘F Y S W A B K A T D L; W A R A S T B S.”

STUDY: Yesterday, we saw the power of God's grace in our lives. Today, we will see two other important word in addition to the word “grace.” The first word is righteousness. To be righteous is to be “right with.” It means that we are approved. The second word is justification. It means “just as if I'd never sinned” and “just as if I'd always obeyed.” As you study today's passage, please consider where our righteousness and justification come from. Please read Romans 5:17-18 and answer the following.

1. From verse 17, please list the two times the word “reign” is used.

a. What is reigning?

i. First case

ii. Second case

b. Why does it reign?

i. First case

ii. Second case

2. *According to these verses, from where do our righteousness and justification come? How do we often try to gain our righteousness?

3. According to Romans 10:9-10, how do we “receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness”?

4. *According to verse 18:

a. What did the one trespass of Adam lead to?

b. What did the one act of righteousness by Jesus lead to?

- c. How does that truth affect your understanding of your righteousness and justification (please see your definition from day 3, question 4)?
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-

5. If we truly believe that our salvation and righteousness are a gift from God, how will that impact the way we live?
-
-

As you close this time in prayer, please talk to the Lord about how your view of righteousness has been similar or different to what God says is true.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to open your heart to understand the power of His grace in your life.

MEMORIZE: This week's memory verse is a great example of why it's important to read in context. Romans 8:36 expressed how the Israelites felt, but our memory verse for next week, Romans 8:37, said what was actually true. As you quote today's verse from memory, please consider how your feelings sometimes don't align with what's true.

Please quote Romans 8:36 from memory.

STUDY: We've looked at the words grace, reign, and righteousness. Today we see them all come together in these final verses of Romans 5. Please pay special attention to where we would have been if Jesus had not lavished us with His grace by coming to save us. Before Jesus, our DNA was filled with sin. Through Jesus, we are made new. Please note how Romans 5:12-21 has been an ongoing contrast between Adam's sin and Jesus' grace. For review, please read Romans 5:12-21, and pay special attention to verses 19-21 as you answer the following.

1. How did Adam's disobedience affect mankind? What does this imply about the effects of our sin?
-
-

2. *How does Jesus' obedience affect us? What does this imply about our striving to be righteous in our own strength?
-
-

3. *Please think of a circumstance where you have been given a rule that you didn't want to follow. It might be something that you would have had no problem following until you were given the rule. (Ex. Being willing to unload the dishwasher until you were told to unload the dishwasher.) How do you think that rule "increases" the trespass (the desire to go against that rule), whether it be through your actions or your attitudes?

4. Please explain the contrast between the effects of sin and the effects of grace.

a. Effects of sin.

b. Effects of grace.

c. How does sin reign?

d. How does grace reign?

e. Which is more powerful, sin or grace? What is significant about that?

5. Please look over Romans 5:12-21. How does this passage impact your view of God's

a. Power?

b. Wisdom?

c. Goodness?

d. Grace?

As you close this time in prayer, please talk to the Lord about His grace and His free gift, and how that will impact your actions and attitudes.

JESUS IS MY...VICTORY

ROMANS 6:1-14



3. _____ to Christ with whom you are so wonderfully united. (12-14)

**DAY ONE**

PRAY: Begin by asking the Lord to open your eyes to the victory you have in Christ as you study today.

MEMORIZE: This week we will be memorizing Romans 8:37. Write the verse on a notecard or on the lines below and slowly and carefully read through it. From this verse, what do you learn about the victory we have in Christ?

STUDY: As he begins chapter 6, Paul dives into a series of 4 questions (these questions are found in Romans 6:1 and 15 and Romans 7:7 and 13). The questions we will study in chapter 6 have to do with why Christians obey God, since we are saved by grace and not by anything that we do. This week we will study Paul's first question and the answer he gives in Romans 6:1-14. Begin today by reading Romans 6:1-2.

1. What is Paul's question in verse 1 and why would this question be important to your life?

2. *The question that Paul asks in Romans 6:1 can be translated "Shall we continue in sin by both will (I want to...) and action (so I do...)". How does this definition help your understanding of sin and the victory you need over it?

3. *What do you think? Since Christians are saved by Christ's work on the cross (grace) and not based on anything that we do (works), why should we obey God or strive to live in a way that pleases Him?

4. Look at Romans 6:2. What is Paul's answer to his question in verse 1?

5. Is there sin in your life that you are continuing or persisting in? How does this passage offer conviction and hope for you?
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-

Close in prayer by asking the Lord to reveal any areas of sin in your life and heart. Ask Him to bring new victory to your life as you study this week. Thank Him for the grace that He pours out on you that gives you all you need to grow day by day into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

DAY TWO :

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you to grasp the fullness of His Word as you study today.

MEMORIZE: Read through Romans 8:37. Focus on the first part of the verse, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors...”. Repeat this phrase a few times and meditate on it. In what areas of your life do you need to believe the truth that in Christ you are more than a conqueror?

STUDY: As Paul answers his question in verse 1, he emphasizes the importance of our union with and position in Christ as the means to finding victory in our struggle against sin. Paul uses 2 pictures to help us understand our union with and identity in Christ. The first picture that we will look at today is the picture of baptism. It’s important to note here that Paul is using the idea of baptism as a symbol of what happens when we put our faith in Christ. Baptism does not save us; it symbolizes what happens when we trust Christ and are united with him. Begin by reading Romans 6:3-5, and then answer the study questions.

1. *Describe what it looks like for a Christian to die with Christ and be buried with him.
-
-

2. Study the meaning of the word baptism that Paul uses. How does this definition aid in your understanding of the picture Paul is giving?

Baptism: to immerse completely, submerge, and emerge as something new. The Greeks often used this word in reference to the dying of a garment, the sinking of a ship, or even a person drowning.

3. Think about verse 5. To be united with Christ means that we are planted together and draw life from the same source.

a. What are the benefits of being united with Christ according to this verse?

b. Look at Ephesians 1:3-6, 12-13. What are some other benefits to being united with Christ?

c. Write a response to the Lord on the lines below as you think about the benefits you have received from your union with Christ.

4. *In what ways do you need to identify with Christ's death in order to walk in victory over sin? In what ways do you need to identify with his life to walk in victory over sin?

Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help you to live out this picture of baptism as you die to self and selfish desires and live united with Christ Jesus.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Confess to the Lord your need for His help to understand and apply what you study today.

MEMORIZE: Continue memorizing our verse this week, Romans 8:37. Focus on the second section, "through Him who loved us." Repeat this phrase a few times and meditate on it. Is God's love a reality in your daily life? Why or why not?

STUDY: Today we will look at the second picture that Paul uses to help us understand our union with and position in Christ, the picture of the cross. Paul's main point is this, that those who die with Christ have been released from their old master, sin, and must now give up thinking and living like a slave and start behaving from a position of victory. Begin by reading Romans 6:6-10.

1. Describe the analogy Paul is making in verse 6. What is the picture Paul paints for us and what is the result?

2. *Think about verse 7. How does death bring freedom from sin?

3. Look at verse 8 and think about the phrase “with Christ”. The word with means “so mixed in that no one can tell the difference one from another.” Is this the way that you see and live your life with Christ? Why or why not?

4. Reread verses 9-10. What are the results of the death Christ died and what does this mean for those who have been united with Christ?

5. *Think about verse 10. Our union with Christ means that we must die to sin, but it also means that we get new life! What does it mean for us to live to God just as Christ does?

Close in prayer, telling the Lord one step you want to take to live to Him today.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you grace to respond to Him and His truth as you study today.

MEMORIZE: Thank the Lord for His conquering power and victory in your life! Use the prompt to write out our verse for the week.

Romans ____:____: N____, i____ a____ t____ t____ w____ a____ m____ t____ c____ t____
h____ w____ l____ u____.

STUDY: Today we will think about how we should respond to the pictures that Paul has given us. Paul has established the truth that as believers we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. Now Paul calls us to take this truth and make it the springboard for all that we think, say, and do. Begin by reading Romans 6:11.

1. Look at verse 11 and think about the phrase “consider yourselves” and its definition below. What is Paul calling us to consider and why?

Consider yourselves: the process of careful study or reasoning which results in arriving at a conclusion, a business term that means to credit to one’s account.

2. *Notice the next phrase, “dead to sin”. This is not a command telling us that we should be dead to sin, this is a stated fact. How should this fact change our thinking?

3. Next, think about the last phrase in verse 11, “alive to God in Christ Jesus”. Charles Spurgeon describes being alive to God like this, “To be full of life for Him - to be altogether active and on the alert to do His will; to make our whole lives a perpetual offering to Him, constantly delivering up ourselves to Him and His service that we may glorify His name and subserve His interests.”

a. *How can you become more active and alert to the Lord’s will?

b. *What could you do to serve His interests today first and foremost?

4. Do you truly consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus? How does your thinking need to change to better reflect these truths?

The Word of God in Romans 6 is clear, that in Christ we are dead to sin and alive to God! Close in prayer, asking the Lord to give you divine assurance and bold faith to believe the truths of Romans 6:11.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to show you how to personally apply His Word as you study today.

MEMORIZE: Thank the Lord for the truths that we have seen and meditated on as we have memorized Romans 8:37 this week. Say our verse out loud and then write our verse from memory on the lines below.

STUDY: So far, Paul has shown us that as believers we are united with Christ, we have been positioned with Him, and that in Him we are dead to sin and alive to God. Paul has answered his initial question, “Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?”, with the truth that we obey God because of our position in and union with Christ. Now that he has established the correct theology, he is ready to help us to put these

principles into action so that we can experience victory over sin! As a reminder, Paul is not telling us that we will walk perfectly, but that we should be growing in increasing freedom over sin day by day. Begin by reading Romans 6:12-14 and then answer the questions.

1. List the negative command(s) Paul gives in verses 12-13. What do these commands teach you about sin?

2. Now list the positive command(s) from these verses. What is the responsibility of the believer in order to walk in victory over sin?

3. Paul is using a military metaphor in these verses. The word “instrument” can be translated as “weapon”. Reread verse 13, replacing the word “instrument” with the word “weapon”. How does this definition clarify your understanding of these verses?

4. *When Paul calls us to present ourselves to God in verse 13, he is calling us to offer ourselves to the Lord. This word means, “to put yourselves at God’s disposal, to make yourself available to be used for God’s purposes”. What are some ways that you can offer yourself to God in day-to-day life?

5. *Think about verse 14. How does the enabling power of God’s grace help us to walk in victory over sin?

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for his grace and power that allow you to walk in victory over sin. Tell the Lord one way you will respond to what you have learned in His Word this week.

JESUS IS MY...MASTER

ROMANS 6:15-7:6



1. Everyone is a _____ to something - Who is your _____? (6:15-19)

2. Every life grows _____. What type of fruit are you _____? (6:20-22)

EXALT

WORSHIP

ENCOUNTER → ENGAGE
(MUSCLING IT)

**DAY ONE**

PRAY: Ask the Lord to guide your study this week as you consider your personal motivation for obedience to the Word of God.

MEMORIZE: This week we will memorize Romans 8:38. Write this verse on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week. As you read through these verses, praise God that because of Jesus, nothing will separate you from His love.

STUDY: In the passages we're studying this week, Paul asks another question - "Since we're saved by grace, does it really matter if we obey all of the little instructions of the law?" The answer of course is, "Yes! It does matter very much!" Using several illustrations, we will see that our obedience to the word of God is so much more than just following the rules. We will be challenged to consider our motivation for living holy, Christ-like lives. Please read Romans 6:15-7:6.

1. What do these verses teach you about God?

2. *After reading this passage, how would you explain to someone why it's important for a Christian to be careful to confess and repent of even the "little" sins?

3. List any questions that come to your mind from reading these verses.

4. What lessons can you learn and apply to your own life from this passage?

Spend a few moments thanking the Lord for what He has shown you today in His word.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you understand what it means to freely recognize Him as your Master.

MEMORIZE: Romans 8:38. Unscramble the phrases below to write out the verse.

nor powers, neither death nor life, nor things present For I am sure that
nor things to come, nor angels nor rulers,

STUDY: In these verses, Paul teaches us a basic truth of our human situation. Although we like to convince ourselves that we can experience freedom by doing things our own way and making our own choices, in reality, everyone is serving someone or something. Please read Romans 6:15-18.

1. From verse 16, what are the 2 options every human faces?

a. Slavery to _____ leading to _____

b. Slavery to _____ leading to _____

2. *What do these verses teach you about the natural state of people before salvation?

3. Now that we're free from sin, what should we do?

4. Read the words of Jesus in John 8:31-36. What is He teaching us about slavery to sin?

5. *Based upon what you've read today, how should the fact that we're saved impact our feelings about being obedient to the Word of God?

6. How could it help you deal with temptation if you remember that you are a slave to the one you obey?

Close your study by asking the Lord to show you ways that you may be confusing slavery to sin with a false idea of freedom. Ask Him to change your heart to desire obedience to Him and His word.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to help you to recognize areas of your life where you may be “presenting yourself” as a slave to sin.

MEMORIZE: Read or say Romans 8:38 out loud several times. Fill in the blanks to complete the verse:
For _____ that neither _____ nor life, nor angels nor _____, nor
_____ nor things to come, nor powers,

STUDY: Yesterday, we learned that, as humans, we will always choose to serve something or someone. Today we will see that although the processes of slavery to sin or slavery to God develop in similar ways, the results are completely opposite. Please read Romans 6:19-23.

1. *Based upon these verses, describe the process of developing and the eventual outcome of:
 - a. Slavery to sin.

 - b. Slavery to God.

2. *When someone says that they don't want to be a Christian because it will restrict their freedom, what are they actually free from and what is the result of this freedom?

3. *Consider the following situations. How would you respond if you're offering yourself as a slave to God rather than a slave to sin?
 - a. Someone says something about you that makes you look bad.
 - i. Offering myself to sin

 - ii. Offering myself to God

 - b. A co-worker starts talking about things our manager is doing that are irritating everyone.
 - i. Offering myself to sin

ii. Offering myself to God

- c. Your car is in the shop for repairs, and the service tech informs you that they forgot to order the parts, so it will be another 3 days before your vehicle is ready.

i. Offering myself to sin

ii. Offering myself to God

4. According to Roman 6:23, the gift of God is eternal life for those who are saved, but how could we experience death (ie: the brokenness of life) if we continue to present ourselves as slaves to sin?
-
-

5. As you consider the situations you face on a daily basis, use the lines below to write any ways that you are challenged to change your responses so that you offer yourself to God, rather than sin.
-
-

It can be difficult to recognize the ways that we may be offering ourselves as slaves to sin. Prayerfully confess anything that God has shown you regarding this matter.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask God to help you align your heart's desires with His desire for you.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:38 using the letters below to help you remember. Each letter is the first letter of the words of the verse.

F I A S T N D N L, N A N R, N T P N T T C, N P,

STUDY: Romans 6:14 tells us that we are not under law, but under grace. In these verses, Paul shares another illustration to help us understand that a believer in Jesus Christ has no obligation to the law, and yet cannot live any way they choose. These verses teach us that we are no longer bound to the law, but now belong to and live for another "husband." Please read Romans 7:1-6.

1. What is Paul describing in verses 1-3?

2. *Based upon verses 4-6, how does this apply to our relationship with the law?

3. How does Romans 7:5-6 compare to the slavery illustration in 6:19-22?

4. *Based upon these verses, why would we choose to live according to the word of God (the Law), even though we are no longer bound to it?

5. How could the illustration of being married to Christ impact the way you view your daily life?

Close your study today by thanking God that you are released from captivity to the law and by committing yourself to serving the new way of His spirit (Romans 7:6).

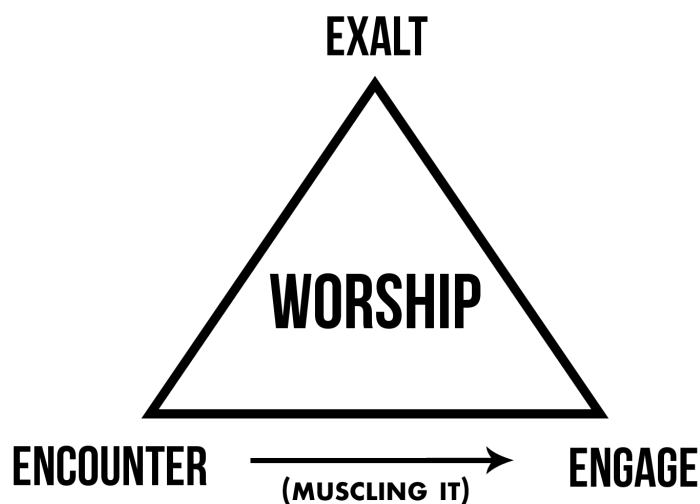
DAY FIVE

PRAY: Begin your study time today by asking Him to help you better understand what the process of sanctification means in your life each day.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:35-38. Personalize these verses to your life by replacing you, we, us with I and me. Ask yourself, "What can separate me from the love of Christ?" Fill in the next verses with the situations that are troubling, distressing, or causing you to fear. Praise the Lord that because of His great love you are more than a conqueror.

STUDY: Romans 6:22 tells us that since we have been justified by faith in Christ, we have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God. The outcome or “fruit” of this slavery is sanctification during our earthly lives and the hope of eternal life in the future. The process of sanctification starts when we’re saved and continues throughout our lives as we become obedient to the truth of the word of God and ever more aware of the leading of His Spirit every day. Sanctification begins in our hearts and will transform our lives as we become more and more like Jesus. We may be tempted to think that this depends upon our own efforts - that we need to “try as hard as we can” to make this process work. However, in Romans 12:1-2, we learn that presenting ourselves to God is an act of worship, and as we allow Him to work in us, we are transformed - A transformed life is one of worship.

The graphic below is a simple illustration that can help us understand this transformation process that contributes to a life of worship.



1. Psalm 119:97-104 - Encounter. Based upon these verses, how can you encounter God? What will you gain by doing this?

2. *Psalm 100:1-5 - Exalt. Based upon these verses, how can you exalt God in your life each day?

3. James 1:22-25 - Engage. What do these verses teach you about following through on the teachings from the Word?

4. *What is the danger of moving from encountering God to engaging in change?

5. How can exalting God lead to transformation?

6. *Think of an area of your life where you have seen (or would like to see) transformation. Consider 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 as you answer the following questions.

a. What is God's role in this transformation?

b. In what ways do you try to "muscle" the change in your own effort?

c. What is your role in this transformation?

Close in prayer by thanking the Lord for what He has taught you this week. Be specific as you pray about the ways you have been challenged. Commit yourself to allowing God to transform your life in any way that He chooses.

JESUS IS MY...DELIVERER

ROMANS 7:7-25



1. _____ that sin uses what is good to _____ and kill. (7-12)

2. Understand that sin uses our _____ to keep us from doing the good we _____ to do. (13-20)

3. Cooperate with your _____ by intentionally setting your _____ on Him and _____ Him. (21-25)

**DAY ONE**

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give you an understanding of His work and how it impacts your daily life.

MEMORIZE: Please combine this week's memory verse with last week's to complete the sentence. Then read the memory verse for this week several times out loud, repeating different words each time you read it.
Romans 8:39

"nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

STUDY: Today, we'll get an overview of this week's passage. This can be a very confusing passage, but so important to grasp. It's also important to look for what we **CAN** understand before we try to understand what we **CANNOT** understand. When we get caught by what we don't understand, the temptation to give up can be overwhelming. But the Lord wants to teach us His word. A passage like this is a great reminder that we cannot understand His word without the help of the Holy Spirit teaching us. Today, we'll focus on understanding the relationship between sin and the law so that we might have a clearer picture as we break the passage down over the next several days.

1. *What do the following verses tell you about the law?

a. Verse 7

b. Verse 12

c. Verse 13

d. Verse 14

e. Verse 16

2. Verses 21-25 talk about different types of laws. Please look at the following verses and explain what the different laws are.

a. Verses 21, 23, and 25

b. Verses 22 and 25

3. What do the following verses tell you about sin?

a. Verses 7-8

b. Verse 9

c. Verse 11

d. Verse 12

e. Verse 14

f. Verse 17

g. Verse 20

4. *What hope do verses 24-25 give in this struggle with sin?

As you close this time in prayer, please share with the Lord what you learned, and any questions you may have.

DAY TWO

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to show you how He can use even sin to draw you closer to Him.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete Romans 8:39

“nor height nor depth, nor _____ else in all creation, will be able to _____ us from the _____ of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

STUDY: Today's passage helps us get a better understanding of the relationship sin has with the law. We'll see how sin attaches itself to the law to bring destruction rather than good. In turn, we'll see how sin uses the law to pull us away from the Lord. As you study today's passage, please consider how sin might use rules you've had in your own life to cause you to stumble in your walk with the Lord. Please read Romans 7:7-12 and answer the following.

1. Verse 7 starts with a question, referring back to Romans 7:4-6. Based on these verses, why do think Paul is concerned that people might conclude that the law is bad?

2. According to verses 7-8, what place DOES the law have in dealing with our sin?

3. *Verse 9 can be confusing. To try and understand it, please think of it in terms of the command Paul mentioned, "You shall not covet (passionately desire something more than God)."

- a. How might Paul have been "alive" or unaware before the commandment to covet had been given?

- b. How might sin have been stirred in him when the commandment came?

- c. How did that sin cause Paul to realize that he was dead apart from the Lord?

- d. How do verses 9-11 prove our inability to save ourselves and our need for salvation through Jesus (See also Titus 3:4-5 and Ephesians 2:8-9)?

4. *Please think of the law, or the commandment, as an MRI, and the sin as the disease or brokenness the MRI exposes. How is the law holy, and the commandment holy, righteous, and good?

5. *Please consider the 10 Commandments from Exodus 20:3-17, or the 2 greatest commandments to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. What "commandment" from the Lord awakens sin in your own heart? How is the commandment good, but the sin the problem?

As you close this time in prayer, please talk with the Lord about how He can use even sin to show you your need for Him and draw you into a closer relationship with Him.

DAY THREE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to help you focus on what you can understand and not get intimidated by what you can't.

MEMORIZE: Please quote Romans 8:38 from last week, and then fill in the blanks to complete Romans 8:39.

"nor _____ nor _____, nor _____ else in all creation, will be _____ to _____ us from the _____ of God in _____ Jesus our Lord."

STUDY: As we look at Romans 7:13-14, we will take a closer look at the relationship between the law and sin. One other word that you'll come across in this passage is "flesh." Our flesh is that part of us that tries to live independently from God. Galatians 5:17 says of the flesh, "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do." These two verses can be confusing. As you study Romans 7:13-14 and answer the following questions, please focus your attention on what you CAN understand and ask the Lord to help you not to be intimidated by what you can't understand.

1. In order to grasp verse 13 better, let's continue to view the law as an MRI and sin as disease. Please rewrite verse 13 using MRI in place of what's good and disease in place of sin. ("Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.")

2. How does the law (the MRI) expose sin (the disease)?

3. How does knowing that the sin is there make it worse? How does it incite things like anger, foolishness, despair, or fear?

4. *Some people believe Paul is speaking of the struggle he had BEFORE being saved, but in verse 14 he says, "I AM of the flesh" and not, "I WAS of the flesh." How do you see the struggle between God's spiritual word working in your life versus your flesh which fights against the spiritual?

5. *In light of the struggle between the law and sin in our lives, what hope do you find from the message of the gospel?
-

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord how the gospel gives you hope in your struggle against sin.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to help you to see any sin you need to surrender to Him, and the hope of His mercy and forgiveness.

MEMORIZE: Please use the beginnings of each work of Romans 8:39 to quote the verse.

N H N D N A E I A C W B A T S U F T L O G I C J O L

STUDY: Today's passage is one that brings both tears and hope. It exposes what we all struggle with and shows us that the struggle is normal. Some scholars believe this section is speaking about Paul before he was saved, but most agree that he was speaking as one who had already received Christ as his Savior, because an unsaved person is not concerned with his sin against a holy God. But Paul is deeply troubled by his sin. As you study Romans 7:15-20 and answer the following questions, please consider a specific sin you've struggled with overcoming. If you need help to bring one to mind, some scripture that may guide you are Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 4:1-3, and Philippians 2:1-4.

1. In your sin struggle, what kinds of promises have you made to yourself that you would never do it again?
What success have you had in being able to keep those promises?
-

2. How does your struggle with sin prove that the law is good?
-

3. Verses 17 and 20 can be confusing. Are they saying we're not responsible for our sin? Please look at who Paul refers to as committing sin in verses 15, 18, and 19 to answer.
-

4. *To understand how sin that dwells within us incites us to sin, please note that the sin dwells in our flesh. Please refer to Galatians 5:17 and James 1:14-15 to explain how sin (the disease of sin) works with our flesh.
-

5. *Based on what you see about sin and the flesh...

a. Please explain why we can't sanctify (to make holy, to be like Jesus) the flesh.

b. Please describe the hope given to us in 1 John 1:8-2:2.

As you close this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to bring to mind any sin you need to confess to Him. As you confess your sin, please talk to Him about His mercy.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to show you the hope of humbling yourself before Him, and the promise of His grace and mercy in your life.

MEMORIZE: Please quote Romans 8:38-39 from memory. How does the depth of God's love sustain you through all of life's difficulties?

STUDY: Today's passage is such a beautiful promise of hope. Yes, we struggle with sin. We can't sanctify the flesh that rises up to sin against the Lord. But we can cooperate with God in the fight to crush the flesh, and praise Him for His faithful and just mercy. As you study Romans 7:21-25, please bring to mind the sin that you considered on Day 4 of the homework. Then please read Romans 7:21-25 and answer the following questions.

1. *Verse 21 is a summary statement of verses 15-20. Please consider the sin you struggle with.

a. Please describe your desire to do what is right. How would you behave or think differently if you choose what is right than if you commit the sin?

b. What evil or temptation to sin do you find waiting to accuse or attack you?

2. "Members" refers to that part of us that can be used for good or evil. Please refer back to Romans 6:16-19 and explain how our members are used for good or evil.

3. *What hope do you find in verses 24-25 regarding your struggle with sin?

4. *According to the end of verse 25, how do we cooperate with God in being free from our “body of death,” the flesh?

5. Please look back over your homework from Romans 7:7-21. What reasons do you see to humble yourself before the Lord and set your mind on Him?

As you close this time in prayer, please rephrase Colossians 3:1-4 in prayer, using your own words to the Lord. “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

JESUS IS MY...LIFE

ROMANS 8:1-18

3. The Spirit assures us of our _____, adoption, and _____ in Christ. (14-18)

**DAY ONE**

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you fresh eyes to see and know all that you have in Christ as you study.

MEMORIZE: This week we will be reviewing our memory passage for the study, Romans 8:35-39. Begin by reviewing the entire passage. See how much you can say from memory. Tell the Lord one thing about His love that you are thankful for.

STUDY: Romans 8 is Paul's response to his question in Romans 7:24, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 8 helps us to see that our liberation, our deliverance, and our transformation all come from one source, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8 is Paul's most detailed writing about what it means to live a Spirit-filled life. Begin today by reading Romans 8:1-4 and then answer the study questions.

1. *From verse 1, describe what it means for a believer to have no condemnation in Christ. Use this definition to help you. No condemnation: freedom not only from sin's guilt but also from its enslaving power (Hendrickson), based solely on our position in Christ.

2. From verse 2, the word law can be described as "principle" or "power". Describe the "law of the Spirit of life" versus the "law of sin and death".

3. *Think about the freedom that comes for the believer from the Spirit. How is this freedom different from the way the world sees freedom?

4. Paul uses the phrase "in Christ" or "in Christ Jesus" repeatedly throughout this passage. What do you think it means to be "in Christ"?

5. *How should the truth of your position in Christ (uncondemned and free) affect the way you live and view life? Do these truths daily affect your living, thinking, and acting? Why or why not?

Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to stand on the truth of your freedom and life in Christ in powerful new ways this week.

DAY TWO :

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you a fresh view of the freedom and life He has given you as you study.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:35 by filling in the blanks.

Romans 8:35: Who _____ us from _____ of _____?
Shall _____, or _____, or _____, or _____, or _____,
or _____, or _____?

STUDY: Today we will continue studying Romans 8:1-4. Begin by reading the passage and then answer the questions.

1. Think about the first part of verse 3.

a. Where does life, freedom, and righteous standing not come from?

b. *If the law (the rules, regulations, and standard of God's holiness) shows us sin yet cannot give us power over sin, why do you think we are so tempted to live by the law?

2. Think about the next part of verse 3 and the beginning of verse 4.

a. How did God provide life, freedom, and righteous standing for us?

b. Meditate on this truth: Jesus Christ condemned sin in the flesh, meaning He sentenced it, ordered it executed, and killed its claim and power over all who are in Christ. This condemnation should have been ours, yet Christ took it and broke its hold over us! After thinking about this truth, write a response to the Lord on the lines.

3. Think about the final portion of verse 4.

a. *What call does Paul make to the believer in light of all this?

b. What action step can you take today to walk according to the Spirit?

Close in prayer, thanking the Lord for the life that you have in Him that is free from condemnation. Tell Him one step you want to take today to walk according to His Spirit.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Pray that the Lord would help you to see areas of your mind that need transformation as you study.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:36-37 by filling in the verses on the lines below. Tell the Lord one specific way that you are thankful that you are a conqueror in Him.

Romans ____ - ____: As it is _____, "For _____ we are _____ all the _____ ; we are _____ as _____ to be _____ ." No, in _____ we are _____ than _____ through _____ who _____ us.

STUDY: Paul has just shown us that the freedom, restoration, and transformation that we need come only from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Now he's going to show us how we can cooperate with the Spirit's work in our lives. The big question we need to ask ourselves: What Is My Mindset? Begin by reading Romans 8:5-13 and then answer the questions.

1. Use the chart to record what you learn about the mind set on the flesh versus the mind set on the Spirit, specifically from verses 5-8.

Mind set on the Flesh	Mind set on the Spirit

2. Using the chart, summarize what you think it means to have your mind set on the flesh.

3. Using the chart, summarize what you think it means to have your mind set on the Spirit.

4. *What connection do you see between our thoughts and our actions in these verses?

5. *Evaluate your own mind and heart now. Where would you say your mind is generally set: the flesh or the Spirit? What evidence do you have from scripture to support your answer?

Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help you to set your mind on the Spirit as you cooperate with His work in your life.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask the Lord to reveal any sin that He wants you to turn from with the help of His Spirit as you study today.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:38-39 by filling in the missing words below. Tell the Lord one reason you are thankful that nothing can separate you from His love.

Romans ____ - ____: For I _____ that neither _____ nor _____, nor _____ nor _____, nor things _____ nor things to _____, nor _____, nor _____ nor _____, nor _____ in all creation, will be able to _____ us from the _____ of God in _____ our _____.

STUDY: Today we will continue to study Romans 8:5-13 as we think about the life that we have in the Spirit. Begin by reading the passage and then answer the study questions.

1. Think about verses 9-11.

a. Where does life come from?

b. What does the life Paul is talking about here refer to?

2. Verse 12 begins, “So then...”, another expression for “therefore”. Fill in the blanks to see what Paul is saying and why.

So then, since (look back at verses 9-11)

You now should (verses 12-13)

3. How are believers debtors, or under obligation, to the Spirit?

4. Study the definitions from verse 13 and answer the questions.

Live: to behave continually and habitually, to be dominated and directed by.

Putting to death: continually killing, to separate from.

- a. *Use the definitions to help you describe what it means to live according to the flesh versus putting to death the deeds of the body.

- b. *What role does God play in the life you have in Him and what role do you play?

5. Is your lifestyle, your habitual practice, one of generally killing sin or is it one of sin generally killing you? Tell why you think this is.

Close in prayer, asking for the help of the Spirit to take the steps necessary to live a lifestyle that is killing sin and rooting it out of your life.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you understanding of your identity and inheritance in Christ as you study now.

MEMORIZE: Review Romans 8:35-39 one more time by saying it out loud from memory. Use the cues to help you.

Verse 35: Who shall...

Verse 36: As it is written...

Verse 37: No, in all...

Verse 38: For I am...

Verse 39: nor height nor...

STUDY: Today we will wrap up our time as we study Romans 8:14-18. This next section of Romans 8 is all about the assurance that we have in the Spirit. The life that we have in the Spirit not only empowers us to walk in freedom from sin, life in the Spirit assures us of our secure place in God's family. An important note: When Paul calls us "sons of God", he is not only referring to male believers, rather he is using an analogy based on the culture of his day. In Paul's day, all the rights and inheritance went to the sons. As believers, whether male or female, Paul is telling us that in God's family, we are like sons in this same way. Begin by reading Romans 8:14-18 and answer the questions.

1. *According to the passage, describe evidences that we are God's children and a part of his family.

2. Verses 13 and 14 are connected. Looking at both verses, how is the Spirit specifically leading the sons of God?

3. *Think a little more about the idea of adoption and God adopting you into his family as you read the quote from Biblical scholar F.F. Bruce below. What truths are significant to you as you think about God adopting you into his family?

"...in the first century A.D. an adopted son was a son deliberately chosen by his adoptive father to perpetuate his name and inherit his estate; he was no whit inferior in status to a son born in the ordinary course of nature and might well enjoy the father's affection more fully and reproduce the father's character more worthily."

4. Look at verses 17-18.

a. What does it mean to be an heir of God?

b. How is suffering a sign of sonship?

5. Evaluate your own heart now. Does your life align with the assurance of sonship laid out in this passage?
Record your thoughts on the lines below.

Close in prayer, telling the Lord one truth that stood out to you from his Word that you are thankful for.

JESUS IS MY...LOVE

ROMANS 8:18-39

3. Understand that while God's love doesn't _____ you from trials, the trials won't _____ you from His love, which makes you more than a _____ through the love of Jesus. (31-39)



DAY ONE

PRAY: As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give you a clear and fresh understanding of the hope that you have in Him.

MEMORIZE: Please review Romans 8:35. Use the prompts of the first letter of each word to write it from memory.

W S S U F T L O C ? S T O D O P O F O N O D O S ?

STUDY: When considering the suffering we face in this world versus the glory that is coming, it can be very difficult. The circumstances of life can cloud our thoughts about what's to come. Today will give you perspective about suffering as you see it through the lens of creation. Please read Romans 8:18-25 and answer the following.

1. To grasp the meaning of Romans 8:18, please consider how suffering through something in your life is worth it for what comes in the end (ie. college, engagement, pregnancy, the Olympics). What insight does the outcome of the example you see in your life give you about the glory to come in heaven?

2. What insight from verses 19-23 do you glean in understanding “the glory that will be revealed to us” from verse 18?

3. When words in scripture are repeated, it means that God is making an important point. How many times is the word “hope” repeated in verses 24-25? What point do you think God is making?

4. What temporary things do you tend to put your hope in rather than the hope God has for you?

5. Biblical hope is more than wishful thinking. It is absolute certainty. What insight do the following scriptures give you about hope?

a. Romans 15:4

b. Romans 15:13

c. 1 Peter 1:3

As you close this time in prayer, please talk with the Lord about temporary things you're tempted to place your hope in, and where you find the hope that is absolutely certain.

DAY TWO :.....

PRAY: Please give this time to the Lord as you begin to study.

MEMORIZE: Please review Romans 8:36. Use the prompts of the first letter of each word to write it from memory.

A I I W, F Y S W A B K A T D L; W A R A S T B S.

STUDY: So often, when we face weakness and don't know how to pray, we can get stuck in thinking that God is silent. Today's passage will give us the hope of knowing that He is at work, and how He is at work in our lives. As you study Romans 8:26-30, please read this passage with fresh eyes to see what the Lord wants to teach you about His active role in your life. Please read Romans 8:26-30 and answer the following.

1. Verse 26 starts with the words, "Likewise (in the same way), the Spirit helps us in our weakness." To understand why the word "likewise" is used, please use previous statements about the Holy Spirit from this chapter and explain other ways He helps us in our weakness.

a. Verse 13

b. Verse 15

c. Verses 16-17

2. From verses 26-27, why is it important that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us?

3. Can you think of a time when you didn't know how to pray according to God's will?

a. What was the situation?

b. What peace and/or evidence can you find in knowing that the Holy Spirit interceded for you in that time?

c. For what reasons would knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes according to God's will NOT give someone peace?

4. Verse 28 is often not understood in context. What insight do you get from verse 29 about the good God works in your life?

5. Please define the meaning of the words from verse 30 along with their opposite meanings (ex. The opposite meaning of good is bad), and then share any insights you get as you ponder their meanings.

a. Predestined

b. Called

c. Justified

d. Glorified

As you close this time in prayer, please share with the Lord any ways you've struggled to accept His will for you, and the hope you find in the good He's doing in your life.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please invite the Lord to show you what He wants you to learn today as you study.

MEMORIZE: Please review Romans 8:37. Use the prompts of the first letter of each word to write it from memory.

N, I A T T W A M T C T H W L U.

STUDY: Today's passage is an amazing truth that encourages hope and reminds us that God is FOR us and not against us. It is one of the hardest things to grasp when we're going through a difficult time. But if we can embrace the truth of this scripture, it will impact the way we face every struggle of our lives. So often, our struggles leave us thinking that God is angry with us. But Psalm 103:10 promises, "He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities." Please study Romans 8:31-34 and see how it instills hope and security in our lives as you answer the following.

1. What evidence does verse 32 give to prove that God truly is FOR us from verse 31?

2. Please read verse 32 along with 2 Peter 1:3-4. What things does God graciously give us? How does that impact your understanding of "all things"?

For the next few questions, please consider God as the Judge, Jesus as the advocate (defense attorney), the person who accuses you as the prosecutor, and consider yourself as "God's elect," a believer who has received the free gift of righteousness and salvation through Jesus.

3. According to verse 33, who has the final word when it comes to your trial? How does that affect your perspective when being accused?

4. According to verse 34, why does the prosecutor's condemnation NOT have power in your life?

5. What do you see in today's passage (Romans 8:31-34) that makes the Lord worthy of your worship?

As you close this time in prayer, please talk with the Lord about why He's worthy of your worship.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer and ask the Lord to give you a deeper insight into the power of His love.

MEMORIZE: Please review Romans 8:38-39. Use the prompts of the first letter of each word to write it from memory.

FIAS TNDNL, NANR, NTPNTTC, NP, NHND, NAEIAC, WBATSUFTLOGICJOL.

STUDY: Today's passage has both hope and heartache intertwined, with hope winning in the end. Verse 36 is taken from Psalm 44, a psalm of lament when the Israelites felt like God had abandoned them because they were measuring His love according to their difficult circumstances. This passage in Romans 8 tells us that while God's love does not separate us from difficulties, the difficulties do not separate us from God's love. Through His love, we are more than conquerors.

This is a hard lesson to accept. If God has the power to stop the suffering, why doesn't He? As you consider this, please think of a small child being frustrated with her parents because they refuse to give her ice cream at every meal. She accuses them of not loving her. But it is **BECAUSE** they love her that they won't say yes to her request. As you study Romans 8:35-39 today, please ask the Lord to show you that you are that child, and that He would never allow you to go through anything if He didn't have something good for you waiting on the other side. Please read Romans 8:35-39 and answer the following.

1. Please list all the difficulties specified in this passage. Which one(s) tempt you to struggle to trust God's love, and why?

2. What is God's answer for these struggles in your life?

a. Verse 35

b. Verse 37

c. Verse 39

3. Sometimes we assume that our struggles are a measure of God's love. Please use the following passages to explain how God's love actually works through our suffering.

a. Romans 5:3-5

b. James 1:2-4

c. 1 Peter 1:6-7

d. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

4. Please consider a struggle you are going through now, or have gone through in the past. How does knowing that even though God's love does not separate you from the trials, but His love will not separate from you, impact the way you approach the struggle and your relationship with Him?

As you close this time in prayer, please talk with the Lord about how today's passage impacts your view of His love in the midst of trials.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please invite the Lord to help you to understand how to apply what you've learned through this study to your current life circumstances.

MEMORIZE: Please quote Romans 8:35-39 from memory.

STUDY: We always seek to study scripture with the Lord's help, not for information alone, but for transformation. Today you'll have the opportunity to apply what you've learned over the last 7 weeks to your present life circumstances, or to a situation you've experienced in the past. As you look at the passages from each week of the study, please consider a specific situation in your life, and how what you've learned applies. Please write a brief explanation of your situation here.

With that in mind, please answer the following questions.

1. From week 1 - How has the situation given you an opportunity to grow in endurance, character, and hope?

2. From week 2 - How does knowing God's free gift of righteousness and grace impact your perspective of the situation?

3. From week 3 - In what ways have you been tempted to "present your members to sin as an instrument for unrighteousness" rather than "presenting your members to God as an instrument for righteousness"?

4. From week 4 - What fruit will you get if you present yourself as a slave to sin, and what fruit will you get if you present yourself as a slave to God?

5. From week 5 - How has sin tried to deceive you - either through anger, foolishness, despair, or fear? How do you see Jesus delivering you from that sin?

6. From week 6 - What hope do you find in being led by the Spirit? What hope do you get in knowing that you are God's child and heir?

7. From week 7 - How do you see God's love as a strength to sustain you through this time of your life?

As you close this time in prayer, please talk to the Lord about the impact this study, Jesus Is My...Everything, has had in your life, and what you will take away from it.