

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Opening Activity:

Share about a harmless time you were completely sure you were right—then discovered you were wrong. What happened?

Read:

Romans 3:9-26

Romans 2:17-24

Psalms 14:1-3

Ephesians 2:1-10

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul pictures humanity standing before God with every excuse silenced. What words or images in Romans 3:9-20 most clearly communicate the seriousness and reach of sin to you?
2. Paul says Jews and Gentiles are both “under the power of sin.” How does this shared diagnosis confront our habit of comparing ourselves with people we consider worse—or better—than us?
3. Total depravity means sin touches every part of us—not that everyone is as evil as possible. Where do you see sin distorting our thoughts, desires, words, relationships, or worship?
4. The sermon defined sin as living as though we belong on the throne instead of God. What can “taking the throne” look like—and where are you tempted to trust your way over God’s?
5. The Jews possessed God’s Word, but that gift could not make them righteous. How might church involvement or Bible knowledge become a source of false confidence rather than humble faith?
6. Romans 3:20 says the law reveals sin but cannot make us right with God. How is God’s law like an MRI—and what goes wrong when we use it as a ladder to salvation or a weapon against others?
7. When sin is exposed, we may hide, justify, or blame. What helps a group become safe for honest confession, grace, and repentance without minimizing sin or shaming people?
8. How is the Spirit’s conviction—which leads us toward confession and Christ—different from shame, which tells us to hide or that we are beyond grace? How can Scripture help us discern them?
9. If acceptance before God cannot rest on morality, ministry, or good works, on what should our confidence rest? How can assurance in Christ produce humility rather than spiritual pride?
10. After the guilty verdict come the hopeful words “But now.” According to Romans 3:21-26, what has God done for sinners through Jesus—and how does the weight of sin deepen our gratitude for grace?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask God to reveal one place where you are taking His throne. Confess it, receive Christ’s grace, and choose one concrete act of trusting obedience. Share with someone you trust, perhaps in your group.