

LIFE GROUP SERMON GUIDE

For the week of: SEPTEMBER 16-22 (WEEK 1)

ROMANS: PART 3 - "GOD'S POWER"

PASTOR JUSTIN CARRUTHERS

"FREEDOM TO SIN?"

Romans 6:1-14

THE QUESTION:

- IF GOD IS SO _____, WHY CAN'T I JUST KEEP _____?

GRACE DEFINED:

- GRACE = "UNMERITED _____." GOD'S _____ TO US AT _____ EXPENSE.

THE ANSWERS:

1. SINCE WE _____ TO SIN, WE CAN'T _____ IN IT ANY LONGER
2. WE HAVE BEEN _____ WITH CHRIST, SO _____ IN HIM
3. OUR _____ WAS PUT TO DEATH SO WE COULD HAVE A _____
4. YOU WERE FORGIVEN AND FREED TO LIVE FOR _____, NOT FOR _____

THE PRINCIPLE:

- MANY TAKE THEIR _____ AND CHOOSE TO STAY IN _____

OUR HOPE-FILLED REALITY:

- YOUR JUDGMENT DAY WAS _____



LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK

For the week of: SEPTEMBER 16-22 (WEEK 1)

CATCHING UP/ ICE BREAKER

[Note: It is the first week of Life Groups. Take some time to get to know your group and share what you are excited for!]

- What were one or two highlights from your summer? What are you excited about looking forward?

QUICK REVIEW:

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on "Freedom," was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

GOD'S STORY/ OUR STORY:

Read Romans 6:1-14

1. What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
2. What does this passage say about our broken world?
3. Knowing this passage is true, what is my calling as a Christian?

MY STORY:

1. What are some things you enjoy about your "new" life?

2. Paul gives us four answers to why we can't keep on sinning. Which answer caught your attention the most and why?

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. READ the following passages - Psalm 119:1-2, Hebrews 12:7-11, 2 Corinthians 5:10. This week we heard about the dilemma we can all fall into – “To sin or not to sin.” The Bible gives us a number of reasons why our new lifestyle of “no longer following my own way” is the best thing for us. What motivations do these verses give you to walk in obedience?

2. What do you do when you find yourself dwelling on your mistakes? How do you process your guilt? Galatians 5:1, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, especially verse 11.

ADDITIONAL SELF-STUDY (Optional):

1. What are some ways that you can persevere in your own trials? .

2. How does the knowledge of your death to sin affect your struggle with sin? 1 Peter 2:16-17, 2 Peter 1:2-4



TAKING IT HOME:

Reflect back on what God has done for you – share with your group some of the ways that other Christians have helped you to be accountable in your journey.

LIFE GROUP TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group, but it can also be intimidating. We find that group prayer goes better when we follow four simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME—Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE—Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during prayer for topics they feel most led to pray about.

NO ONE IS REQUIRED TO PRAY—There is no expectation that you personally pray out loud in groups if you'd rather not.

KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE—Group prayer goes better then members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for members to stay focused and it tends to intimidate those who may just be learning to pray out loud in a group setting. Remember, no one is required to pray.

SOCIALS

Grab your group for an enjoyable evening. The entire family is invited. If you are still thinking about what to do for your 'Social' event, go to www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups.

SERVICE

Be sure to start thinking about what service project you and your friends want to get involved in! Go to www.hanfordcrc.org/LifeGroups for more information.