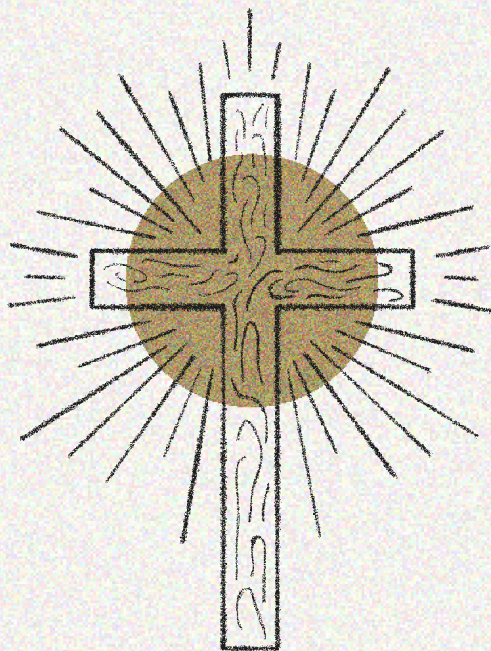


THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING



ROMANS

GC Discussion Guide

GC Discussion Guide through
ROMANS

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Week One
ROMANS 8:1-17

CHAPTER 8:1-17

1. According to v. 1-2, what has Christ set us free from? What does this mean?
2. What does it mean to walk according to the flesh? What does it mean to walk according to the Spirit?
3. What are the results of walking according to the flesh compared to walking according to the Spirit (v. 6-7).
4. What does it mean that the Spirit of God dwells in believers? What are the implications of that? Is this something that you think about often? Why or why not?
5. In what ways do you still feel condemnation for sin? How do you typically respond to this feeling of condemnation?
6. As a group, do the Orphans vs. Children exercise on page 5.

ORPHAN VS. CHILD OF GOD CHART

Adapted from “The Gospel-Centered Life” by the World Harvest Mission

This is a practical exercise to reveal our sinful tendencies to manipulate life and our daily need to return to Christ. This exercise will humble you, which is one of the first steps in serving Christ and others. Read through each bulleted description from left to right. Under “The Orphan,” check the box if you see that tendency in yourself. Underline the words that most apply. Under “The Son/Daughter,” check the boxes that describe where you most want to grow, underlining the key words.

THE ORPHAN

THE SON/DAUGHTER

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Lacks a vital daily intimacy with God | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Feels freed from worry because of God’s love for you |
| Anxious about friends, money, school, grades, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Learning to live in a daily partnership with God |
| Feels as if no one cares about you | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not fearful of God |
| Lives on a success/fail basis | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Feels forgiven and totally accepted |
| Needs to look good | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A daily trust in God’s sovereign plan for your life |
| Feels guilty and condemned | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayer is a first resort |
| Struggles to trust things to God | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Content in relationships b/c you are accepted by God |
| Has to fix your problems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Freedom from making a name for yourself |
| Not very teachable | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is teachable by others |
| Is defensive when accused of error or weakness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Open to criticism b/c you rest on Christ’s perfection |
| Needs to be right | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Able to examine your deeper motives |
| Lacks confidence | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Able to take risks – even to fail |
| Feels discouraged and defeated | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Encouraged by the Spirit working in you |
| Strong-willed with ideas, agendas, and opinions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Able to see God’s goodness in dark times |
| Solution to failure: “Try harder” | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Content with what Christ has provided |
| Has a critical spirit (complaining & bitterness) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trusting less in self and more in the Holy Spirit |
| Tears others down | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Aware of inability to fix life, people, and problems |
| A “competent analyst” of others’ weaknesses | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is able to freely confess your faults to others |
| Tends to compare yourself with others | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Doesn’t always have to be right |
| Feels powerless to defeat the flesh | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does not gain value from man-made “props” |
| Needs to be in control of situations and others | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Experiences more and more victory over the flesh |
| Looks for satisfaction in “positions” | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prayer is a vital, ongoing part of the day |
| Looks for satisfaction in “possessions” | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jesus is more and more the subject of conversation |
| Tends to be motivated by obligation & duty, not love | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | God truly satisfies your soul |

Week Two

ROMANS 8:18-30

CHAPTER 8:18-32

1. How do you typically respond to suffering (anger, despair, suppress and ignore, push through, etc.)?
2. How do these verses encourage us to respond to suffering, and where does our hope come from in the midst of suffering?
3. “For those who love God all things work together for good.” (v. 28). What does this verse mean? What is the “good” that God works together (v. 29)? How is this encouraging?
4. Romans 8:30 is called the Golden Chain of Redemption. What do each of these words mean? Predestined. Called. Justified. Glorified. Who is the initiator/actor of those words?
 - a. Which of these four words are most difficult for you to believe? Why?
5. The Spirit intercedes for you (v. 26), and how can we as a community intercede and pray for you today?

Week Three

ROMANS 8:31-39

CHAPTER 8:31-39

1. In what ways do you struggle to believe that “God is for you” (v. 31)?
2. How do we know that God is for us? (v. 32).
3. In what ways do you hear or feel “charges” or accusations from either yourself or culture around you? (v. 33-34).
4. What can separate you from the love of God?
 - a. In what ways do you struggle to believe this?
5. Have 4-5 people repeatedly read Romans 8:38-39 out loud. What would change about you if you truly believed today that nothing can separate you from God’s love for you?
 - a. Consider committing to memorizing these two verses this week.

Week Four
ROMANS 9

CHAPTER 9

1. Why does Paul have “great sorrow and unceasing anguish” (vs. 2)?
2. If God is love (1 John 4:8), what might it mean that God “hated” Esau (9:13)?
3. According to v. 17, what is God’s purpose in his sovereign acting? What are some other biblical examples of this?
4. What are the “points of stumbling” over the issue of righteousness for us today? In other words, what objections or aversions do we all naturally have that make salvation by faith hard to understand?
5. How does Paul answer some of the potential objections to election in (v. 19-24)?
6. What is a takeaway or an action step you can take in response to Romans 9?

Week Five
ROMANS 10

CHAPTER 10

1. How is someone saved? How does someone become a Christian? (v. 9-13).
2. What does it mean to “confess Jesus as Lord”? Why is this a requirement for salvation?
3. Why do we need to believe that “God raised him from the dead” to be saved?
4. Reflect on Romans 10:20. What are some other biblical examples you can think of that show God revealing himself to people who were not seeking him at all? What examples of God’s initiative do you see in your own life?
5. If you are a believer, it is because you heard the gospel from someone or multiple people (v. 17). Who did God use in your life to bring you to faith in Jesus? How did you come to faith in Jesus?
6. What are the barriers that keep you from sharing your faith with others? Who is one person that we can pray God gives you an opportunity to “preach the good news” to? (v. 15).

Week Six
ROMANS 11

CHAPTER 11

1. How would you define glory? (v. 36)
2. Based on this chapter, what is God's plan for Israel? (v. 1, 12-15)
3. How is justification by faith the opposite of pride? (v. 20)
4. Why is it important for us to know and believe the truth of Romans 11:29-32?
5. How would you describe the tone of v. 33-36? What stands out to you from these verses?
 - a. When you think about the context of all of chapter 11, why do you think he concludes this way?