

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.

WEEK 4

SEASON 1
THE GOSPEL. OUR NEED.

ROMANS

GROUP GUIDE



CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- If you could meet anyone from history, who would it be and what's a question you'd love to ask them?
- Describe a "eureka" moment in your life, when your thinking about something changed drastically.
- What are some unexpected things you've learned the past couple weeks about God's wrath and judgment?

TRUTH

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

The reality of God's wrath and judgment can bring up questions about God's character. Remember, however, what Paul said in the opening of his letter, that his goal was to bring about a believing obedience. The realities of wrath and judgment shouldn't make us trust God less. They should make us trust him more. Paul's going to explain why.

A Dangerous Power

READ: Romans 3:9

DISCUSS: How would you define sin in your own words?

God's wrath and judgment are his response to sin. If we think that wrath and judgment are overkill, we don't fully understand the danger of sin. Sin is an aggressive force, and humanity is "under" its power (v. 9). In Genesis 4, God himself says to Cain that "sin is crouching at the door." We shouldn't take sin lightly. It's a crouching beast seeking to dominate us.

It Breaks Everything

READ: Romans 3:10–18

DISCUSS: Do you think this is a true description of people? Why or why not?

Sin makes people unrighteous. Rather than seeking God, we've turned aside. Rather than doing good, sin has made our mouths venomous. Rather than peace, history is filled with ruin and misery that results from sin. Under sin's power, humanity has wreaked havoc on God's good world. Judgment and wrath are God's rightfully potent response for such a destructive disease.

Is God at Fault?

READ: Romans 3:1-8

DISCUSS: How do you think these complex verses connect to what Paul is saying about sin?

A key phrase to understanding this passage is in verse 4, where Paul says, "That you may be justified in your words..." The fact that God has responded to human sin with judgment doesn't make him unrighteous or unfaithful. Quite the opposite. It means that God is doing exactly what he said he would do. He is a God of his word. We might not always understand the way God runs the world, but we must see that God has remained true to his word in the way he's responded to sin.

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

God's Faithfulness Never Fails

READ: Romans 3:19-20

When we compare humanity's condition with God's moral standard laid out in the law, it's clear that everyone's accountable to God. We can't justify ourselves by the law, but that's exactly why Paul is so excited about the gospel, because it means there's another way to be justified. God has kept his word to judge sin, and through the gospel we discover that he has been faithful to save sinners.

CHANGE

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- How does the danger of sin described in these verses (and God's description in Genesis 4 of a crouching beast) change the way you think about sin in and around your own life?
- Do you feel like God is good for the way he responds to sin? How has this discussion impacted those feelings?
- In what ways does God being true to his word encourage you in your life right now?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray for the eyes to see sin for the danger it truly is, and for the courage to uproot it when it shows up in our lives.
- Pray for a deep-seated trust in God's faithfulness to keep his word.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're engaging with the gospel?



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