

# HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

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## 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.

## 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 7

SEASON 1  
THE GOSPEL. OUR NEED.

# ROMANS

GROUP GUIDE



# CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND  
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What are some cool weather activities you are looking forward to this fall/winter?
- What is the most important factor in someone earning your trust?
- Describe a time when you had to trust someone with a major outcome that was out of your hands.

# TRUTH

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS  
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

**READ:** Romans 4:13-25

As we come to the close of Season One in our Romans series Paul continues to discuss faith, a major topic in his letter to the Roman church. He has spent a significant amount of time discussing faith—in particular, how deeply we need it and the impact it has on our lives. As chapter four comes to a close Paul shows us what it means to not simply have faith, but more importantly to walk in it. Paul is going to describe the type of faith we need to receive the promises of God.

# Faith to receive the promises of God knows God's character

**READ:** Romans 4:16-17

**DISCUSS:** What are the examples of God's power that Paul refers to in this passage?

Paul explains that the ability to receive God's promise is fully based on faith. Just as he explained earlier in chapter four, the works of Abraham and his offspring are irrelevant. Instead, we must trust in the God who is not only faithful to keep his promises, but also all-powerful and more than able to deliver on those promises.

# Faith to receive the promises of God risks hope

God's promise to Abraham was not a small one. Even though he was well past the age where he could have children, God told Abraham that he would make him "the father of many nations." Sometimes the promises of God can seem incredible and odd to believe because they're so big. However, Paul says that our trust in God shouldn't be grounded in what the world says is possible, but instead in what God did through Christ on the cross.

# Faith to receive the promises of God doesn't weaken

**READ:** Romans 4:19-20

**DISCUSS:** What are some areas in our lives where our faith in God can weaken?

The amazing thing about Abraham is that his faith in God's promise didn't weaken even though the facts seemed to point in a different direction. However, just because Abraham's faith didn't weaken, doesn't mean he didn't make mistakes. Abraham's faith may not have weakened but he does over-function and ends up trying to help God. Our walk with God may still be marked with mistakes, but we must continue to trust that he will deliver on his promise.

# Faith to receive the promises of God grows a generational vision

Abraham's journey with God deeply had a deep impact on his life, but also stretched far beyond just himself. Paul points out that God counting Abraham's faith as righteousness was also important for us. Abraham recognized that his actions, his faith, was going to have an impact beyond just himself. If we continue to walk in faith in God's promises it will make a difference, not simply for us, but for generations to come.

# GRACE

*SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

## **Faith to receive the promises of God is built on Jesus**

Abraham had faith in a plan that he didn't yet understand. His faith led to God establishing a line of people that would lead to the person through which the world would be blessed: Jesus. Placing our faith in the work of Jesus looks back at his resurrection, but also forward to a time when the promises of God will be fully consummated. One day Jesus will return to restore Earth, wiping out all of sin and its consequences and drawing his people into his full presence.

# CHANGE

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

- What are some views you have of God's character that need correction?
- What promises of God have you found it hard to fully trust him to fulfill?
- In what ways are you trying to work to get God's promises instead of relying on him?

# PRAYER

## *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Pray for a proper understanding of God's character.
- Pray that we would be able to walk in complete faith for the promises of God.
- Pray that faith wouldn't weaken.

## **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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