

# 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.

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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 8

SEASON 1  
THE GOSPEL. OUR NEED.

# ROMANS

GROUP GUIDE



# CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND  
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- If there were a playlist from your teenage years, what's one song that would definitely be on it?
- If you were given a plane ticket tomorrow (to anywhere) and \$1,000, where would you go?
- Do you like to think about your own future? Why or why not?

# TRUTH

## *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Before moving to Romans chapter five, we're going to camp out on the subject of faith. In chapter one, Paul said that those who believe the gospel would "live by faith." Then he said that all God's promises, his righteousness, and our salvation come through faith. If faith is so important, then we need to know what it looks like in action. Let's revisit Paul's example of Abraham to deepen our understanding of faith in action.

# Faith Doesn't Ignore the Unknowns

**READ:** Romans 4:19

**DISCUSS:** Describe a time in your own life when you had to make a big decision that came with a lot of unknowns.

Abraham didn't ignore his own age and Sarah's inability to have children. Yet these two glaring challenges didn't weaken his faith. He didn't know how God would make good on his promise, but he still trusted that he would. God hasn't laid out his plans for our future with all kinds of guarantees, but instead he calls us to trust him with the unknowns. In fact, you could say that it wouldn't really require trust if God laid out all the plans. Faith requires trust, and trust comes

with unknowns. But the unknowns  
don't have to weaken our faith.



# Faith Strengthens Through Action

**READ:** Romans 4:20

**DISCUSS:** From what you know about Abraham's life, in what ways do you think he "gave glory to God"?

Abraham had a number of blunders, but they all happened while he was sticking to the path of God's promise. As he stuck to that path, his faith grew stronger and stronger. It took 25 years for God to give a son to Abraham and Sarah, but during the waiting period, God showed them that he was capable, faithful, and powerful. If we'll trust God with the unknowns and continue to obey him, over time our trust in him will strengthen. Rather than being anxious and fearful, by remaining

faithful we can experience God's  
peace in the unknowns.

# GRACE

*SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

## Faith in Jesus Convinces Us of God's Faithfulness

**READ:** Romans 4:21

God had shown himself faithful to Abraham, and that convinced Abraham that he'd make good on his promise. We have something even greater to be convinced by. When Jesus Christ came into the world, he knew that his faithfulness would require his death. He did it for us. That means that the greatest thing we can know is that God loves us. Even when pain comes, even when plans change, even when we don't know

how it'll work out for our good,  
knowing Jesus gives us every reason  
to have faith in God's character.

# CHANGE

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

- Do you struggle trusting God with the unknowns in your life? How does Abraham's example impact the way you think and feel about trusting God with unknowns?
- What are some examples you can point to of God's faithfulness in your life that can help strengthen your faith?
- In what ways is God calling you to put your faith into action?

# PRAYER

## *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- When a man was struggling to trust Jesus to heal his son, he cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Pray for God's help to trust him and be faithful to him.
- Pray for clear memories about all the ways in which God has shown himself faithful.

## **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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