

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 2

SEASON 2
HOW THE GOSPEL WORKS

ROMANS

GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What are your plans for Thanksgiving?
- Who is someone that you think uses his or her authority really well? How do they do it?
- What's an example of a way your parents' lifestyle and decisions affected your life, for better or for worse?

TRUTH

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Last week we looked at the formidable character that the gospel produces in someone who believes it. In chapters five and six, we'll see that this kind of character is about much more than just getting through the difficulties of life. These verses are dense and complicated, but Paul's overarching point goes to the very heart of what it means to be truly human.

Two Different Reigns

READ: Romans 5:12–16

DISCUSS: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “death reigned”?

As the head of the human race, when Adam sinned, sin spread to everyone, making every person unrighteous. Our first reaction might be to argue about whether or not that’s fair, but that would be missing the point. When Jesus came, he came as the new Adam, the righteous Head of a new, righteous humanity. The way we gain access into that new humanity is by faith. The effect is profound. After Adam, death reigned. Now in Jesus, grace reigns.

Two Different Positions

READ: Romans 5:17–6:4

DISCUSS: What do you think it means to “walk newness of life”?

Verse 17 of chapter five is surprising. It's not just that grace reigns now, but “**those** who receive the abundance of grace” will reign. In other words, those who believe the gospel are given a new position of authority and influence. This isn't a new idea, however, because back in Genesis 1-2, God created humanity to rule over the whole world under his authority. That's what it means to be human. Apart from the gospel, people are slaves to sin. In Christ, men and women are given authority to use for God's glory... which is what it means to be human.

Two Different Ways of Life

READ: Romans 6:5–13

DISCUSS: What stands out to you from these verses?

In Paul's thinking, sin is the norm under the reign of death, but it's out of place for the new life we have through Christ. If a believer is no longer a slave to sin, then they're free to live a new kind of life. A new kind of life is one that lived for God's glory and purposes, and sin has no place in those. As believers, "reigning" begins with reigning over sin in your own life, and letting God use you for good rather than sin exploiting you for evil.

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

READ: Romans 6:14

Our ability to deny sin doesn't come from mere effort; it comes through grace. When Jesus rose from the dead, he showed the power of his own life over sin and death. That same power lives in those who believe, and that means sin has no dominion over them. Your ability to reign, to walk in newness of life, to live for God's glory – it comes from God.

CHANGE

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

- How does the truth that God wants you to reign change the way you think about your own life and purpose?
- Are there areas of your life where you're actively sinning that you need to repent of?
- In what ways right now in your life is God calling you to present yourself to him as an instrument for righteousness?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray for those who are repenting of sin, for God's forgiveness and their restoration.
- Pray for a right view of our purpose as humans and a right view of the dangers of sin.

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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