

# ROMANS SEASON 2

## HOW THE GOSPEL WORKS

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### 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?
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### 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 Paul means by "walk[ing] 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.

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## **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.

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## **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?

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## **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 praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?