

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.



SEASON 3
WHAT WAS GOD THINKING?

ROMANS

GROUP GUIDE
WEEK 3

CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- When's the last time you got really frustrated at technology that didn't work like it was supposed to?
- What's the most complicated subject you've ever studied? Did you enjoy the experience?
- What's a song that gets stuck in your head lately?

TRUTH

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

We've looked at some mind-bending topics over the past two weeks. Paul is giving us a peak into the mind of God. In the rest of chapter ten, however, he's going to show us that that the inner workings of God's mind may be complicated, but his plan his simple. The gospel is simple, and it has a simple message, a simple method, and it calls for a simple response.

Simple Message

READ: Romans 10:5–13

DISCUSS: Based on these verses, how would you sum up the simple message of the gospel?

The gospel isn't for super humans. That's Paul's point in the two questions, "Who will ascend into heaven?" and "Who will descend into the abyss?" Here's the simple message: Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead. You don't have to climb a mountain of enlightenment or plumb the depths of complex philosophy to get the picture. Believing this message and confessing it—a word that means shaping your life and actions around it—is how a person is saved. Simple.

Simple Method

READ: Romans 10:14–15

DISCUSS: We saw in the earlier verses how simple the gospel is. How does the gospel's simplicity affect the way you feel about telling it to others?

What do campaign slogans and repetitive song hooks have in common? They're simple because they're designed to spread like wildfire. So is the gospel. For people to believe and confess the gospel, they first need to hear it, which means someone needs to say it to them. Jesus gave his followers the mission of making disciples of all nations, and that begins with telling the simple story of the gospel.

Preaching—which means “proclaiming” or “announcing”—isn't just for pastors or evangelists; it's

the tool given to every believer to spread the good news that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead.

Simple Response

READ: Romans 10:16–21

DISCUSS: What do you think it means for a person to “obey the gospel”?

Paul includes five references to Old Testament passages in these verses. Why? He wants to make it clear that those who reject the gospel can't claim ignorance. Their unwillingness to call on Jesus isn't ignorance; it's disobedience. If Jesus is Lord over everything, then there's only two possible responses to him: obedience and disobedience. Simple as that.

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

The Open Hands of God

There's good reason to believe and obey. When Paul says in verse 21 that God has "held out [his] hands to a disobedient and contrary people," we know it to be true because of Jesus Christ. He willingly let Roman soldiers hammer nails through his open hands, and he hung on the cross on behalf of disobedient sinners. Those living, nail-scarred hands now offer all the riches of righteousness to everyone who believes. Simple.

CHANGE

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

- How can you see the simplicity of the gospel impacting your day-to-day life?
- Do you truly believe that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead? Why or why not?
- What stands in the way of you telling the story of the gospel to others? How can this passage help you overcome those hurdles?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray for opportunities and boldness this week to tell others the simple story of the gospel.
- Pray for continued faithfulness to Jesus as Lord, to trust and obey him with a whole heart.

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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