

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS :: WEEK ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduce yourselves:

- a. Name
- b. Would you describe yourself as a novice studier (1st study), an intermediate studier (you've done some) or a veteran studier (you live for Bible studies)?
- c. What most excites you about this study?

2. Let's talk about the schedule:

- a. Let's look at the times on the schedule in the front of the notebook.
- b. Please be sensitive to the times so that we can end our study on time each week.
- c. Someone will remind the group when there are 3-5 minutes left before needing to move to our seats in the worship center for the teaching time.

3. Let's talk about attendance:

- a. What benefits do you think there are in coming consistently to the study?
- b. What benefits do you think there are in being involved in the discussion group?

4. Let's talk about the homework:

- a. There will be 5 days of homework each week. We've tried to keep in mind that you have busy lives and are possibly doing other Bible reading as well. There will be around 5 questions to answer each day.
- b. The starred homework questions will be the ones we'll discuss in our group time.
- c. Please pick out at least one question that you'd like to answer in your discussion time. We'd love to hear your thoughts. If you're a talker, we'd love to hear from you, but please also leave room for others to share their insights. You might even be able to use your outgoing personality to gently and lovingly encourage the quieter women to share their thoughts. They may be quiet but they probably have some great wisdom to share. We're here to encourage each other, right ladies?
- d. Please don't skip the prayer part! It's so important that we don't just fill our heads with knowledge. God is all about relationship.
- e. There will be one verse to memorize each week. Please don't skip the memorization. Even if you don't get it word for word. There's so much to hide in our hearts. Are you a person who loves to memorize or do you feel intimidated by it?

5. When you think of who God is, what character traits of His come to mind and why? (For some ideas of traits that describe Him, take a look at Psalm 103.)

6. Close in prayer, offering these next four weeks to the Lord as a loving sacrifice of time and gratitude so that you can grow closer to Him and to His other daughters in the study.

CHANGED

II. Willingly _____ the image of God to be _____ to you and in you. (2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

HOMEWORK :: WEEK TWO

CHANGED BY GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE, AND GRACE



DAY ONE

Pray: As you begin studying today, ask the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of His righteousness and justice.

Memorize: This week we will be memorizing Romans 6:14. Write the verse on a notecard or on the lines below. If you use a notecard, place the notecard where you can read over it at least once a day this week.

Study: Read Romans 3:21-26. Today we will focus on the righteousness and justice of God found in this passage.

1. Define righteousness and justice using a Bible dictionary. (You can google "biblical meaning of righteousness of God" and "biblical justice" to find the answers.)

- a. Righteousness: _____
- b. Justice: _____

2. What can you learn about God's righteousness from verses 21-22?

3. *According to verse 23, who needs the righteousness of God and why?

4. *According to verses 25-26, how does Christ's redeeming work on the cross demonstrate God's righteousness and how does it satisfy God's justice?

5. Close in prayer by thanking God for an aspect of His righteous and just character that is meaningful to you.

DAY TWO

Pray: Before you look into the Word, ask the Lord to reveal the truth of His gracious character to you.

Memorize: Refer to your notecard. Read Romans 6:14. Say the verse out loud a few times, emphasizing a different word each time.

Study: Read Romans 3:21-26, thinking about the ways you see God's grace in this passage.

1. Define God's grace using a Bible dictionary. (You can google "biblical meaning of grace".)

2. *Since God's grace is vital to our salvation and our continued growth in the Lord, how do we see it demonstrated in verses 21-26?

3. Look at verses 24-25. Fill in the blanks.

a. Vs. 24: "...we are justified by His _____ as a _____..."

b. Vs 25: "...to be received by _____..."

4. *What role do you play in receiving the gracious gift of righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus?

5. Close in prayer by thanking God for an aspect of His gracious character that is meaningful to you.

DAY THREE

Pray: As you study today, thank the Lord by faith that He has set you free from the control of sin. Ask Him to help you to walk in the freedom that He died to give you.

Memorize: Refer to your memory verse. Turn Romans 6:14 into a prayer to the Lord. Then try to say it from memory.

Study: Read Romans 6:12-19, focusing on the freedom that you have from the control of sin because of the gift of God's righteousness found in Christ Jesus.

1. *From verses 12-14, what do you learn about your response to sin as a faith-filled believer in Jesus Christ?

2. From verse 15, what does Paul say could be a temptation for us as believers under God's grace?

3. What is a sin that tends to trip you up in your daily life?

4. *What are some ways you can keep from being controlled or mastered by this particular sin?

5. Close in prayer, telling the Lord about the struggles you face with the sin you wrote about in questions 3 and 4. Ask Him to help you experience increasing freedom from the control of this sin as you daily offer yourself to Him.

DAY FOUR

Pray: Ask the Lord to open your heart to His Word today as you study, and ask Him to help you to see new ways to choose righteousness and obedience to Him.

Memorize: Refer to your memory verse. Try to say Romans 6:14 from memory. Review any portion of the verse that trips you up.

Study: Read Romans 6:12-19 again. Today we will focus on how we can offer ourselves to Christ Jesus as our master.

1. Look at verses 17-18. What does it say is key for us to finding freedom from the control of sin?

2. According to verse 19, what are we now to be slaves of since we are no longer slaves to sin?

3. *What are ways that you can present your body as a “slave to righteousness”?

4. *According to verse 19, as you present yourself to the Lord to be controlled and mastered by him, what does this lead to?

5. Close by turning Romans 6:16-18 into a prayer back to the Lord. Here are the verses as translated in The Living Bible. Use them as a guide.

Romans 6:16-18: “Don’t you realize that you can choose your own master? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master, and you will be his slave. Thank God that though you once chose to be slaves of sin, now you have obeyed with all your heart the teaching to which God has committed you. And now you are free from your old master, sin; and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness.”

DAY FIVE

Pray: Thank the Lord for His righteousness, justice, and grace. Thank Him that He gives you His righteousness as you put your faith in the gracious work of Christ Jesus on the cross. Praise Him that you are now free from the control of sin, and ask Him to help you to walk in this freedom.

Memorize: Write your memory verse, Romans 6:14, on the lines below. Try to write it from memory.

Study: Today we will pull together what we have learned from Romans 3:21-26 and Romans 6:12-19 and look for personal application.

1. What is something new that you learned about God's character through this week of study?

2. What desires have you found yourself serving and obeying most this past week? How do these desires reveal the master you're choosing to serve?

3. *What do you think our righteous and gracious God most wants to do in your heart to change you into His image (making you more righteous and gracious) over the course of the next few months or year? Be as specific as you can. If nothing comes to mind, pray that the Lord would open your eyes to ways that He wants you to be more like Him.

4. Close in prayer, telling the Lord one way you will respond to what you have learned this week about who you are in Him.

