

Small Group Study
Romans 6
July 21, 2024

A suggested format for your group time

- 15 min – Fellowship
- 15 min – Prayer (using the four quadrants of the SG prayer sheet)
- 45 min – Study (see below)

This study is designed to introduce your small group to Paul's defense of the gospel. They will be able to see the plan of redemption unfold through the explanation of sin (chapters 1-3), salvation (chapters 4-5), sanctification (chapters 6-8), sovereignty (chapters 9-11), and service (chapters 12-16). It will deepen their love for the Lord and better equip them to share the hope of the gospel with others in a clear and compelling manner. Truly the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation!

Romans 6:1-14

Passage Summary

Paul assumes the argument that if salvation is by grace through faith and not by works, then it doesn't matter how a person lives their life. That line of reasoning is faulty since we have been joined to Christ, we no longer live according to the flesh. We are united in His death and resurrection so that we might walk in the newness of life. We are no longer slaves to the old nature (old man) but are alive unto God. Sin shall not reign in our bodies but yield continually to God. We are no longer dominated by sin but governed by grace.

Jumpstart Questions

- In the old James Bond spy movies, what did it mean for him to have a license to kill? Since salvation is by grace and not by works, does a Christian have a license to sin?
- How does our union with our spouse change the way we live? What will be the result if a person gets married but continues to live like they are single? How does our union with Christ change the way we live?
- Can a Christian be in sin and be right with God at the same time? What does it mean to be in sin? What does it mean to be right with God?

Romans 6:1-4

- What was Paul's argument for the believer to no longer live in sin? How would Paul respond to the Christian that claimed salvation but was living in deliberate disobedience?
- How does the resurrected life of Jesus give me new life today?
- What does it look like to walk in the newness of life? Is this new walk a result of a changed heart or is it a walk that I must learn and put into practice?

Romans 6:5-11

- What is the difference between the old man and the new man? What do you think it means to be a slave to sin?
- How does Paul say we should treat the old man? Why are we sometimes hesitant to put the old man to death?
- Why is victory over sin impossible as long as the old man hangs around? Can a man be fully committed to his wife if he is still dating his old girlfriend? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to “reckon” yourself dead to sin? If we are dead to sin, why do we still sense the power of its presence within us?

Romans 6:12-14

- How is it possible to replace sin that reigns in us for Christ who reigns in us?
- How does a person present their members (bodies) as instruments of unrighteousness? How do our daily habits influence the presence and power of sin in our lives?
- What does the word yield mean? How does a person yield to sin? How can we yield to God?
- Why is grace greater than sin?

Practical suggestions:

1. Please feel free to modify any question and include other text-based questions that you might find helpful for your group to help them think through the passage - specifically questions that lead participants to make comments *based on the text* (not just to give opinions).
2. Invite group members to make other observations they see in the passage. Have them to identify the specific verse where that observation is made.
3. Ask what application can be made out of these verses that will help a person to put into practice the truths in the passage?
4. Ask for volunteers to read the various sections. **Make sure you know the person you are asking to read is comfortable doing so. Please don't just assume and put someone on the spot.*
5. Be intentional about including everyone into the conversation. Asking an 'open' question directed to a specific person who remains fairly quiet is one simple way of inclusion (in other words, a question that may not have a specific right or wrong answer). An example of an 'open' question is: *What's your favorite part of this passage? Why?*
6. Remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and make both ministry and teaching a priority of your group time together.