

Family Discipleship Guide: God's Justice, Our Need, and His Grace

Scripture: *Romans 1:18–25, 28–32*

Big Idea: God is completely good and just. Sin has real consequences, but God lovingly calls us to turn from sin and trust Jesus.

1. Connect

Ask:

“What happens when we ignore a good warning?”

Use a simple example:

- Ignoring a “wet floor” sign can lead to a fall; touching something hot can bring pain.

Say:

“Warnings are not always meant to scare us. Often, they are meant to protect us.

Romans 1 helps us understand God's serious response to sin—and why we all need the good news of Jesus.”

2. Read God's Word

Read: *Romans 1:18–25, then Romans 1:28–32.*

For younger children, focus on *verses 20–21 and 28–32*. Parents may summarize the portions of the passage that are not age-appropriate for their children.

Listen for:

- What people know about God
- How people respond to God
- What happens when people reject God's ways

3. Learn Together

God's wrath is holy, not out of control

God's wrath means His settled, right opposition to sin. God is never selfish, cruel, or out of control. He is a good Judge who takes evil seriously.

Ask:

- Why is it good that God cares about what is right and wrong?
- What would happen if a judge ignored every wrong thing people did?

We were made to worship and thank God

Romans 1 says people chose to worship created things instead of the Creator. An idol is anything we look to for what only God can give us: our meaning, value, pleasure, or security.

Ask:

- What are some good things that can become too important to us?
- What might it look like to put popularity, money, sports, comfort, or screens ahead of God?
- What are three things our family can thank God for today?

Sin has consequences, but God calls us back

When people keep rejecting God, God may allow them to experience the painful results of their choices. These consequences are serious, but they can also wake us up to our need for Him.

Romans 1's list includes sins such as greed, envy, pride, deceit, gossip, disobedience, and a lack of mercy. This reminds us that no one gets to look down on others. We all need Jesus.

Ask:

- Which attitudes on this list can show up in our family?
- Why is it easier to see other people's wrong choices than our own?
- What does it mean to repent?

Repentance means turning away from sin and turning back to God.

4. Gospel Hope

Read: *Romans 1:16*.

Say:

"The bad news is that sin separates us from God. The good news is that Jesus came to rescue sinners. He lived without sin, died for our sins, rose again, and offers forgiveness and new life to everyone who trusts Him."

Ask:

- Is anyone too sinful for Jesus to save? Why not?
- How should God's grace change the way we treat people who are struggling or making sinful choices?
- How can we speak truth without being proud, mean, or judgmental?

5. Family Response

Give everyone a quiet moment to consider:

- Is there something I have allowed to become too important?
- Is there a sin or attitude I need to confess to God?
- Is there someone I need to forgive, encourage, or treat more kindly?

Choose one response for the week:

- Begin each day by naming one thing you thank God for.
- Replace gossip or complaining with one encouraging statement.
- Ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt.
- Take a break from one distraction that competes for your attention.
- Pray each day: "God, help me worship You above everything else."

6. Pray

"God, thank You that You are good, holy, and just. Forgive us for the ways we put other things ahead of You. Help us see our own sin honestly, without judging others. Thank You for sending Jesus to rescue and forgive us. Teach our family to worship You, thank You, and walk in Your ways. Amen."

Memory Verse

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."

-Romans 1:16