

MAIN IDEA - God is holy, and therefore His people must be holy too.

Building Block #1 - THE LAW

ROMANS 3:10-12

HEAD What does the law show us about our condition without Jesus?

The Law teaches us that we are unrighteous. It shows us that if we stood before God without Christ, we would be declared guilty, because we cannot live up to the standard that He has put forward. Many people have tried to live up to the requirements of the Law, but God says not one of them has succeeded, except Christ.

Building Block #2 - GRACE

ROMANS 8:1-4

HEART How has the life and death of Christ changed how we relate to the Law?

Through Christ the requirements of the law are already fulfilled in us. Despite our sin, we will no longer receive condemnation and we are no longer enslaved to sin. Because of this we are free to walk in the power of the Spirit and live lives that please God, while not trusting in our own ability to keep the law for the preservation of our relationship with Him.

Building Block #3 - HOLINESS

1 PETER 1:14-16

HANDS How has God called us to live once we are free from the law of sin and death?

God calls us to live in obedience to Him. Even though our salvation does not depend on our works, God chose us to be people who are holy in our actions. That means He has chosen us to live according to His will even when the world rejects His plan. Through the power of the Spirit, we should reject the sin that we used to live in and walk in the ways that are pleasing to God.

Pray

1 PETER 1:14-16

Adoration God is holy. He is totally perfect, glorious, and set apart from all of creation.

Confession We have fallen short of His holiness and turned to the passions of this world.

Thanksgiving God has adopted us so that we could walk in His holy ways.

Supplication Pray that God would strengthen us to live lives that are set apart from the world because of our devotion to Him.

Memorize

1 PETER 1:14-16

SUMMARY

This week we begin the story of Joseph. Joseph's brothers hate him and become jealous of him because of their father's favoritism toward him. Joseph does not help the situation when he tells them about his dreams that they will bow down to him one day. His brothers mistreat him and sell him into slavery. But in Genesis 50:20 Joseph tells them, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." No matter the circumstances, even when things seem at their worst, God is doing something good.

TEXT

Genesis 37

OUTLINE

Don't lose hope. God is doing something good.

1. God is doing something good when life is unfair (v.1-11)

- Treat people fairly - Jacob picked favorites and stirred up strife among his sons. Life can be often unfair, but we should be careful not to be the cause of that.
- Be humble, grateful, gracious - Joseph received the benefits of Jacob's favoritism. When we benefit from the unfairness of life, it should humble us, cause us to give thanks, and spur us on to bless others with what we've been given. Instead, Joseph seemed to flaunt it.
- Guard against hatred and jealousy - Joseph's brothers responded to their father's favoritism with hatred and jealousy. Remember the goodness of God when life is unfair instead of responding in hatred.

2. God is doing something good through sinful people. (v.17-36)

- Remember you are one of them - No one looks good in this story. We can remember the goodness of God by remembering our own sin.
- Pray for people who hurt you - It is really hard to hate someone when you are praying for them. Jesus tells us to do this in Matthew 5:44.
- Trust God when you don't understand - Joseph couldn't have imagined the good that God was doing when all of this happened.

3. God is doing something good through your suffering.

- Cling to God when you've been betrayed. - Matthew 24:9-10, 13-14
- Rely on God when you have nothing left. - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
- Hope in God when things seem hopeless. - Romans 8:31

Discussion Questions

- How have you seen God do good things in your life?
- What struggles are you experiencing in which you need to remember the goodness of God?
- How can God use the unfairness and difficulty of life for His good purposes?