

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: — 2 Corinthians 5:2, John 6:63, Hebrews 11:1, 6.

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Being in Christ, we are kids of the conquering King (vs 1)

Righteousness before a righteous God does not depend on our righteous walk (vs 1)

Stop wallowing in self, and start worshiping our Lord and Savior (vs 1)

² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

This is our new spiritual principle for a new spiritual life (vs 2)

³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

We are people who walk by the Spirit, not in the strength of our flesh. (vs 3-4)

A prayerless life is a powerless life (vs 3-4)

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

The direction of the mind reveals the dominion of the heart, which determines how we walk (vs 5-7)

⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Put into Practice:

[] How to have life.

[] How to have peace.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. According to Romans 8:1, what does it mean that there is “no condemnation” for those who are in Christ Jesus?
2. According to Romans 8:1, how is conviction from the Holy Spirit different from condemnation?
3. According to Romans 8:3-4, why couldn’t God’s law change us, and what did God accomplish through Jesus?
4. According to Romans 8:5-7, what does it practically look like to walk according to the Spirit rather than the flesh?
5. According to Romans 8:6, how does setting our minds on the Spirit produce life and peace?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God’s Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God’s Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leader's Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

1. According to Romans 8:1, what does it mean that there is “no condemnation” for those who are in Christ Jesus?

Biblical Answer:

Everyone has sinned and deserves judgment, but Jesus received the condemnation we deserve because of our sin. When we put our trust in Jesus, we are forgiven, declared righteous, and welcomed into God’s family. Our confidence rests in Christ’s finished work, not our perfect performance.—A-M-E-N

Biblical References: Romans 3:23–24; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:13–14; John 1:12

2. According to Romans 8:1, how is conviction from the Holy Spirit different from condemnation?

Biblical Answer:

Condemnation tells us to hide from God because we are hopeless and rejected. The Holy Spirit’s conviction exposes specific sin and draws us toward confession, forgiveness, and restoration. Condemnation makes us look at ourselves; conviction makes us look to Jesus. When we sin, we should look to Jesus, repent, and receive His cleansing rather than wallow in shame.

Biblical References: Romans 8:1; John 16:8; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 4:14–16; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Discussion: Where are you most tempted to condemn yourself instead of confessing your sin and trusting Christ?

3. According to Romans 8:3-4, why couldn’t God’s law change us, and what did God accomplish through Jesus?

Biblical Answer:

God’s law is holy and good, but our sinful flesh is too weak to obey it perfectly. What we could never accomplish through willpower, God accomplished by sending His Son. Jesus fulfilled the law, bore our judgment, and gave us His Spirit so that we can increasingly walk in obedience.

Biblical References: Romans 7:12; Romans 8:3–4; Galatians 3:21–26; Matthew 5:17; Titus 3:4–

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4. According to Romans 8:5-7, what does it practically look like to walk according to the Spirit rather than the flesh?

Biblical Answer:

Walking by the Spirit means depending upon God’s presence and power throughout our entire day, not only during obviously “spiritual” moments. We pray, submit our decisions to Scripture,

resist sinful desires, and invite God to work through us where we live, learn, work, play, and worship. A prayerless life becomes a powerless life because we were never meant to follow Jesus in our own strength.

Biblical References: Galatians 5:16–25; John 15:4–5; Ephesians 5:15–18; Philippians 2:13; Zechariah 4:6

Discussion: What ordinary part of your day do you regularly attempt without consciously depending on God?

5. According to Romans 8:6, how does setting our minds on the Spirit produce life and peace?

Biblical Answer:

The direction of our minds reveals the dominion of our hearts and shapes the direction of our lives. Setting our minds on the Spirit means filling our thoughts with God's Word, remembering our identity in Christ, rejecting the enemy's lies, and trusting God by faith. As we seek Him and believe His promises, the Spirit produces life, peace, and obedience within us.

Biblical References: Romans 8:5–8; Matthew 3:16–17; Matthew 4:1–11; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Colossians 3:1–4; Hebrews 11:1, 6

Discussion: What thought, fear, or lie do you need to take captive and replace with the truth of God's Word this week?