

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: — Romans 3:20–24; Galatians 3:21–24; Psalm 19:7–11.

READ THE PASSAGE

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

¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

1) The reason for the Law is to shine light on sin (vs 13)

2) The wrong reason for the Law

The law of God is to show us that we are not good, but it has no power to make us good (vs 13)

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

God's law reveals God's character, and deepens conviction, but cannot change us (vs 14-15)

Before we will repent before God about our sin, we must agree with God about our sin (vs 16-17)

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

We are always killing sin, or sin is always killing us (vs 13-20)

Put into Practice:

☐ Examine the source of your spiritual effort.

☐ Devote yourself to a daily rhythm:

☐ Read a passage of Scripture.

☐ Recognize what it reveals about God.

☐ Reveal this to a close friend.

☐ Rely on the Holy Spirit for power to obey.

The Daily Rhythm is Read, Recognize, Reveal, and Rely.

Small Group Discussion Questions

According to Romans 7:13-14

1. What is the purpose of God's law if it cannot make us righteous?

According to Romans 7:14-20

2. What does the struggle with sin reveal about the life of a Christian?

According to Romans 7:15-20

3. What is the difference between explaining our sin and excusing it?

According to Romans 7:16-18

4. How should our identity in Christ shape the way we respond when we sin?

According to Romans 8

5. How does genuine spiritual change take place?

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.

Leaders 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

According to Romans 7:13-14

1. What is the purpose of God's law if it cannot make us righteous?

Biblical answer: God's law is holy and good. It reveals God's character, exposes our sin, and shows us our need for Christ, but it cannot give us the power to obey or make us righteous. Salvation and righteousness come through faith in Jesus, not through keeping the law.

Scripture: Romans 3:20–24; 7:12–13; Galatians 3:21–24; Psalm 19:7–11.

Discuss: When have you been tempted to use God's commands to prove your goodness rather than expose your need for grace?

According to Romans 7:14-20

2. What does the struggle with sin reveal about the life of a Christian?

Biblical answer: Christians have been made new and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, yet sin still seeks to rule through the flesh. This struggle should not cause us to excuse sin or despair; it should lead us to depend more fully on Christ and walk by the Spirit.

Scripture: Romans 7:14–25; 8:1–14; Galatians 5:16–25; 1 Peter 2:11.

Discuss: Where do you currently see a conflict between what you desire spiritually and how you actually live?

According to Romans 7:15-20

3. What is the difference between explaining our sin and excusing it?

Biblical answer: Scripture explains that sin dwells within us and deceives our hearts, but it never removes our responsibility to repent. We agree with God by naming our sin honestly, confessing it, receiving his forgiveness, and turning toward obedience.

Scripture: Romans 7:15–20; Psalm 32:3–5; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:8–9; James 5:16.

Discuss: Is there a sin you have been minimizing, blaming on circumstances, or hiding from others? What would honest confession look like?

According to Romans 7:16-18

4. How should our identity in Christ shape the way we respond when we sin?

Biblical answer: Those who belong to Jesus are no longer defined or condemned by their sin. God calls believers saints—people set apart for him—because they are united to Christ.

Therefore, we fight sin from an accepted identity, not to earn acceptance. When we fall, we run toward Christ in repentance rather than away from him in shame.

Scripture: Romans 1:7; 6:1–14; 8:1; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Colossians 3:1–10; 1 John 2:1–2.

Discuss: After you sin, are you more likely to excuse yourself, condemn yourself, hide from God, or return to Christ? Why?

According to Romans 8

5. How does genuine spiritual change take place?

Biblical answer: Lasting change does not come through self-effort alone. As we remain connected to Christ, renew our minds with God's Word, and yield to the Holy Spirit, within the community of God's people, God supplies both the desire and the power to obey. Grace does not give us permission to remain in sin; it trains and empowers us to live godly lives.

Scripture: John 15:4–5; Romans 8:13; 12:1–2; Galatians 5:16; Philippians 2:12–13; Titus 2:11–14.

Discuss: What would it look like this week to depend on the Spirit before temptation rather than seeking God's help only after you fail?