

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 17, 2013

Passage: Romans 5:12-14

Memory Passage: Romans 6:6-7

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:12-21.** Summarize what you have learned in 5:1-11. Based on this summary, to what does the “therefore” that begins v. 12 refer (this is not such an easy question to answer, so think deeply!)?

(b) Though our focus this week will be on vs. 12-14, we must return our tray tables to their upright position so we can embark on a flight over the entire passage before we can strap on our oxygen tank to dive deeper into these 3 verses: Who are the 2 men contrasted in vs. 12-21? Make a list with 2 columns, one with the heading “The One Man” and the other with the heading “The One Man Jesus Christ.” Now write down in each column what you learn about each man so you can more easily and vividly compare the two.

(c) What words or phrases do you see repeated throughout this passage? Summarize the work of Adam (the “One Man”) in one sentence. Now summarize the work of Jesus Christ in one sentence. Now that you have broadly summarized vs. 12-21, what changes might you need to make to expand upon or change the answer you gave to the question asked in (a) above?

(d) *Family: Read Rom. 5:12-21.* Make 2 columns on your white board, one with the heading, “The One Man: Adam” and the other with the heading, “The One Man: Jesus Christ.” Now lead your family through vs. 12-21 and help them find what is said about the work of Adam and the work of Christ and write them down in the appropriate column. You will keep this list of contrasts for the next several weeks as we study these verses.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 5:12-14 & 1 Cor. 15:20-22.** FYI: The “just as” in v. 12 begins a conditional clause to which we don’t find an answer (“so”) until v. 18. In other words, he starts a thought in v. 12 and finishes it in vs. 18-19. In vs. 13-17 Paul gets sort of sidetracked on other important information. Identify the 4 phrases found in v. 12 and write them down. Now explain each one and how they fit together to form Paul’s argument.

(b) Why does Paul say, “sin came into the world through one man” (Adam) when it is clear from Scripture that Eve was the first to sin? To put it another way, why does Paul not say, “Sin came into the world through one woman?” What is the difference between what Paul says in Romans, “sin came into the world through one man/death spread to all men” and what he says in 1 Corinthians, “by a man came death/in Adam all die?” According to 5:12, why did death spread to all men?

(c) How do these basic truths about Adam’s sin and death and its affects on humanity inform the way you witness the gospel to a lost and dying world? How do they inform the way you parent your children? What do they have to do with how you receive, work with, vote for, and love people who are outside of Christ?

(d) *Family: Read Gen. 2:15-17 & 3:1-6.* Discuss the events in this passage and their order (i.e. God gives a command to Adam, Adam tells Eve the command [assumed by her response in 3:2], Eve sins, Adam follows). Then **Read Rom. 5:12** and ask, “Why, since Eve sinned and Adam followed her lead, does Paul say that sin and death entered the world through Adam and not Eve?” Then explain that Adam was responsible, as Eve’s husband, or “head,” to lead her away from this sin and not to follow after her, and that the Bible presents Adam as the “head” or “representative” of the human race. Explain that Romans 5:12 gives us part of an understanding of this concept: through Adam comes sin, through sin comes death, and every human being dies because they are sinners and they sin.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 5:12-21 & Gen. 2:15-17.** To what kind of death does Paul refer? What do you learn in the context of Romans 5 that helps you answer? How does Gen. 2:15-17 and the way the rest of Adam’s story in Gen. 2-3 unfolds help you answer?

(b) How does Paul’s view of the origin of death in Romans 5 contrast with the world’s view of the origin of death? Should believers think that death is a “natural” part of the human existence? Why or why not? How might having an unbiblical view of sin & death affect one’s worldview and lead a person into error? How does having a Biblical view of sin and death shape one’s worldview and keep one from error?

(c) What new information about Adam and his work do you learn in vs. 18-19 (since vs. 18-19 finish the thought of v. 12)? Compare the statements about Adam in v. 12 to the statements about him in vs. 18-19 and note the differences & similarities.

(d) *Family: Read Romans 5:12.* Ask, “About what kind of death is Paul speaking? Spiritual, physical, or both?” Guide their discussion with references to the rest of Romans 5 (i.e. v. 16 where Adam’s sin brings judgment and condemnation, vs. 14 & 17 where death reigns for those in Adam but those in Christ reign in life, v. 18 those in Adam are condemned but those in Christ are justified and get life, etc.). Then **Read Gen. 2:17** and show that the penalty for violating God’s command was death

“on that day,” which referred to both spiritual death and physical death (because Adam eventually physically died) and in Rom. 5 we see the same use of death: both physical and spiritual. Then bring the gospel to bear on your family giving hope to those who do not yet know Christ. You can use the results of being “in Christ” throughout vs. 12-21 as your guide.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:12-14 & 2:12-16.** Paul seems to be answering a presumed question in vs. 13-14. What question might that be? What does Paul mean by “sin is not counted where there is not law?”

(b) Paul seems to be answering the question, “But how could people be sinners before the law was given?” What examples from Scripture can you give that illustrate that people did indeed sin prior to the giving of the law? How do you know that God considered these acts sinful (if you need help, think about God’s response to Cain, or God’s act of the flood)?

(c) How was the sin of those who live between Adam and Moses “not like the transgression of Adam?” What is the difference between a transgression and a sin? How does what you have already learned in Romans 2:12-16 help you understand this statement?

(d) Can you think of anyone today who sins without the law? How do these truths found in vs. 13-14 help you understand God’s attitude toward them and their final destination without Christ?

(e) *Family:* **Read Rom. 5:12-14.** Remind your family of your study of Romans 2:12-16 in which you compared dumping boiling water on a puppy with stealing (yes, you really did do this if you did the family devotions for that week!) and that you found that stealing was a direct violation of the 8th commandment so it was a sin. But you also found that dumping boiling water on a puppy was also sin, even though there is no direct commandment against it and you have never given that particular “Thou shall not” command to your family. With that illustration in mind, teach vs. 13-14 and help them understand that Paul is answering the question: “How could people be sinners before the law was given?”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:12-14.** Who is “the one who is to come” and how is Adam a “type” of that person? What help does this fact give you as you interpret the comparisons brought forth in 5:12-21 (see Day 1b)?

(b) Mark the words “reign” and “reigned” every time they occur in Rom. 5:12-21 (you should find 5 occurrences). Now write down what you learn about the difference between these 2 reigns.

(c) Think for a moment about the all-too-common attack on the historicity of Adam (i.e. those who claim that Adam & Eve were just a story, a myth or an allegory, to make a point but that they never really existed). How would holding to that viewpoint of the creation account hinder your understanding of Romans 5:12-14 (among other passages)?

(d) *Family:* Work together to memorize Romans 6:6-7. A fun beginning might be to review your memorization of Romans 8!

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In Christ vs. In Adam Part I