

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 9, 2013

Passage: Romans 8:12-17

Memory Passage: Review Romans 8:1-39

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 8:12-17.** Verse 12 begins with, “So then” and draws an inference from something. From what verse(s) is the inference drawn, and what truths found in this verse(s) support what Paul is about to say?

(b) To what does “the flesh” refer? What does it mean to be a “debtor to the flesh” (the answer is right here in v. 12 ☺)? Who is the “we” in v. 12, and why are “we” not debtors to the flesh?

(c) Why do you think Paul did not continue v. 12 or start v. 13 with something like, “But we are debtors to the Spirit, to live according to the Spirit” (which would seem to be the natural follow-up to “we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh”)?

(d) To what aspects of “the flesh” are you most tempted to act as though you were indebted? Pray before you write, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas in which you are justifying current sin, or new areas He wants you to address. Keep this list for use tomorrow.

(e) *Family: Read Romans 8:12-13.* Begin by telling a story about two men, Ed & Jim. Ed owed Jim \$10,000 and could not pay, so Jim demanded that Ed begin to serve him until he worked off the debt. Jim said he had a long, long list of tasks that Ed could do. Ed did not want to do these things, but he knew since he was indebted to Jim he had no choice (elaborate on these details to make the story interesting and engaging). Then ask, “What was the result of Ed being indebted to Jim?” (Responses could include: Ed was not free, he was Jim’s slave, Ed had to do whatever Jim told him to, Ed was under Jim’s authority & power, etc.) Now ask, “What does it mean for a person to be a debtor to the flesh?” (The person is under the power & authority of the flesh, imprisoned by the flesh, bound to do whatever the flesh desired, etc.). Now review Rom. 8:5-11 and remind your family of all the truth you learned about believers and their relationship to the flesh and to the Spirit, especially what God has accomplished through Christ that breaks our indebtedness to the flesh.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:12-17 & Col. 3:1-10.** What does it mean for a person to “live according to the flesh?” Why does living this way end in death? How does a believer avoid their end being death (v. 13)? Is the death spoken of here physical death or spiritual?

(b) Is there a difference between “the flesh” in vs. 12 & 13a and “the body” in v. 13b? If so, what is the difference, and if not, why does Paul choose to use 2 different terms in verses so close together to refer to the same thing?

(c) Choose 3 of the temptations that you listed yesterday in Day 1 (d) and explain how you “put to death the deeds of the body” in each situation. Be very specific, applying what you learn in Rom. 8:4-13 and Colossians 3:1-10. When you succumb to any of these temptations to live as if you are still indebted to the flesh, what has caused your lack of desire to put that specific deed of your body to death? How can these verses strengthen you the next time these temptations arise?

(d) *Family:* I realize you may have family members who do not yet give evidence of salvation, and so they are still indebted to the flesh and living according to the flesh because they are of the flesh. However, our job as parents is to train them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord and to prepare them for the day when God, through His grace and mercy, grants salvation to them. So even though sometimes you might feel as though you are asking things of your children that they are incapable of doing if they are not yet regenerate, you should press on teaching truth in the same way we do when we teach them to love Jesus before they are capable. With this in mind, lead your family to identify several areas in which one or more of them struggle with temptation to sin (obeying mom & dad, acting selfishly, anger, etc.). Now lead them through (c) above.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:12-17 & Gal. 3:24-4:7.** What does it mean to be “led by the Spirit?” Is it active or passive on our part to be led by the Spirit? How does being led by the Spirit prove that we are children (sons) of God? Give some thought to this! There are several ways you could answer, and the way you choose should be supported by the entire context of this passage.

(b) What is “the spirit of slavery?” Why does having this spirit cause a person to “fall back into fear,” and to what “fear” is Paul referring? How is a believer’s life different from this (v. 15)?

(c) What do you learn about being adopted as God’s son/child in these 2 passages? In what way do these truths bring you comfort? Strength? Joy?

(d) *Family:* Prior to this lesson obtain a blindfold and determine a path through your home with corresponding written directions upon which one family member will lead another. Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded, and then ask for another

volunteer to be the leader. Have the leader lead the blindfolded through the predetermined path. The leader can use touch or voice to lead the blindfolded person down the predetermined path. **Then Read Rom. 8:14** and teach that being led by the Spirit is the process of the Holy Spirit controlling or governing the actions of those who are His (similar to the way the blindfolded person was led). All believers (sons/children of God) are, necessarily, led by the Spirit. Give examples from your own life of how the Holy Spirit has led you so they understand that being led by the Spirit is normal for all believers.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 8:12-17.** What does Paul mean for us to understand when he says that believers “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons?” Into what have we been adopted? Review the 5 uses of this word in Scripture and write down what you learn: Rom. 8:15, 23; Rom. 9:4; Gal. 4:5; & Eph. 1:5. There are no uses of this word in the OT (yet notice Rom. 9:4).

(b) **Read Ex. 4:22, Deut. 14:1, Hos. 1:10, Hos. 11:1, Is. 43:6, Jer. 3:19 & Jer. 31:9.** How do these verses, coupled with what we have learned in Rom. 8, 9:4, & Gal. 3:24-4:7, help us understand the relationship between Israel & the church with regards to their status before God?

(c) Explain what v. 16 means, and how this truth happens.

(d) *Family:* Assign different people in your family to read the following verses: Ex. 4:22, Deut. 14:1, Is. 43:6, Jer. 31:9, Rom. 9:4, Rom. 8:14-17 & Rom. 8:32. Then lead them through the understanding that God has been working throughout history to gather a people for Himself, called as His sons through the work of His own Son. Jesus is The Son of God, believing Israel was God’s son, and all believers in the church are God’s sons. Also remind them that this includes women/girls (the term “children” is also used to describe believers), but the term “son” ties all of God’s people to Jesus, His True Son.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 8:12-17.** What exactly does it mean for believers to be “heirs of God” (i.e. are we heirs of God Himself? heirs of His inheritance? something else?) and “fellow heirs with Christ?” Are these 2 phrases referring to the same thing or to different things? How do you know?

(b) **Read Gal. 3:15-4:7.** Although we have read part of this passage already this week, and we have studied it in relation to our study of Romans 4, remind yourself of your answers to these questions: (1) What was Abraham promised (Rom. 4:13)? (2) Who is Abraham’s offspring? (3) How are New Covenant believers related to the promises made to Abraham? (4) What privileges are granted to God’s heirs? (5) How does a slave become an heir?

(c) Take a moment to review what you have learned this week, and write down at least 4 ways that these truths should strengthen your assurance that you are a saved child of the King.

(d) *Family:* Lead your family through (c) above, or spend the lesson reviewing your memorization of Romans 8.

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Adopted Heirs!