

Romans 5:12-21

Opening Thoughts

1. Share 5 things that you're thankful about this week.
2. Reflect on these words from the song "This is Our God"

*Freely You gave it all for us
Surrendered Your life upon that cross
Great is the love
Poured out for all
This is our God
Lifted on high from death to life
Forever our God is glorified
Servant and King
Rescued the world
This is our God*

Into the Passage

Read Romans 5:12-21

3. What is sin? What are the consequences of sin?
4. Verse 12 says that sin came into the world because of one man. Is it fair that we are all under the consequence of sin as well? What does the second part of verse 12 mean - "where death spread to all men because all sinned (ESV)"?
5. In verse 13, what does it mean that "sin is not counted where there is no law"? (The NIV says, "sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.")
6. What is the free gift that is talked about in verses 15-17?
7. Why is it free? Is there a cost involved?
8. Explain verse 16 in your own words.
9. Verses 18 & 19 sum up Paul's point in this. How would you explain this to someone who didn't know Jesus?
10. In verse 20, "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." What does that mean?

Moving Forward

11. Sometimes, we are a little bit suspicious when we receive a free gift. Perhaps we assume it can't be as good as promised. Or else we feel bad for receiving it. What does it mean to you to receive the free gift of Jesus Christ? How would you explain it to a friend?
12. What can you do daily to remind yourself of God's grace and our freedom from sin?

Life Together

Part of being a cell group is developing honest and authentic community where we are able to support one another in trust.

13. There are those in our lives (family, work, school, friends) who don't know Jesus. Share with each other and pray that they might know of the grace of Jesus, and his righteousness that leads to eternal life.

Romans 5:12-21 - Some Leader's Notes

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Don't place too much focus on them, and let the Bible study discussion lead primarily from the passage itself.

And MAKE SURE you have PLENTY of time at the end to share and pray for one another. OK?

Into the Passage

Read Romans 5:12-21

3. What is sin? What are the consequences of sin?

Sin is rebellion against God, the violation of God's law, misdeeds, transgression, injustice, falsehood, iniquity - unrighteousness. It's also described as anything that breaks our relationship with God. I like to also understand it as anything which is untrue in our lives - with God as the measure of absolute truth and perfection.

4. Verse 12 says that sin came into the world because of one man. Is it fair that we are all under the consequence of sin as well? What does the second part of verse 12 mean - "where death spread to all men because all sinned (ESV)"?

I suppose it doesn't have anything to do with fair. Is it fair that I was born in America? It's simply as it is. I guess the deeper question is, how can God be fair that we are all judged for Adam's sin? Adam's sin set humanity down a path where we are all united by his original sin. We all die. That's the effect of Adam's sin. However, the rest of verse 12 highlights the fact, that although Adam's sin brought us death, we are all also guilty of breaking God's law. None of us are righteous - we are all sinners.

5. In verse 13, what does it mean "sin is not counted where there is no law"? (The NIV says, "sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.")

Does it mean, if we are ignorant of the law, we are innocent of it? 1. it highlights the importance of the law. The law identifies and helps us see how far we are from God's perfection. And because the law exists, it means we are held accountable to it. But without the law, we are still guilty of crimes of morality, and crimes against God, but we cannot be formally charged. If we cannot be formally charged, we also can't be

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formally forgiven. Once the way for justice is in place, then can we experience God's grace.

6. What is the free gift that is talked about in verses 15-17?

The free gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

7. Why is it free? Is there a cost involved?

It is free because we cannot pay for it, we cannot earn it, we cannot achieve it on our own. We cannot create it for ourselves. But is it without a cost? Jesus Christ was the cost. And for us, faith in his promise is what is asked from us. Faith - trusting in Him - is simply believing that what he says is true. And if we do that, our lives would be transformed.

8. Explain verse 16 in your own words.

One man's sin condemned us to death. Our many sins since then are saved by one man.

9. Verses 18 & 19 sum up Paul's point in this. How would you explain this to someone who didn't know Jesus?

All of us are under God's judgement. Whether we believe it or not, when we face death, we are going to face God himself. And no matter how good or moral we've been - it can't cover up for the times we have fallen short. Only through Jesus can we be made right with God. So even though we are all on the road to death, because of Jesus' perfection, we can now be made righteous.

10. In verse 20, "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." What does that mean?

I think Luke 7:36-50 describes this perfectly.