

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Romans 3:27-4:8

LEADER'S STUDY

God's Promise for the Nations:

The message of the gospel is God's grace, His unmerited favor shown to us through Jesus. The gospel points clearly to the fact that we need a savior and that we can not save ourselves. Salvation only comes through faith in the work of Jesus and choosing His leadership instead of our own. This grace opened the door for every nation to be made right with God. When we put our faith in Christ, we become God's chosen people. Our sins are forgiven. We become His children. For the person whose sins are forgiven and has new life in Christ, this message of good news is THE THING that drives everything we do. That is what our new life is about. It is no longer about ourselves, but about being transformed by God. The very natural outflow of experiencing God's grace through the gospel is to share that with the world. There are people all around you that are living a life that is completely about themselves and are headed toward eternal death separation from God. The very same place we were before faith in Jesus. This good news that you have is exactly what the world needs. How is the gospel affecting you today? Who do you know that needs the freedom and new life that is only found in Jesus?

As you read and prepare for this week ask yourself, How does Romans 3:27-4:8 reveal God's grace? How has that truth changed my life? Does Christ's love for me amaze me, does it compel me? What is God calling me to do with this good news? How is God revealing Himself and his character through this scripture? How is God changing my thinking? How do I view others, and myself, differently because of the gospel? Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scripture: Isaiah 19:19-25, Romans 10:10-15, Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Acts 1:8

What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

How is God calling you to think and to live differently? How does this change your perspective today? How is God calling you to respond based on this scripture? Spend some time reading this whole chapter and meditating on it as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word.

PREPARING BEFORE GROUP

PURPOSE: Life transformation through the Holy Spirit. He uses scripture and prayer to renew our minds and transform our lives!

PRAY: Pray for the people in your groups by name. Spend time asking the Holy Spirit to help you lead well as you meditate on key passages and seek to know God's heart.

PLAN: Since this is your first meeting of the semester, plan on some time at the beginning for people to get to know each other. Consider playing an icebreaker game so everyone feels comfortable talking together.

This is a great time to build vision for your group. Talk about what the goals and outcomes of this group could be. Help people know what to expect and get excited about what God does when we seek Him in His word together.

Review the group guidelines together and let people know what the schedule will be and then stick to it. It's OK to allow for some social time before and after your group but make sure people know when you are starting and ending your study and prayer time together. Part of hospitality is being sensitive to everyone's time.

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Romans 3:27-4:8

And meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective. (The New Living Translation is particularly helpful with this passage)

Consider reading the whole chapter or even the whole letter before your meeting to help you understand the context.

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of these verses?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

What parts of this passage can you relate to?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?

or

What is your "I will" statement?
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears the it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?