

## 5 | GROUP PRAYER

Rather than going around the group and sharing prayer requests, you might consider simply bowing your heads and taking turns praying for the things on your heart or that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

# NEXT STEPS AFTER GROUP

## 1 | SCRIPTURE FOCUSED

- Verse to Memorize: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other Passages to Read: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2 | PRAYER FOCUSED

- How can you pray for people in your group this week?
- Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about something you need to repent of and turn over to Jesus?
- How are you going to respond to this truth and put it into action?

## 3 | OTHERS FOCUSED

- Did anyone in your group share a need that you might be gifted to help with?
- Consider inviting a friend from group to meet up for a meal or a hang out time.
- Is the Holy Spirit bringing someone to mind with whom you can share the things you've learned today?

# GROUPS

# STUDY GUIDE

## Why Would I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

Reading, thinking, and praying about the primary passage your Lighthouse Group is studying ahead of time may be one of the most pivotal ways to make your Lighthouse Group discussions powerful and meaningful. When you do prepare beforehand, you're coming with thoughtful insights and ideas you've been wrestling through. That's different from grabbing at the most accessible thoughts in real time.

## How Do I Prepare BEFORE My Lighthouse Group?

### 1 | PRAY

Ask God to open your eyes, mind, and spirit to His truth. Your desire is not to "get the right answer," but rather to know Him as He has revealed Himself so that you can trust and rely on Him more fully.

### 2 | READ

Read the main passage. Consider reading the same passage in multiple versions, like ESV, NIV, AMP, and NLT. All of these can be found at [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com). For better context, read the paragraphs before and after the study passage as well.

### 3 | REFLECT

What does this passage teach you about God? Maybe something to praise Him for? Does this passage reveal an area of your life you should confess as sin to God? What does this passage lead you to ask God for? How does this passage point to Jesus work on the cross and out of the grave?

Think through some of the questions you'll be discussing during your Lighthouse Group time.

### 4 | WRITE

This is when you cross over from reading into study – writing down truth that you are discovering. Write down questions that come to mind as you are reading.

We've included space on the next page of this guide for you to write down insights, questions, and more that you can bring up in your Lighthouse Group discussion time.

# PREP BEFORE GROUP

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Romans 7:1-8

WRITE YOUR INSIGHTS & QUESTIONS HERE:

ADDITIONAL CROSS-REFERENCES: Matthew 5:17-48; Romans 2:1-29; Galatians 3:21-26; 5:1; Colossians 2:9-11

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of: May 12-18, 2025

1 | **PRAY:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your group in truth and spiritual growth.

2 | **READ Romans 7:1-8**

One volunteer reads the passage in the ESV or NIV. Another volunteer reads the passage in AMP or NLT.

3 | **CONSIDER SITUATIONAL/HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Paul uses the analogy of marriage to illustrate a believer's new life in Christ. Under the Jewish law, a man could divorce a woman, but if she remarried, she and her new husband would be considered to be living in adultery as long as her first husband was still alive. Marriage isn't seen as such a permanent thing in our culture. But we can still see what he's trying to show us.

The illustration demonstrates that we are all "married" to the natural law in which sin leads to death, and we cannot escape to another "husband" as long we're bound to that natural law. However, Christ put an end to all that when he defeated sin and death on the cross, releasing us to live under a new, supernatural law. When our faith is in him and his sacrifice on our behalf, the old law is dead to us, and we to it, and we're free to "marry" the one who saved us.

4 | **DISCUSSION**

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What are the limits of the law Paul's talking about in vv. 1-2?
2. Why does Paul talk about "belonging to" Christ, in v. 4?
3. What is the correlation between marriage and bearing fruit, vv. 4-6?

## TRUTH QUESTIONS

1. How does the law show us our sin? If we didn't know what the law said, would our sin still be sin?
2. How does sin use the law to arouse sinful passions in us, vv. 5 and 8?
3. How does Jesus' death and resurrection put the power of the law to death?

## APPLICATION/PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What sort of "fruit" do you see in your life, godly or fleshly?
2. What have you tried to do to eliminate your fleshly behaviors? How successful were you?
3. Challenge: Do you see yourself as being released from the old law and freed to live with Jesus? If not, would you like to be? If so, what changes can you or others see in your life since being freed from the old law?