Fellowship question: Other than Jesus, with whom in history or your own ancestry do you identify? How is this person a kindred spirit to you?

**OBSERVATION** – Lord, help me to discover it!

In chapter 3, we discovered that justification is by faith, and only by faith. At the end of the chapter, Paul asks if the Law is now nullified and faith has taken its place. He will use two pillars of the Jewish heritage to answer this question.

**justify**

dikaioo, Strongs 1344

- To cause someone to be in a right or proper relationship with someone else.
- To vindicate – to show to be right or righteous.
- To acquit.

Skim Romans 3 to refresh your memory.
Read Romans 4:1-12.

1. What does Paul explain about justification using the examples of Abraham and King David?
2. Compare and contrast the two possible paths to righteousness, based on the evidence Paul presents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Righteousness by Faith</th>
<th>Righteousness by Works/the Law</th>
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</table>


3. What is the connection Paul makes between *circumcision* and *faith* in verses 9-11?

4. What do you discover about the *blessedness* of all who believe?

*Reread the passage; what else stands out?*

*Further Observations*

*Themes (Main Ideas)*
INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

5. Mark every occurrence of the Greek word logizomai, translated as credited in verses 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11. It is also translated as into account in verse 8. This word appears 19 times in the book of Romans.
   a. Using other Bible translations that you have on hand or websites such as biblegateway.com or thebible.org, list the words other Bible translations use instead of credited/into account (NASB).

   b. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as blueletterbible.org, what do you discover about the word, credited (logizomai). [Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which is made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, is extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html.]
6. On the Storyline Tool above, mark Abraham, the Law, King David, and the cross of Jesus Christ.

a) What do you know about Abraham, his life and his walk with God? Zoom into his story by reading Genesis 17. What insight about circumcision is given here?

b) Why would Paul name-drop Abraham to reinforce his message, continuing from Chapter 3? (See Genesis 15:6, noting that Abraham had not yet been circumcised.)
c) Now think about David and what you know of his life and his walk with God. Zoom into his story in 2 Samuel 12. How does Paul use the example of David to reinforce his message?

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

8. Review your completed study guide thus far. Now describe your blessedness as a believer in Jesus Christ. (Are any areas of blessedness a struggle for you to embrace? How might you remedy that?)

9. In Romans 4:11, 12, Paul says, “that righteousness might be credited to them…who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham….” Stop and consider the faithful saints who have preceded all of us (recent and ancient). What does it mean to “walk in the steps of the faith,” and how do Paul’s words encourage you?
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Give some thought to the language nuances (legal, financial, etc.) Paul has used thus far in Romans. Formulate your own analogy (or parable!) that illustrates the justification that God has made available through His Son. (The story might involve a trial for a horrible crime, or it might center on a crushing financial debt.)

II) How can what we studied this week be a help to believers who struggle with past sins?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Dramatization: Nathan Confronts David, from thebiblecollection.net
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NHBgWfBNW0

Spoken Gospel – Abraham & Circumcision
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icEA6JHdnV0

Sermon: https://www.raystedman.org/new-testament/romans/the-father-of-faith
Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

“I am God Almighty; 
Walk before Me, and be blameless.

2 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, 
And I will multiply you exceedingly.”

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

4 “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, 
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.

5 “No longer shall your name be called Abram, 
But your name shall be Abraham; 
For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.  
7 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.  
8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

9 God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.  
10 This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.  
11 And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of
your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. 12 And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. 13 A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.” 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” 18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” 19 But God said, “No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.” 22 When He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all the servants who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to
him. 24 Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son. 27 All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Genesis 15:6
6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

2 Samuel 12
12 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said,

“There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 “The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. 3 “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him. 4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” 5 Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. 6 He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.”
Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’” Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.” So Nathan went to his house.

Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s widow bore to David, so that he was very sick. David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground. The elders of his household stood beside him in order to raise him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat food with them. Then it happened on the seventh day that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was still alive, we spoke to him and he did not listen to our voice. How then can we tell him that the
child is dead, since he might do himself harm!" 19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David perceived that the child was dead; so David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.” 20 So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate.

21 Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” 22 He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who knows, the LORD may be gracious to me, that the child may live.’ 23 But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him 25 and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD’s sake.

26 Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon and captured the royal city. 27 Joab sent messengers to David and said, “I have fought against Rabbah, I have even captured the city of waters. 28 Now therefore, gather the rest of the people together and camp against the city and capture it, or I will capture the city myself and it will be named after me.” 29 So David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah, fought against it and captured it. 30 Then he took the crown of their king from his head; and its weight was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David’s head. And he brought out the spoil of the city in great amounts. 31 He also brought out the people who were in it, and set them under saws,
sharp iron instruments, and iron axes, and made them pass through the brickkiln. And thus he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

1 Peter 2:24
24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21
21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21
21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:9
9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,
Fellowship question: Have you ever received a “present” that turned out to be an obligation, rather than a gift? (How does an obligation differ from a gift?)

**OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!**

Skim Romans 4:1-12 to refresh your memory and review your completed Study Guide 8, with extra attention to questions 2, 5, and 7.

Read Romans 4:13-25.

1. What does Paul say about God’s covenantal promise to Abraham and his heirs?

2. List what the passage says about Abraham and his faith.
3. When Paul says that the promise comes by faith and not the Law, what is the result?

4. Read verses 23-25. Paul lists the beliefs through which someone’s faith is credited as righteousness. What are they?

Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)
5. [This is not a trick question!] What assurance does this passage give to Christians? Referring to 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 may help.

6. Flashing back in God’s story to the provided passages in Genesis, underline the promises God made to Abraham and note the progression. (Genesis 12:2-3; 15:4-6; 17:5-8; and 17:16, 19 are provided at the end of this guide.)

7. Paul recalls the example of God fulfilling His promises of an heir coming from Abraham and Sarah’s own bodies and restates that Abraham’s belief was credited as righteousness. Paul then says this was
not only for Abraham’s sake, “but for our sake also.” Let’s explore what this means.

a. Who are Abraham’s descendants?

b. How is Abraham’s faith a model for believers? How are believers justified/declared righteous?

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?
8. What do these verses say about who I am as a child of God? (Consider 2 Chronicles 20:7, Isaiah 41:8, and James 2:23.)

9. With what questions about faith do I wrestle? How do these verses speak truth into my questions?

10. How does verse 21 inform my walk of faith? What does it look like to be “fully persuaded that God has the power to do what He promised?” In what circumstances or situation today can I apply this truth?
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

1) What’s the proper answer to someone asking you why you should be allowed into heaven?

Further Applications:

Scripture for Study Guide 9

2 Corinthians 3:4-6
4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, 6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Genesis 12:2-3
2 And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”
Genesis 15:4-6
4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir.” 5 And He took him outside and said, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 17:5-8
5 “No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. 7 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

Genesis 17:16
16 I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

Genesis 17:19
19 But God said, “No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.
2 Chronicles 20:7
7 Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

Isaiah 41:8
8 “But you, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Descendant of Abraham My friend,

James 2:23
23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.

Study Guide 10
Romans 5:1-11

Fellowship question: Have you ever been surprised by the kindness of someone whom you thought perceived you as an enemy?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 4 to refresh your memory.

1. Complete this sentence based on what you learned from Chapter 4:
   A Christian is justified solely by ________________, not by ____________.

Read Romans 5:1-11.

2. Up until this part of the letter, Paul has primarily used the pronouns they and you. Note the pronoun Paul now begins using. Who is the subject in this section?

3. Consider the two states of existence that Paul describes. What do you discover about them?

   Before Justification | After Justification

---

10-1
4. Looking back over your answer in question 3, circle any of the key benefits of justification that are especially meaningful to you.

5. What does Paul tell us about the nature of God’s love for us in these verses? In what ways has God demonstrated His love to us? (Be sure to capture the role the Holy Spirit has.)
Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

6. Think about the peace we now have with God in Romans 5:1. The Greek word Paul uses is eirēnē.
   b. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as

10-3
blueletterbible.org, what do you discover about the word, *peace*. *(eirēnē)* [Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which is made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, is extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html.]

7. Let’s look at word *tribulation* (suffering, NIV) in verse 3. The Greek word Paul uses is *thlipsis*.
   a. Using the above-mentioned resources for word study, what do you discover about *thlipsis*?
   
   b. Look at the following verses: Acts 5:41, Exodus 3:7, Hebrews 10:32, Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 1:5, John 16:33, and 1 Peter 4:12. What do they add to your understanding of *tribulation*?
8. Paul says that believers exult in hope of the glory of God (verse 2). Is that something we look forward to experiencing in the future, or is it also for today? Let’s explore what he means.
   a. Look at the following verses and then list what hope of the glory of God is available today. (Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:18, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 3:7-11, Philippians 4:4-8) These verses are a mere sample; feel free to cite your own favorites.

   b. What future hope of the glory of God do we await? (Enjoy Revelation 21.)
Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

9. Recall an especially challenging situation in your life. Looking back, did the situation produce perseverance, character, and/or hope in you? What did you learn about God or yourself from your suffering?
10. How has your understanding of suffering or tribulation changed as a result of what you have studied in this guide?

11. Reflect: Regarding current suffering you may be experiencing or some future tribulation, what is a biblical view of suffering that could influence how you then experience the suffering?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What does it look like to sit with others in their suffering?

II) Have you experienced the love of God (verse 5) today? If so, how? What kind of attitude or heart posture does it take to experience His love? How can you cultivate this posture?
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES


Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 10

John 14:27
27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Colossians 1:19-20
19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Philippians 4:7
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Acts 5:41
41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Exodus 3:7
7 The LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.
Hebrews 10:32
But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

Romans 8:18
For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 1:5
For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

John 16:33
These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

1 Peter 4:12
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

Colossians 1:13-14
For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 2:18
for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
2 Corinthians 3:18
18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Philippians 3:7-11
7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 4:4-8
4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
Revelation 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He *said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” 6 Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on
the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards, according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements. 18 The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundation stones of the city wall were adorned with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation stone was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; 20 the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprase; the eleventh, jacinth; the twelfth, amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

팔
Fellowship question: Have you ever been a part of a group (class, team, or even siblings) that experienced the consequences of one member’s mistake? (At the time, how did you feel about being guilty by association?)

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 5:1-11, to refresh your memory.
Read Romans 5:12-21.

1. On the copy of Romans 5 provided, highlight or mark a couple of key words: one, reign/reigned, and the many/all.

2. List what you discover about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Transgression (via Adam)</th>
<th>The Gift of Grace (via Jesus Christ)</th>
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3. What do you discover about the Law from this passage? To complete the picture, include what you learned earlier from Romans 2:20 and 3:20.
4. Reflecting on what you observed in question 3, did sin exist before the Law was given? Support your conclusion with other Scripture. (Any pre-Moses example from the Old Testament, Romans 4:13-15, Galatians 3:17-22, and Romans 7:7-13 may help.)
5. Let’s flashback to sin’s entry into the world. **Read Genesis 3.**

   a. Briefly summarize the events of Genesis 3.

   b. Why does God do what He does in Genesis 3:24?

   c. Now explain how Jesus’ cross (an instrument of death) is also a “tree of life.”
6. Now connecting what the Scripture says in Genesis 3 to Paul’s message in Romans 5:12-21, in what ways is all of humanity tied to Adam? What are the implications of living in a climate in which death reigns?

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?
APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

7. Reflect: In what ways do I experience the oppressive tension of the reign of death via Adam today?

8. How can we, as the Church, thrive in Christ in spite of the fallen nature of the world around us? In other words, what does it, practically-speaking, mean for us to be Christ’s followers in a world reigned by death in Adam?

9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-19. What does it look like to function as a Church having been given a ministry of reconciliation, and understanding that grace now reigns “through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”? 
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What can we infer from Paul only mentioning Adam’s name in Romans 5 and not Eve’s?

II) What does it mean (for today!) for believers to be delivered from the heredity of sin?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
https://bibleproject.com/explore/tree-of-life/

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 11
(Passages from Romans are not included here since they are in a separate handout.)

Galatians 3:17-22
17 What I am saying is this: the Law, which came 430 years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. 18 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.
19 Why the Law then? It was added on account of the violations, having been ordered through angels at the hand of a mediator, until the Seed would come to whom the promise had been made. 20 Now a mediator is not for one party only; but God is only one. 21 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? Far from it! For if a law had been given that was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 But the Scripture has confined everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Genesis 3
3 Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” 4 The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! 5 For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings. 8 Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded
you not to eat?” 12 The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 Then the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all the livestock, And more than any animal of the field; On your belly you shall go, And dust you shall eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.” 16 To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall deliver children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; With hard labor you shall eat from it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; Yet you shall eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face
You shall eat bread,
Until you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.”

20 Now the man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. 21 And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out with his hand, and take fruit also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19
16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one by the flesh; even though we have known Christ by the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
Study Guide 12
Romans 6

Fellowship question: What is the most absurd rationalization for wrong doing that you have heard?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

In the first two and a half chapters of Romans, Paul made the case that mankind is utterly sinful and is deserving of God’s wrath:

Mankind needs a Savior!

In chapters 3-5, Paul focused on justification (in which God declares believers righteous through Jesus – the Just who died for the unjust) by faith through grace:

Believers are saved!

Paul then anticipates his reader’s next question, “Now what?” For the next three chapters Paul tackles the implications of salvation in the believer’s life going forward from the point of conversion.

Before you read Romans 6, let’s set the stage. Review Romans 5:20-21 and complete this statement:

The __________ came in so that the ______________ would increase,

but where ______ increased, __________ abounded all the more,

so that, as sin __________ in death,

even so __________ would ________ through ______________

to eternal __________ through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Now read Romans 6.

1. This passage can be confusing! What initial questions do you have about it?

2. Read the questions in 6:1 again. Paul poses the questions knowing what some of his readers may be thinking; these questions provide a clue. (Remember that the group was made up of both Jews and Gentiles.) What [wrong] conclusion could some of them have reached based on Paul’s message thus far in Romans?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Death</th>
<th>Resurrection to Life!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Jesus Christ" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Tomb with open door" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Believers" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Broken chains" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. List what you discover about the two contrasted positions, being sure to capture the resulting condition and the final outcome. (You may have captured these observations in question 3, but listing them side by side will help you to note the differences.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slave to Sin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v. 17, 20</td>
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<th>Slaves for Obedience</th>
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<td>v. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slaves of Righteousness</td>
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<tr>
<td>v. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enslaved to God</td>
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<tr>
<td>v. 22</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Resulting in: _______________
Final outcome: _____________

Resulting in: _______________
Final outcome: _____________
Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

5. Let’s focus on understanding the transformation (the believer’s transfer from the Death column in question 3 to the right column of Resurrection to Life) that Paul describes in this chapter.
   a. How is [unregenerate/unsaved] mankind in Adam? (It may help to look at Hebrews 7:4-10. The concept parallels how Levi [and we know that the Levites served as priests, beginning with Aaron, Moses’ brother] both received tithes as provided by the Law and paid tithes [via Abraham, generations before Aaron] to Melchizedek.)

   b. How was Jesus Christ a new Man (Romans 5:12-17), different from the old Adam? (See 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 and Luke 1:26-35.)
c. Why was it important for Jesus to be “made like His brethren?” See Hebrews 10:4, Hebrews 2:14-17, Philippians 2:5-8, and Galatians 3:13-14.

d. How are believers now in Christ and not in Adam? See John 3:3-5, 1 John 3:9, and 1 Corinthians 15:22.

e. Now write 2 Corinthians 5:17 in your own words, personalizing it.

6. Let’s take a closer look at a couple of terms used by Paul.
   a. Paul uses the word paristema (verses 13, 16, and 19), which in the NASB and ESV translations is translated as present. Check how other translations put the term; BibleGateway.com is a great resource for this. With what you discover, explain the posture of
“present yourselves.” (Does this impact your understanding of Paul’s use of slavery imagery in the passage?)

Paul also uses *paristema* in Romans 12:1 “… present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice….“ Josephus, the first century Romano-Jewish historian, in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, uses *paristema* when he relays the story from Numbers 22-24, to record Balak’s act of placing the seven bulls and seven rams on the altars at Bamoth-baal (for a burnt offering) for Balaam to hear from the LORD. Think about the permanence of the burnt offering – once it is given to God, it cannot be taken back! This is the type of relinquishing to which Paul calls his readers.

b. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as blueletterbible.org, what do you discover about the word, *sanctification (hagiasmos)* that Paul uses in verses 19 and 22? [Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which is made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, is extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html.]
c. From the way in which Paul uses *sanctification* in verses 19 and 22, do you understand him to be speaking of a one-time declaration (as he does with *justification*) or is he talking about a process that reaches completion in the future? What is the implication for the believer’s life?

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are *applicable across time and culture*.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?
APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

7. What is your response to what God has done for you through His Son? How should you then live? (Galatians 2:20 is a great place to start!)

8. When sin’s temptation comes, of what truth do you want to remind yourself?

Further Applications:
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) How does what you have learned in Romans 6 inform your understanding of the beatitude in Matthew 5:6 – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied.”?

II) Reflect: What does it look like to practically offer myself as a slave to (an instrument of, NIV) righteousness?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 12

Hebrews 7:4-10

4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils. 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest’s office have a commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their countrymen, although they are descended from Abraham. 6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises. 7 But without any dispute the lesser person is blessed by the greater. 8 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on. 9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, has paid tithes, 10 for he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

45 So also it is written: “The first man, Adam, BECAME A LIVING PERSON.” The last Adam was a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy one, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly
one, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

**Luke 1:26-35**

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” 34 But Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; for that reason also the holy Child will be called the Son of God.

**Hebrews 10:4**

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**Hebrews 2:14-17**

14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. 16 For clearly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
Philippians 2:5-8
5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

Galatians 3:13-14
13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”— 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

John 3:3-5
3 Jesus responded and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a person be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

1 John 3:9
No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin continually, because he has been born of God.

1 Corinthians 15:22
For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

2 Corinthians 5:17
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
Galatians 2:20
I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
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Study Guide 13
Romans 7

Fellowship question: Have you ever had to get out of a contract? What was the process like?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 6 and your completed Study Guide 12; Paul continues his line of reasoning in Chapter 7.

Read Romans 7. (What key words can you identify for this chapter?)

1. Paul uses the word law in a couple of different ways. According the following passage breaks, list everything Paul says about the law or the Law.

   verses 1-7 (the law)

   verses 8-19 (the Law)
Verses 20-25 (the law of God, law in the body members, the law of sin)

2. Reviewing your list, what value does the Law have? (In other words, what can it do? What can it not do?)
3. What does the Text mention about sin?

4. Think about Romans 6 and the wrestling that Paul describes in chapter 7. Summarize in a couple of sentences the conflict he describes.
Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

5. Looking at the marriage example in verses 1-3 and considering that it follows Paul’s description in chapter 6 of the life transformation for a believer, what is Paul’s point in verses 4-6?

6. In verses 7-25, is Paul speaking of his life before Christ or after Christ? Support your answer from the Text. (Hint: one piece of evidence can be found by rereading the passage with a close eye on the verb tenses.)
7. Carefully read the commandments from Exodus 20:1-7 and think about how they are kept, how they are broken. What do you notice about “You shall not covet,” the Law that Paul cites as an example in verses 7-10? Why was Paul undone by this commandment?

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?
APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

8. In verse 11, Paul says, “sin…deceived me…” What lies and/or false promises does sin promote? Is there a particular lie that sin uses to especially attack you? How do you fight it?

9. Reflect: Acknowledging the constant tension between God’s and sin’s pull, who in my life helps me to grow in my faith and stand firm in it? Whom do I help in a such a capacity? How can I foster or strengthen such relationships?

Further Applications:

Skill
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What value does Paul’s acknowledgement of his wretchedness in verse 24 have? Do you find a similar acknowledgement beneficial? Why or why not?

II) What is the difference in verse 6 between serving in newness of the Spirit versus in the oldness of the letter? (Share some practical examples.)

 SCRIPTURE FOR STUDY GUIDE 13

Exodus 20:1-17

20 Then God spoke all these words, saying,

2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 For six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath of
the LORD your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your cattle, or your resident who stays with you. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; for that reason the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male slave, or his female slave, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”