

# DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 24: JUNE 28 & JULY 1

# **LEADER INFO:**

Our Summer Semester will run from June 4 – August 12. Disciple Groups will then be on break from August 12 until September 3.

**SAVE THE DATE!** August 4 from 9:00am-12:00pm is our Annual Disciple Group Leader Celebration! We want to honor you and celebrate all that God is doing in our Disciple Groups! Keep a look out for more information to come!

## **GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Share Your Faith** - Would you like to be more confident in talking about Jesus and sharing your faith? Get equipped and encouraged to share the love of Christ at our Share Your Faith class. Cost is \$10 and includes breakfast and materials.

Saturday, July 21 // 8:00am-12:30pm at the San Pablo campus Register at <a href="mailto:coe22.com/shareyourfaith">coe22.com/shareyourfaith</a>

**Doctrine Classes** - For four weeks we will sharpen and educate ourselves on Christian doctrine as we study the attributes of God. We will be covering topics such as sovereignty, the Trinity, holiness, and how He is eternal. Cost is \$30 and includes dinner, childcare and materials.

Friday nights from July 27 through August 17 // 6:00pm at the San Pablo campus coe22.com/doctrineclasses

**Serve Day** is coming up on July 14! This is a great way to cultivate community within your Disciple Group while serving the community! Click here to sign up to serve as a Group!

**TEXTS: ROMANS 11:1-24** 

# THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

This week as we continue to dive deeper into our study of Romans, we see Paul flesh out what grace really is. He explains that salvation has nothing to do with our doing, but rather, it is completely and solely dependent on the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross. This sets us free from the performing and pretending trap and allows us to live in the freedom of the cross.

THE POINT: WHAT'S SO AMAZING ABOUT GRACE IS THAT GOD SENT HIS SON TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

# **TEACHING & DIALOGUE**

### Have someone read Romans 11:1-4 out loud.

By now we know after the first 10 chapters of Romans that the Children of Israel are God's chosen people. They were the family created by God to be His children and that He would raise Jesus out of and use to fulfill His glorious plan.

1. After reading this passage, how important is it to have the Truth rooted deep in our hearts? (A lot of Christians have heard and "know" the Truth, but it is not truly settled in their hearts just like it wasn't for the Israelites. As a result, the Israelites were easily led astray to follow any god they desired. If the Truth isn't truly settled in our hearts, we are easily tempted by anything and everything. It's one thing to know the Word of God, but it's a completely different thing to let the Word of God transform you by being truly rooted in it and truly believing it.)

## Have someone read Romans 11:5-6 out loud.

Notice how these verses mention grace several times. In this passage of scripture, Paul reminds us that grace is the free gift of God. It isn't something done by performance or potential of the one receiving it, but rather, grace is given only out of the kindness of the Giver. This means that there is nothing we could ever do to earn or obtain salvation, we are simply chosen by grace.

- 2. How does being "chosen by grace" shake up any theology or beliefs you might have of "what do I need to do to earn and obtain my salvation?"

  (In other words, it is by God's grace (His doing) and not by our works (our doing) that you obtain salvation. All you can do is receive what has already been accomplished on the cross. Therefore, the only thing you can "do" is just receive and believe...)
- 3. What can we learn about God and His character through these verses? (He is merciful and gracious. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation and there is nothing we can do to lose it. He loves us more than we could ever fathom!)
- 4. How does this free you from living from a works-based righteousness?
  (We are saved by works, just not our own... Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves as He uttered those three triumphant words on the cross, "It is finished." The work is already done, so the question becomes, will you receive it?)

# Have someone read read Romans 11:7-24 out loud.

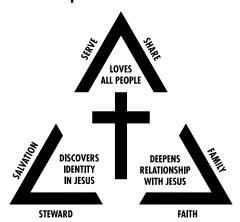
In this passage of Scripture, Paul refers to Abraham as the root of the church and the Jews were the branches, until as a nation, they rejected the Messiah. Because they rejected the Messiah, they were cut off and the Gentiles were able to take their place as they were grafted into the family tree. The Gentiles did nothing to earn their spot in the family tree, but God, in His kindness offered grace upon grace.

5. In verse 18, Paul says, "remember it is not you who support the root, but the root supports you." How does this verse humble you or kill your pride or self-righteousness? (Even in our own corrupt prideful believing, anything we thought we did that was "good", we simply cannot take credit for. Whether we humbly admit it or not, we can't support ourselves solely because we aren't our own creators. Remember, just because we are alive, doesn't mean we are truly living.)

- 6. Reread verse 13 and pay careful attention to the word "again." How does this verse shed light on God's character?
  - (No matter how far we have run from God, or how hard we have knowingly or unknowingly rejected His Truth and Love, when we turn back to Him, He will receive us again! Whether you are a Christian or not, we can always turn to God for the first time or turn back after having gone astray like the prodigal son and He will always welcome us back into His loving arms without hesitation.)
- 7. After the past few months of hearing the full Gospel and hearing what and Who Grace is, how has your perspective of Jesus and the finished work of the Cross changed? Have you experienced any new freedoms from this Romans series so far? (Share if you feel led.)

# DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

- Matthew 16:25

Take time this week to search your heart and ask yourself two questions:

- 1. "Is my identity in Jesus or in my works?"
- 2. "Is there any area in my life that I haven't fully surrendered to Jesus?"

After asking yourself these questions, take time to pray about them! The amazing thing about grace is that God sent Jesus to take our place – essentially, we are saved by works, just not our own... Tim Keller says it this way, "The Gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

