

DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 25: JULY 5 & 8

LEADER INFO:

PLEASE remember to take attendance each week through your email reminders or your church community builder LEAD app.

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 coe22.com/shareyourfaith

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 11:24-36

THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

This week as we dive into the end of Romans 11, we see Paul explaining the mystery of Israel's salvation. Paul explains that salvation has nothing to do with who you are, what you've done, or where you're from, but rather, it is a gift from God! No matter what, it is never too late to surrender to Jesus!

THE POINT: UNTIL JESUS RETURNS: NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU'VE DONE OR WHERE YOU'RE FROM, IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SURRENDER TO JESUS.

A MOVEMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO DISCOVER
AND DEEPEN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

★ 2012 ★

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read Romans 11:25-32 out loud.

Over the last several weeks, and in particular Romans 10 and 11, Paul is explaining salvation as it pertains uniquely to the Gentiles and the Jewish people. God planned salvation history so that Israel's failure to believe that Jesus was the Messiah would open up salvation to the Gentiles. The Jewish people were provoked to jealousy as they watched the Gentiles being saved and enjoying a relationship with God. Paul warns the Gentiles against arrogance, however, as it was God's saving promises alone, not their own goodness, that saved them.

1. In verse 25, Paul takes about a "mystery" that he wants us to understand. What does he mean?
(The word "mystery" does not necessarily refer to something puzzling or hard to grasp, but to something that was previously hidden and is now revealed. At this time in salvation history, the majority of Israel has been hardened towards Jesus, but during this same time, many Gentiles are coming to saving faith. The Scriptures make it clear that God will do a new work in the future in which He will save Israel.)
2. If salvation is not based on heritage or good deeds, what are we to do for salvation?
(Believe, trust, surrender. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, trust that He died the death of a criminal on a cross for the payment of your sins although He was sinless, and surrender your life to His lordship, you will be saved. You are not granted God's favor by where or to whom you were born, and you can never do enough "good things" to earn eternal salvation. It's not too late to surrender.)
3. Verse 29 says, "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." What does this mean for your salvation?
(Irrevocable means that something is not able to be changed or reversed; it is final. This is the best news we could hear regarding our salvation. God will not change His mind, and He does not revoke His saving promises. When you are His, you are His for eternity.)
4. God will NOT change His mind regarding your salvation. How does this encourage you and strengthen your faith? Share an example from your life.
(While genuine faith should produce changes in our heart's desires that will show up in our actions, our good behavior never earns or guarantees our salvation. Transversely, even when we mess up or sin along the way, all is not lost. A future version of me cannot do anything so displeasing to God to cause Him to cancel my salvation. He remains faithful, even when I am not. I am eternally secure in Christ's finishing work on the cross.)

Have someone read Luke 23:39-43 out loud.

This passage of scripture brings us to the last moments of Jesus's life before His death and resurrection. We see the two criminals hanging on either side of Jesus. One criminal challenged Jesus, telling Him to save them if He was really the Messiah. The second criminal, admitting that he was getting the punishment that he rightly deserved, recognized that Jesus was being punished wrongfully. The first criminal knew that Jesus could save them from the cross in those moments, but the second criminal, by faith, knew that Jesus could save his soul far into eternity.

5. What did the second criminal do to gain his salvation?
(At the end of his life, the criminal hanging next to Jesus had no time to do anything other than believe. This just goes to show that our salvation is not based on anything we've done, but purely based on the grace of God! This is good news for us and it frees us to live not by works-based righteousness, but rather living out of thankfulness for the unconditional love that God has so gracefully lavished upon us.)

Have someone read Romans 11:33-36 out loud.

Chapters 1 through 11 of Romans are all connected as Paul is laying out the Lord's great plan of salvation throughout history; it all works together because it was all His plan all along. This means that when the God who has no beginning and no end spoke creation into being, He knew that people, in our humanity, would have a propensity to sin, thus causing an unbridgeable chasm between a perfectly Holy God and His imperfect people. Our God is not reactionary; He knows all things, and so He orchestrated a plan of salvation through the blood of His perfect Son, Jesus. As Paul is wrapping up his explanation of God's salvation plan here, he breaks into praise in these verses of concluding doxology.

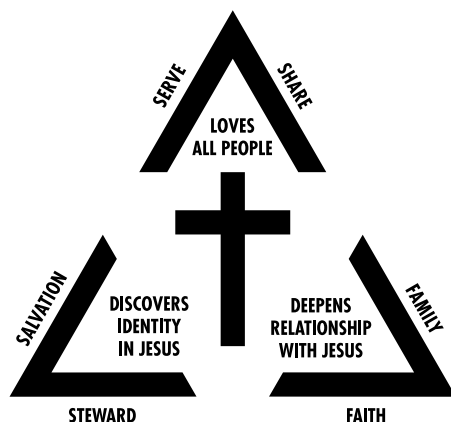
6. Based on this passage of scripture, what does this show us about the nature of who God is?
(These verses are bursting with God's attributes, showing us more of who He is. God is omniscient: He is infinitely wise and knows all things. He is sovereign and eternal: His judgement, decisions and plans are all perfect in light of all the facts and truth of all time He is preeminent: He is before all things.)
7. Read Romans 11:34 and Isaiah 40:13 together and notice how Paul is echoing the words he knows from Isaiah. Both texts point to God's unique power and wisdom as evidence that God is therefore worthy of our trust. What is it that causes/helps you to trust God?

(Answers will be unique to each individual with ways in which we come to trust God, but the Scriptures reveal Him to be all powerful and all knowing. If God knows everything, has the power to do anything, and has promised that He will work all things together for our good and His glory, then we are freed up to trust Him as it is not in His character to forget or change His mind. This does not mean that we will always get what we want, but it does mean that we can trust in the One who knows what is best for all of eternity and is perfectly carrying that plan out. As we grow in our faith, we will become more and more like Christ, therefore we will begin to desire that God desires: thing that are eternal and bring Him glory.)

8. Read Romans 11:36 and then Colossians 1:15-17. If all things are from God and through God and for God, it follows that He deserves all the glory forever. Practically what can you do to put God before all things in your life?
(Share specific examples as you feel led.)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



Set aside some time this week to think and pray about what God is calling you to surrender: your life as you discover your relationship with Him, your time or comfort as you serve others, or temporary things that have taken up the place of an idol in your life that are getting in the way of you deepening your relationship with God.

ELEVEN22

ESTABLISHED

★ 2012 ★