

DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 16: MAY 3 & 6

LEADER INFO:

The official Spring semester ends May 6. This is a great time to identify a new leader and help them get into a training so they can launch in the summer. The Summer semester starts June 4. Over the break we will provide a leaner version of curriculum.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Disciple Group Leader Trainings - If you are interested in leading a Disciple Group go to coe22.com/disciplegroups to fill out the application and sign up for a training in April or May.

Baptism Classes – If you have never been baptized as a Believer we want to celebrate this next step of faith at Beach Baptism on May 20! Join us at a baptism class **offered now-May 20 after every service at all campuses.**

2018 Short-term Mission Trips - How will you love your global neighbor in 2018? Details and sign-up information for all mission trips this year are available in the lobby and at coe22.com/missions.

TEXTS: ROMANS 7

THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

In week 16 of the Romans series, we see in Romans 7 that there is a war being waged within us. The Spirit and flesh battle as we follow Christ. The message of the Gospel is not try harder but to surrender it all to the One who has already beaten it. In Christ we are called to strive for holiness because we are striving FROM faith, not FOR faith.

THE POINT: WE ARE NOT MISTAKERS THAT NEED TO TRY HARDER WE ARE SINNERS THAT NEED A SAVIOR.

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Romans Chapter 7 emphasizes the conflict we live in as Christians; the daily battle between living in the Spirit while being in the flesh.

Have someone read read Romans 7:1-6 out loud.

In these verses Paul uses the illustration of marriage in comparison to the Law. He explains that when your spouse dies, you're free to marry someone else because death has ended the contract of marriage. Likewise, the Law is put to death when we surrender our lives to the Lordship of Jesus and we are to "marry" grace. In doing

so, we may bear the fruit of God as we strive for holiness FROM faith not FOR faith.

1. What does it mean that you have died to sin / the Law?
(Before you surrendered to Jesus you were dead and bound in your sin. In your justification given by Christ you have received the righteousness of Christ and have been freed from the power of sin and works based righteousness.)
2. What does it mean to strive for holiness FROM faith not FOR faith?
(It's not a works-based idea because it is impossible to earn our own righteousness. Striving for holiness is a by-product of a genuine relationship with Jesus and understanding of the Gospel.)

Have someone read Romans 7:7-14 out loud.

Paul continues to explain that the Law itself is not sin, but rather a gift from God to help reveal our sin. King David writes in Psalm 119 that the law is a lamp to his feet, makes him wiser than his enemies, and is sweeter than honey to his mouth! God's Word reveals to us His perfect character and heart and the depth of our own depravity. Life is not found in keeping God's statutes but found in His One True Son, Jesus. The Law points us to this beautiful Gospel.

3. How have you experienced God's Word exposing the sin in your heart and pointing you to the hope in Jesus?
(Think of specific examples- God tells us not to fear because He is with us. This exposes the daily fear in my heart which is ultimately unbelief. This compels me to continuously repent and trust God.)

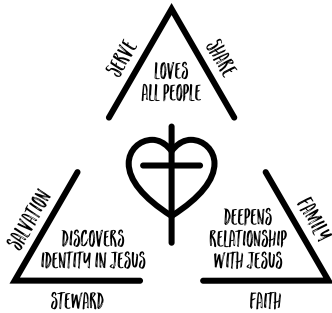
Have someone read Romans 7:15-25 out loud.

Here Paul truly displays his own human nature. He describes what seems like a sense of helplessness. It's not his lack of desire or knowledge, but he continues to wrestle in the battle of doing the very sin he does not want to do.

4. Why is the world's belief to "follow your heart" wrong?
(Scripture tells us that the "heart is deceitful above all things"- Jeremiah 17:9. "For out of the heart come evil thoughts-murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander"- Matthew 15:19. As new creations in Christ we follow the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us- which means that His prompting will ALWAYS line up with Scripture, not our feelings or preferences.)
5. Why does sin management not work?
(Paul himself explains His struggle with sin and he wrote most of the New Testament! Sin management is like trying to hold a beach ball underwater. It will work for a short while but will ultimately explode above the surface with vengeance. Jesus calls us to surrender to Him as Lord and live a daily life of repentance (turning from your sin and turning towards Jesus.))
6. An old Indian proverb says "2 dogs are at war in me... which one wins? The one that I feed." What sin are you feeding in your life? What needs to change for that sin to die?
(Focus here on the desire to deepen the relationship with Jesus. We can't simply manage the sin, we need to turn from it and surrender.)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



Immerse yourself in God's Word this week to see it as a map and a mirror, and ultimately a gift for us to know God. Use the CoE22 daily reading plan (found on the bulletin and CoE22 app).

