

THE GOSPEL

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026

Sermon Passage(s): Romans 5:8, John 3:16-17, Isaiah 53:5-6

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This Week's Main Takeaway

Jesus took on our sin and us as we are, without a precursor “12 Step” program to clean us up first. While we were still sinners, He died for us.

This Week's Memory Verse

Romans 5:8 (NIV), “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

Christ loves us—He showed this love by taking on our sin.

Genuine love is always shown through sacrifice. God did not simply say, “I love you.” One commentator says, “The text does not say God loves us (present tense) *now* that we have been made his children. It says God loved us (past tense) *before* we were saved. God is the one who acts first in salvation. God is the one who loves first.”

He showed us His great love by going to great depths to place Christ in our place. Let it be understood that Jesus willingly gave Himself up. While salvation is free for us, it cost God that which meant most to Him—His only and only Son. Isaiah 53:5 tells us by His stripes we are healed—He got punishment; we got peace. One commentator says, “God gave this gift as a demonstration of his love, and His love was displayed to the entire world. His love for the world is remarkable, not because the world is so *big* but because the world is so *bad*. We did not deserve His love. We did not earn it. We were rebels against God, yet God still gave us the gift of his Son.”

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

Christ saved us while we were still sinners.

The fact is simple: We are unable to save ourselves. Isaiah 53:6 describes us as lost sheep seeking our way. Romans 5:6 reminds us that while we were “helpless,” and “at the right time, Christ died

for the ungodly.” Christ did not die for a “good person” (Romans 5:7). One commentator says, “Christ died for people who did not deserve to be saved. Sinners, who have been justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, know a love like no other love.”

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

The promise of eternal life.

John 3:16 promises us eternal life in Christ, a gift that can never be removed, changed, or altered. The greatest promise is this: we deserved death, but now can have life forevermore.

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

We come, believe, and surrender.

Jesus did not walk us through a precursor “12 Step” program to clean us up first. He took on our sin and us as we were. One commentator says, “The difference between eternal death and eternal life is believing on Jesus. We’ve already seen this word translated *believe* eleven times in the Gospel of John. To *believe* means we must acknowledge the claims of Jesus, yield our allegiance to Him, and place our trust in Him as the only hope of salvation from sin and death.”

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God’s Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

Have you come to Jesus in faith? If so, how has following Jesus changed your life? What does allegiance to Him look like?

Next Week’s Sermon Text (March 29, 2026)

Romans 10:1-17 (Main verses: 9 and 13) and Matthew 21:1-11

Sources:

Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in John (Holman Publishers)

Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Romans (Holman Publishers)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)