

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Other passages to look at: Romans 6:6–14; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Colossians 1:13–14

READ THE PASSAGE

What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

We have a new position in Jesus, and new power in the Spirit of Jesus (vs 1-11)

We owe nothing to the flesh because Jesus paid for our freedom (vs 12)

On Screen Only (build - to the above point)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. —1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Surrendering to the flesh ends in death, but surrendering to the Spirit leads to life (vs 13)

We have responsibility within God's sovereignty (vs 13)

Either we are putting to death the deeds of the body, or sin is putting us to death (vs 13)

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

The Spirit of God is not an instrument in our hand, but we are instruments in the Spirit's hand (vs 14)

We call God our Father because of the Son's life and work (vs 14-15)

ON SCREEN ONLY

And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only

was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. —John 5:16-18 ESV

God as our Father gives us relationship with God, unity with God, and a new identity from God (vs 14-15)

¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

The Spirit of God always leads us to a deeper relationship with God, to be obedient to God, and to live the way of God (vs 16)

¹⁷and *if* children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Because of Christ, we are all kids in God's Kingdom and heirs with Christ (vs 17)

Those who follow the Spirit of God along the road with Jesus will also receive the reward of Jesus (vs 17)

Put into Practice: —How to grow in grace

☐ Stop stunting your spiritual growth.

☐ What will you let go of to go and grow with God?

Small Group Discussion Questions

Romans 8:12–17 — “Follow the Leader”

- 1. According to Romans 8:12–13, why are believers no longer obligated to obey the flesh?**
- 2. What does it mean to “put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit”?**
- 3. What does it look like to be led by the Spirit of God?**
- 4. How does our adoption change the way we relate to God?**
- 5. What hope does Romans 8:17 give believers when following Jesus brings suffering?**

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as, what is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through

sharing, caring, praying, serving, and mobilizing each other.

SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God's Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.

CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.

PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.

SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.

MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through “Good Events” once a quarter.

Leader's Guide (WITH SUGGESTED AND HELPFUL ANSWERS)

Main Purpose

Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.

Pathway

When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions

Romans 8:12–17 — “Follow the Leader”

1. According to Romans 8:12–13, why are believers no longer obligated to obey the flesh?

Biblical Answer: Sin did not rescue, redeem, or restore us—Jesus did. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus paid our debt and broke sin's rightful claim over us. Although believers still experience temptation, we no longer owe sin our obedience. We now belong to God and are empowered by His Spirit to live differently.

References: Romans 6:6–14; 8:1–4; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Colossians 1:13–14

2. What does it mean to “put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit”?

Biblical Answer: Putting sin to death means actively turning from sinful desires while depending upon the Holy Spirit’s power. We identify sin through God’s Word, confess it, remove what feeds it, and pursue obedience. We cannot defeat sin through willpower alone, but the Spirit enables us to resist temptation and increasingly become like Jesus.

References: Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:16–25; Colossians 3:5–10; Psalm 119:9–11

3. What does it look like to be led by the Spirit of God?

Biblical Answer: The Holy Spirit is not a tool we use; He is God, and we surrender ourselves to His leadership. He directs us through Scripture, leads us away from sin, produces Christlike character, and moves us toward obedience. Being led by the Spirit means setting our minds on His truth and following when He directs us.

References: Romans 8:5–6, 14; John 16:13–14; Galatians 5:18, 22–25; 2 Timothy 3:16–17

4. How does our adoption change the way we relate to God?

Biblical Answer: Through Jesus, believers are no longer slaves living in fear but beloved children welcomed into God’s family. We can approach Him intimately as “Abba! Father.” Our earthly experiences may distort our understanding of fatherhood, but God is the perfectly compassionate, faithful, and trustworthy Father who never abandons His children.

References: Romans 8:15–16; Galatians 4:4–7; Psalm 103:13; Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 John 3:1

5. What hope does Romans 8:17 give believers when following Jesus brings suffering?

Biblical Answer: Those united with Christ share both the road of suffering and the promise of future glory. Suffering does not earn our inheritance or mean that God has abandoned us. Because Jesus suffered, rose, and reigns, His children can endure present hardship knowing that their pain is temporary, and their eternal inheritance is secure.

References: Romans 8:17–18, 28–30; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; 1 Peter 1:3–7; Revelation 21:3–5