



FAITH NOT LAW

Small Group Discussion

GET TALKING

What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?

WATCH THE VIDEO

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:17

DISCUSS AND APPLY

Why does Paul instruct us to live life by faith? What other options are there?

From a very practical standpoint, what does living by faith look like? What do you do to live by faith?

How has living by faith helped you are change your life?

What is the difference between justification and sanctification? Why is it important to know the difference?

What are some signs that your faith is weak and needs strengthening?

What should you do when your faith is weak?

How can this group encourage you to live by faith?

ENCOURAGE AND PRAY



FAITH NOT LAW

DIGGING DEEPER

THE BIG PICTURE

Romans 1 is the introduction and theme (Romans 1:16-17) of the Book of Romans. Romans 2-5 talks about justification and Romans 6-8 discusses about sanctification. Romans 9-11 addresses God's plans and purposes for the Jewish people and Romans 12-16 is about practical living as a believer in Jesus.

USE THESE QUESTIONS TO CUSTOMIZE OR DEEPEN YOUR DISCUSSION

What does it mean when Paul writes, 'As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;"' in Romans 3:10?

How can a person be justified (declared right) before God according to Romans 3:28 and Romans 5:1?

How can we know for sure (assurance) that believing in Jesus for eternal life is enough to justify a sinner before God forever? Read Romans 4:5, John 5:24.

Discuss the statement: "When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead He paid the penalty for your sin, but He also set you free from the power of sin so you could live a holy (sanctified) life right now."



RELATIONSHIP NOT RULES

Small Group Discussion

GET TALKING

Are you naturally a rule maker, rule keeper or rule breaker?

WATCH THE VIDEO

22 This righteousness is given through faith in[a] Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22-24

DISCUSS AND APPLY

What are some things that you do or choose not to do because of the relationship of someone close to you?

Why is it important to choose a relationship with God instead of trying to be a good, moral person who keeps the rules?

If you have a relationship with God, do the rules still apply to you? Read 2 John 1:6.

If I don't keep the rules, do I lose my relationship with God? Read John 10:28 and John 5:24. What do we learn about these verses about losing our relationship with God?

Read Jude 1:24. How is our relationship with God like no other relationship that we have ever experienced?

Does living in a relationship with God mean that we get to do whatever we want whenever we want to do it?

How does a relationship with God help me to live a life pleasing to God?

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What are some of the commands (laws) that God gives us in the New Testament? Read John 13:34; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Galatians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; James 2:8-12.

There were 613 "laws" in the Old Testament that were part of the Mosaic Covenant. There are over 1000 commands in the New Testament. Due to repetition that is about 800 commands for believers today. Some commands in the Old Testament are repeated in the New Testament, some are not. We are not under the Old Testament commands and laws! No one has ever been justified by God by keeping rules, commands or laws!

What does Romans 3:28 and Galatians 3:11 say about being justified (declared right) by God by keeping any Old Testament Law?

What does it mean when Paul says, "you (we) are not under the law but under grace..." in Romans 6:14-15?

Why do we have rules (laws and statues) in our family, church, work and in our country? How do rules and laws help us function in every-day life?

What does John 14:21 say about the correlation of keeping Jesus Christ's commands and loving Jesus?



NEW NOT OLD

Small Group Discussion

GET TALKING

What is one old habit that you would like to do away with?

WATCH THE VIDEO

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. ROMANS 6:11-14

DISCUSS AND APPLY

Why do we still struggle with sin even after we are forgiven, changed, and set free from sin?

What role does confession play in the life of a Christ follower?

What steps should you take to deal with consistent, persistent sin?

Where have you seen victory or found freedom over a persistent sin in your life? Tell your story and encourage others.

How can the "new not old" mindset help you make wise decisions to see life change?

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Read and discuss Romans 6:1-10. What does it mean when Romans 6:11 says, "count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus?"

What is the meaning and significance of being "baptized into Christ Jesus" in Romans 6:3? Read Galatians 3:26-27.

How is a believer's identification ("baptized in Christ Jesus") connected to living a new life in Romans 6:4-8?

Read Romans 7:14-25. As a believer how did the Apostle Paul describe his struggle with sin after years of walking with God?

Where has your experience as a believer been similar to the struggle Paul had in Romans 7:14-25?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. What role does the new birth ("born again," "regeneration") have in helping believers overcome persistent sin in our lives?

What role does the Holy Spirit have in helping believers overcome persistent sin in our lives? Read Romans 8:2 and 2 Peter 1:2.

What steps should you take in living the new life that God desires for you based on Romans 6:1-14?



VICTOR NOT VICTIM

Small Group Discussion

GET TALKING

On a scale from 1 to 10, how much do you like change? 1 being no change and 10 being always looking for what's next.

WATCH THE VIDEO

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

DISCUSS AND APPLY

If we always see ourselves as victims in life, what problems will that cause? When we know that we are victors in Christ, what difference does that make?

What victory does Christ give to us or share with us?

Does this mean that we will never face troubles or difficulties in life? If not, what does being a victor do for you and me? Read Romans 8:18.

Read Romans 8:28. How do you stay hopeful based on the victory that Christ gives?

Read Romans 8:31-39. What are some ways that you can live the victorious life that Jesus has given you?

What is one thing that you have learned about God or yourself through our study of the book of Romans?

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What is the law of sin and death? Read Romans 5:12

Compare and contrast "the wages of sin" and "the gift of God" in Romans 6:23? What are the different meanings of "death" in the New Testament? Read James 1:15; Revelation 20:14

Read John 3:36, 5:24; 17:3. How would you define "eternal life?"

How is being "born of God" and "living by faith" as a believer related to experiencing victory over sin in our daily lives? Read 1 John 5:4-5 (The "world" is EVERY human system that is against God 1 John 2:15-17)