



6 studies in Romans
For individuals, groups & 1:1

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Romans 5:1 - 11

Saved at Just the Right Time

1. Can you recall a time when salvation/help/rescue arrived “at just the right time”? What happened?

What outcome was averted?

2. What are some common reactions or responses to suffering that you have observed?

3. In what ways have you seen people demonstrate love for others?

Read Romans 5:1 - 11

4. In what different ways does Paul describe our situation before Christ’s work for salvation?

“Justify” is a legal term meaning ‘acquit.’ ‘declare righteous,’ the opposite of ‘condemn.’ Justifying is the judge’s act. From the litigant’s standpoint, therefore, ‘be justified’ means ‘get the verdict.’

Based on “Justification” in the New Bible Dictionary

5. In the light of the above definition, what does it mean that we have been “justified through faith”?

6. What kind of thinking is necessarily excluded if we are “justified through faith”?

7. What blessings and benefits do we have as a result of our justification?

8. What might Paul have in mind when he says we can “glory in our sufferings” (v 3)?

9. How is God’s love an assurance that our hope will “not put us to shame” (v 5)?

10. How is the chain from suffering to hope worked out in our lives (v 3- 4)?

11. What sorts of things could you say to a Christian friend who is struggling with hardship in their life?

12. In what ways was Christ's death "at just the right time" (v 6)?

13. How is God's demonstration of love for us in Christ above and beyond any demonstration of love we might expect or imagine?

14. What were the obstacles to our reconciliation to God (v 10)?

15. Now that reconciliation has been achieved, what is Paul confident of?

16. How do Paul's words help you respond to someone who is confident God will accept them because they've "been good"?

17. How would Paul have us live in the light of our justification?

Romans 5:12 - 21

Death and Life

1. What rituals surrounding death do you see in our culture, or are you aware of in other cultures?
2. What traits, physical or in character, have you inherited from your parents?
3. Was there a rule (or a law!) that you frequently or deliberately broke at some stage in your life?

Read Romans 5:12 - 21

4. How does Paul explain our situation before the death of Jesus in our place?
5. Divide the verses of this section into “bad news” and “good news.” How would you summarise each kind of news?

6. Why is it important that we understand our situation apart from Christ's gracious intervention?

7. Death came to all humanity because of Adam's sin, which we both inherit and follow, so how do we receive life?

8. What points of contrast does Paul draw between Adam's "achievements" and Christ's?

9. What are some of the ways in which we still experience the reality and effects of our corporate identity in Adam?

10. How does Paul's argument show that we don't get eternal life by doing good or being good?

11. In what ways do Christian people “reign in life” (v 17) through Jesus?

12. What does it mean for many to be “made righteous” through Jesus’ obedience (v 19)?

13. The Old Testament law caused sin to “increase” by pointing out what is wrong. How does God’s grace in the gospel of Jesus operate at an entirely different level?

14. How does this part of Romans 5 help us think about people we know and their needs before God?

15. How can someone who trusts in Jesus have a sure confidence of eternal life?

6. Describe some of the different ways that Paul explains or illustrates the change that has occurred to us in Jesus?

7. How is it possible that we have “died with Christ,” “been united with him” in death, etc?

8. What response to God’s grace does Paul rule as inappropriate here?

9. Why would anyone misuse the grace of God in the way verse 1 indicates people are?

10. How could this passage help you speak with a Christian friend who is choosing to continue to deliberately choose sinful patterns for life?

11. What will it look like for a Christian person to count themselves “dead to sin” (v 11)?

12. How does God’s grace help us put an end to sinful behaviour?

13. Why do we still find it difficult to say no to sin?

14. What are some of the ways you can “offer every part of yourself” to God (v 13)?

15. What does it look like to live “not under law, but under grace” (v 14)?

Romans 6:15 - 23

Free as Slaves

1. When people we know speak about freedom, what ideas do they have?
2. Have you ever had a boss who you thought treated you like a slave, or who never asked much of you at all?

Read Romans 6:15 - 23

3. How does Paul view all people in the world?
4. What things do you see enslaving the people you know?
5. What does this section teach us about the degree of freedom we have before we come to Jesus in faith?

6. Why does Paul use the language of slavery to righteousness?
Wouldn't it be better just to talk about our freedom as Christians?

7. In what ways is it true that "the wages of sin is death" (v 23)?

8. How is being a slave to righteousness different to being a slave to sin?

9. If we "have been set free from sin" (v 18), why do we still sin?

10. How does having the right master lead to genuine freedom?

11. Some Christians believe that obedience and following rules leads to life that's pleasing to God. How does Paul's argument here think about that issue?

12. What will the life of a Christian, a slave of righteousness, look like?

13. Where can you see the benefits of being a slave of God (v 22) in your life?

Romans 7:1 - 25

Sin and the Law

1. Describe something that you wish you could do, that you'll probably never be able to, or allowed to.

2. Can you recall a time when an idea with good origins or intentions worked out badly in practice?

Read Romans 7:1 - 25

3. What does the comparison with marriage illustrate about the Roman Christians' relationship to the Old Testament law?

4. What implications for having "died to the law" (v 4) does Paul identify?

5. What is the evidence of being controlled by our sinful nature?

6. What do you think is the fruit of living “in the new way of the Spirit” (v 6)?

7. What does Paul argue was the effect of the Old Testament law?

8. How does the law “that was intended to bring life” actually bring death?

9. How does this section help us refute the way of thinking that says that all people are basically good?

10. How would you describe Paul’s battle with sin before he came to trust in Jesus?

11. How is the struggle against sin different for someone who has come to faith in Jesus?

12. In what ways have you experienced the kind of battle that Paul describes in 21 – 25?

13. Where can hope for the defeat of sin be found?

14. How does this passage help you respond to a Christian friend who is discouraged because they thought that coming to Christ would mean they no longer sin?

Romans 8:1 - 17

What is Spiritual Life?

1. Are you more likely to be the person flouting/bending/breaking the rules, the one following the rules, or the person calling attention to others' disregard for the rules?

2. Can you recall ever escaping punishment for something you did when you were younger?

How did you feel?

Did you ever do the same wrong thing again?

3. What would it look like for you to be living your ultimate life?

Read Romans 8:1 - 17

4. How would you explain the gospel of Jesus to someone from just this passage?

5. What did the life and death of Jesus achieve that the Old Testament law was unable to accomplish?

6. How is living “in accordance with the Spirit” (v 5) different to living according to the flesh?

7. What is the evidence that someone is living according to the Spirit?

8. What does this passage say about people pleasing God apart from the work of God’s own Spirit?

9. If we don’t earn God’s favour by doing good things, what is our motivation for doing good?

10. What hope and encouragement is there in this passage for Christian people?

11. What does this section teach us that the Spirit of God does for us?

12. How does the Spirit of God help you “put to death” sin in your life?

13. Why is it so significant that the Spirit enables us to call God, “Father” (v 15)?

14. How does the fact that there is “no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” shape your life today?

15. How do we make sure we are continually being led by the Spirit?



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