

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012

Passage: Romans 1:1-7

Memory Passage: Romans 1:16-17 (This is the theme for Paul's letter to the Romans)

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 1:1-7 & Rom. 2** (we will begin reading one chapter of Romans in addition to our study text on most days!). Last week we looked at Rom. 1:1, 5-7, and this week we will spend our time in verses 2-4 where Paul begins to talk about “the gospel of God” (v. 1). As we begin, write down your definition of the gospel of God.
- (b) Why is it important for Paul to teach us that the gospel was promised in the OT (the words “through the prophets” refer to the entire teaching of the OT)? Write down specific OT verses that come to mind which “promise beforehand” the gospel.
- (c) **Read Luke 24:27 & 1 Pet. 1:10-12.** How does Jesus instruct the brothers on the road to Emmaus? What does Peter tell us about the message the prophets preached?
- (d) Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “All of the Scriptures, OT & NT are about Jesus”? Why or why not?
- (e) *Family: Read Rom. 1:1-4.* Ask your family, “What is the gospel of God?” On your whiteboard write the answers your family gives. Some of their answers may include things that are not the gospel, so when you have finished, make sure you affirm what was correct and correct what answers were incorrect. Don't worry about shallow definitions, only definitions that are wrong (e.g. “To repent of your sins & believe on Jesus” is not the gospel, it is our response to the gospel). Save these definitions, if possible, for Day 5. Then show your family that v. 2 says this gospel was, “promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,” and ask, “What is the earliest mention of the gospel found in the Scriptures?” Then teach them Gen. 3:15, which is known as the “protoevangelium,” or “first gospel” of the Scriptures. It would be best to summarize the fall (Gen. 3:1-13) and then teach the first part of the curse which dealt with the serpent (Satan). God said that not only would serpents forever move on their bellies, but also Satan would be more cursed (notice he was also “more crafty” in 3:1) than any other being. Also, one day one of the woman's offspring (referring to Christ) will destroy Satan (“bruise your head”) but that Satan would only “bruise (Christ's) heal” (which refers to the work of Satan against God and evil against good).

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Sam. 7:12-16, Ps. 89:3-4, Is. 11:1-5, Jer. 23:5-6, Matt. 1:1 & Luke 1:31-33.** In 2 Sam., which verses are speaking of Solomon and which are speaking of the Messiah? How can you tell? How does Psalm 89 help you understand?
- (b) According to Is. 11, what are the qualities found in the “shoot/branch from the stump of Jesse (David's father)”? Are these speaking of Solomon or any other future human king? How do you know? How does Jer. 23:5-6 help you answer? How do Matt. 1:1 & Luke 1:32-33 speak to these OT prophecies?
- (c) Why should this promise from God concerning David's throne be important to you as a New Covenant believer? Why does it matter that Jesus is the rightful, reigning heir of David's throne?
- (d) *Family: Read Rom. 1:1-3.* Help your family understand the importance of the phrase, “who was descended from David” by teaching them from **Ps. 89:3-4 & Luke 1:31-33.** Help them see that no human king would reign forever & for all generations (Ps. 89:4), and that Luke tells us that this eternal King is Jesus. So when Paul teaches that Jesus is “descended from David” he is saying that He is God's appointed Messiah who has come according to the OT scriptures.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 1:1-7 & Rom. 3.** In 1:3, what does Paul intend for us to understand when he describes Jesus as descending (lit. “become”) “from David “according to the flesh?”
- (b) Since Paul says that Jesus is God (He is God's Son [v. 1c & 3a]), we know he eternally existed (see John 1:1-2 & 17: 1, 5) before he was “descended from David.” So we are being introduced to God in human flesh: the incarnation. **Read Rom. 5:18-19, John 1:1, 14-18, Gal. 4:4-5, Phil. 2:5-8, 1 Tim. 2:5-6, Heb. 2:17-18 & 4:14-16.** For each passage (and we could look at dozens more!) answer these questions: (1) Why was it necessary for Jesus, the Messiah, who is fully God, to come to earth “in the flesh” and also become fully man? (2) What benefits do I receive as a saved believer in Christ because of His incarnation? (3) How will I apply these benefits in a greater way as I live my life this week?
- (c) *Family:* Gather salt, pepper, and a tablespoon. Fill the tablespoon with salt and ask, “Is this tablespoon 100% full?” and then empty it into a glass bowl or cup. Do the same with the pepper and empty it into the same bowl/cup with the salt. Then ask, “Since I mixed 100% salt & 100% pepper, do I now have a mixture of 100% salt and 100% pepper?” (no, we have a mixture of 50% each salt & pepper). Then ask, “Can you think of anything that is made up of 100% of two things (no, we can't imagine such a thing!)?” Then explain that even though it is not completely understandable how Jesus was fully (100%) God and fully (100%) man, the Bible is clear that this is true. Then teach Jesus' full humanity from **Gal. 4:4-5 & Luke 1:35**

and teach His full divinity from **John 1:1, 14-18 & Heb. 1:1-3, 8-10**. Make sure your family understands that we must trust what the word of God teaches, especially in cases like this where the teaching of Jesus being fully (100%) man and fully (100%) God is clearly taught in the Scripture even though it is beyond our total comprehension.

#### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

#### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:1-7 & Rom. 4.** According to v. 4, what did God declare about His Son? Our English versions differ on what the words “in power” modify (some say, “declared in/with power to be the Son of God” and others say “declared to be the Son of God in/with power”), but the best translation seems to be the latter choice. How was Jesus, who was already the Son of God (v. 3), declared now to be “the Son of God in power?” What changed? What part did the resurrection play?

(b) **Read Ps. 2:7-8 2 Sam. 7:14 & Heb. 1:5.** How does Heb. 1:5 help us interpret the OT passages? How do these promises and their fulfillment foreshadow Rom. 1:5?

(c) Is “according to the Spirit of holiness” (1:4) referring to the character of God’s power or the Holy Spirit? How does this phrase compare or contrast to “according to the flesh” in v. 3? In what other ways do vs. 3 & 4 compare or contrast?

(d) *Family:* Ask your family, “Do you believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead?” And when they answer, “Yes,” ask, “Why?” They will hopefully say, “Because the Bible says so!” and you will then ask, “Where does the Bible say that?” They may take you to the gospel accounts of the resurrection, or to Acts where the disciples preached the resurrection, which you should affirm and have them read. Then ask, “What would you say if someone said, ‘There is no resurrection from the dead!’” Then have them **turn to 1 Corinthians 15:12-23** and take them through Paul’s answer to this question, teaching them all of the things Paul says would be true if the resurrection from the dead was not: Christ has not been raised, Paul’s preaching was in vain, Paul would be a liar (misrepresenting God), our faith is useless, & we are still in our sins. But we know that all these things *are* true because Christ has been resurrected from the dead (v. 20). Then show them the promise that we also will be raised because Christ’s resurrection guarantees our own resurrection (vs. 21-23). Then **Read Rom. 1:1-4** and show them why you studied the resurrection from the dead tonight (because God declared Jesus to be His Son in power at His resurrection).

#### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

#### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:1-7 & Rom. 5.** Write an amplified summary (i.e. a summary that expands Paul’s language to include the details you learned this week) of Paul’s teaching in vs. 2-4. Now compare this to the definition of the gospel you wrote on Day 1 (a). How does it differ? How does it compare? Was your original definition full enough? Do you think Paul’s definition here in Rom. 1 is complete? If not, what other information does he give in other letters to fill out his understanding?

(b) Spend some time memorizing Rom. 1:16-17. If you have already done this, then begin memorizing Rom. 8:1. We will memorize this entire chapter in the coming months!

(c) *Family:* Work your way through (a) & (b) above.

**DATE:** January 15, 2012

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*Paul’s Greeting Part II: The Gospel of God*