

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 31, 2013

Passage: Romans 6:12-14

Memory Passage: Review Romans 6:1-14

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 6:12-14.** Considering the “therefore” that is contained in v. 12, how do vs. 12-14 specifically relate to v. 11? To vs. 1-11? Upon what basis is Paul able to give us the command: “let not sin reign?”

(b) To what does the term “mortal body” refer? What in the context gives you your answer? What other passages come to mind that inform your answer?

(c) Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal the true answers to the following questions: In what ways are you currently letting sin reign in your life (be specific and write out a list; don’t just think about it, but commit to a written list what the Holy Spirit reveals to you)? For each item you listed, write down the reasons that you capitulated to that specific sin(s).

(d) Before you go any further, continue in prayer preaching the gospel to yourself. Thank God for the gift of His Son who died so that the penalty for each of these sins was paid, and the wrath of God against you for committing these sins has been turned toward you in favor. Remind yourself that since you are “in Christ” and united with Him in His death and resurrection that these sins have no more power over you, and that you have the ability, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to crucify them and not give them control over you. Ask God to remind you the next time you are tempted that you are no longer under sin’s power or penalty, even though you are still struggling with its presence.

(e) *Family: Read Rom. 6:11.* Review what you learned last week by asking the following questions: Why and how can believers “consider” themselves dead to sin? What does it mean to be dead to sin? What does it mean to be alive to God? Why are believers alive to God? What does the phrase, “in Christ Jesus” tell us? Ask your family to read silently 6:1-11 and write down any questions that they have. Then spend time answering these questions, and tell them that this week we will learn how to apply the command: “Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 6:12-14, 7:11, & James 1:13-15.** To what does the word “its” in 6:12 refer? Another way to ask this is: Is it sin’s passions that sin can make us obey or is it our body’s passions that sin can make us obey?

(b) How does sin “make you obey” passions (either its own or your body’s, whichever you chose in [a] above)? Is this still possible for a believer? How do you know?

(c) How does the promise in v. 14 affect the command in v. 12? What does the promise have to do with 6:1-11? Would a believer be able to obey the command in v. 12 if the promise (v. 14) and the doctrine backing up the promise (vs. 1-11) were not given? Why or why not?

(d) *Family: Read Rom. 6:12-14.* Break out your Lego collection and have your family build a castle. While they build, remind them of what you reviewed last night (it is very crucial for your family to understand that commands in the Bible flow from the indicatives, or statements of what is true, so a review of what is true, what is already accomplished, is essential as we move into the commands). Have them build 2 kings and several servants. One king is on the throne, and the other has just been dethroned. Then tell them to act out what the dethroned king would do as he tried to subvert the servants to overthrow the current king. Then explain that this is the type of battle Paul is beginning to describe for believers: God is now our king, but sin, our dethroned former king, is trying to take command of our passions (servants) in order to control our body (the castle) for his goals. We will continue to use this Lego setup this week so try to keep it handy.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 6:12-14.** The word “members” should be translated “weapons” (cf. the only 4 other uses of this Greek word in Rom. 13:12 where it is translated “armor,” 2 Cor. 6:7, 10:4, & John 18:3 where it is translated “weapons”), and the imagery Paul is using is one of an army and battles. Are the words “body,” “members,” and “yourselves” referring to the same thing or to something different? How do you know? To what do they refer?

(b) What does it look like for a believer to voluntarily present the members of their body to sin? What types of unrighteousness are being referred to in v. 13?

(c) Return to the list you made on Day 1 (c). Explain how you have been presenting your members to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. Now look at the passions that are involved in each act you wrote down. Are they necessarily evil (for instance, eating is good but gluttony is evil, sex is a good gift from God but lust is evil, etc.)? How has the power of sin “made you obey” (either its passions, or the passions of your body)?

(d) *Family*: **Read Rom. 6:12-14**. Using the Lego castle, kings, and servants as object lessons, explain what Paul is commanding us not to do: Don't present our members (our body, mind, thoughts, etc. all driven by passions and represented by the servants) to the dethroned power of sin (the dethroned king) for unrighteous acts stemming from our passions. Then explain what Paul wants us to do: Present our members (our body, mind, thoughts, etc. all driven by passions and represented by the servants) to God (the enthroned king) for righteous acts. The unrighteous acts bring chaos to the castle (body), but the righteous acts bring harmony because they are in line with the will of our King.

#### **DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 6:12-14**. In v. 14 (as well as vs. 13c, “as those who have been brought from death to life”) Paul continues to hammer home what is true about us so we can know how to battle sin. What is that truth? So, if sin no longer has dominion over you, why is it that you continue to present some of your members, some of the time, back to sin for unrighteous acts as if it was still your king? Remember to keep in mind the context of Romans 6, and all we have learned about the 2 reigns and 2 ages, as you answer.

(b) Return to the list you have been dealing with during your study this week. For each of the ways that you have been letting, or are tempted to let sin reign in your body, write down at least 3 ways you can endeavor to present your body, with all its passions, to God for righteousness.

(c) *Family*: **Read Rom. 6:12-14**. Using your Lego castle one more night, explain how the phrases, “as those who have been brought from death to life” and “sin will have no dominion over you” are tied to the truths we have already learned in chapters 5 & 6 (i.e. sin & death are reigning for those who are in Adam, but life and righteousness reign for those who are in Christ, believers have died to sin when we were converted [baptized into Christ], the old man who was “in Adam” was crucified and we have been raised to walk in newness of life, we are dead to sin and alive to God so we must, and can, act like it, etc.).

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 6:12-14**. In the context of chapters 5 & 6, what do law and grace represent, and how do both occurrences of the word “under” help you answer? How does this status provide the reason for the promise that “sin will have no dominion over you” (see the “since” that joins the 2 phrases)?

(b) Does the fact that believers are no longer under law mean that we no longer have to obey God's law? If not, then why not? How does knowing you are under grace encourage you? How does knowing you are under grace help you obey the commands in vs. 12-13?

(c) Go back one more time to your list, and write down ways that the indicatives of v. 14 will help you in future present your members to God for righteousness when you are tempted to present your members to sin for unrighteousness. How might these principles help in other areas of temptation, even areas with which you, at least for today, are not struggling? These principles will be of help to others in your class as you share them.

(d) *Family*: Spend this lesson reviewing your memorization of Romans 6:1-14.

**DATE: March 31, 2013**

**PASSAGE: Romans 6:12-14**

#### *Under Grace*

In Romans 6:12-14 Paul helps us apply 6:11 by giving us three commands and one promise.