



Week 1
19 - 25 June 2022

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

The Book of ROMANS

Life in the Spirit - Destined for Glory

CONTENT:

Weekly Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time
Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Coming out of the season of Pentecost which is contextually articulated as the season of the birth of the church. God who calls us to his kingdom and to participate in her mission is aware and has full knowledge that Christians cannot in their own strength and power pursue the work without the assistance of the Spirit. The Spirit is generally understood as the embodied power that enables us to do things we cannot do on our own. Followers of Christ will face many difficulties, challenges, conflicts, and trials. On their own they cannot overcome these without the empowerment of the Spirit. To transcend the inner conflicts, the struggles, weaknesses we need the power of the Spirit to empower us.

Week 1: The Spirit empowers us to live righteously

Righteousness is a not a goal but a journey to a deeper discovery of our relationship with God. We are unable to achieve it on our own, only with the presence and guidance of the Spirit we can attain righteousness.

Week 2: The purpose of spiritual law is to sharpen our awareness of God and ourselves

The law in itself is not an end but the means through which we should not stay permanently but allow the spirit to lead us into the depth of freedom. The law emphasis being good, but the spirit teaches us to trust in faith.

Week 3: The Spirit set us free from fleshly desires

The continuous struggle of obeying the law and the spirit at the same time is an ongoing one, we struggle with living in an imperfect world and still do good. Sometimes the desires of the flesh are heavy on us.

Week 4: The Spirit intercedes for us in our weaknesses

It is a common thing in faith journey that weaknesses we possess tend to overpower the strengths we embody, as a result many people live with a deep sense of guilt and regrets. Notably, we cannot overcome the struggles caused by our weaknesses on our own but through the capacitation of the spirit.

Week 5: The Spirit bestows upon us gifts for the edification of the kingdom

God blesses the community of faith with gifts necessary for her work and the growth of the kingdom, such gifts are not for personal glorification but for God's glory. We ought to embrace each gift of the spirit given to each member of Christ.

Week 6: Transforming power of the spirit

Communities of faith embody giftings, values, and principles that drive how things are done. Any culture that promotes evil of violence, hatred, racism, injustice and does not permit the community to edify and glorify God deserves transformation.

Week 7: The Spirit enhances churches missional work

The main purpose of the church's existence is to make Christ known to the world and participate in God's mission. Sharing Christ with others, creating work opportunities for others, carrying each other's burden.

Week 1: SUNDAY 19 JUNE



Praise and Worship: By the Grace of God (Official Lyric Video) - Bethel Music & Brian Johnson
https://youtu.be/l2xhf_Gogjs

TOPIC OF THE WEEK: THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY



Bible Readings:

Romans 6: 15-23

Gospel: John 14: 15-31

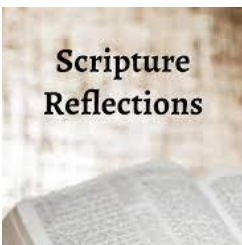
Psalm: Psalm 1: 1-6

Romans 6:15-23

New International Version - UK

Slaves to righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



WRITTEN BY: REV KAMOGELO MONOAMETSI

The greatest struggle for Christians is living a life of righteousness that pleases God, demonstrate and resemble purity, integrity, justice, and peace. We strive to do good to others, ourselves, families and fellow companions but we do not get it right all the time. As a result, feelings of guilt and regret overwhelm us. Living righteously is hard isn't it?

How did the early church get it right? How did the disciples of Jesus and apostles get it right? Can we get it right? We all aspire to living a life that is pleasing to our God, but we are mindful of our spiritually expedient lives where accountability is non-existent, and our character defects are harming creation and fellow human beings. We have become the slaves to desires of the flesh which leads to life of impurity and ever-increasing wickedness.

The ongoing struggle between Law and Grace is an old one as we hear from the polemical engagement of Paul to the Romans. They are struggles between the me and the not-me, the apparent self and the true self. These are the bones on which we sharpen our spiritual teeth. These are the conflicts through which we find the shape of our soul. We need the law for the sake of order, obedience and moral purity. The spiritual law sharpens our awareness about who we are and who God is, so that we can name our own insufficiency and in that same movement, find God's fullness.

Paul asserts "We have been set free and now we are slaves to righteousness". The spirit of God offers the freedom and gift of righteousness. Through the Spirit we are empowered to have full knowledge of God's infinite love for us which enhances our relationship with God, with each other and with creation. We are assured that the door is open to have conversations with God that are authentic, honest and truthful. Conversations about suffering, messy life, failed

marriages, sinful living, brokenness, and darkness of the soul. Living a righteous life does not imply perfect life but a life of abundant grace flowing like a river into one's life and the lives of others. Life in the Spirit is centered on God, guided by Christ teachings. Righteousness is not our own doing but the influence of the Spirit in our lives.

Small Group Questions:

1. What is your definition of righteousness?
2. How do we know that we are free from sin?
3. Explain what Paul means by “²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
4. Mention some practical ways we can use to promote spirit led life of righteousness.

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



Monday,

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 3:22

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,

PRAYER: God of inherent unity you blessed us with the gift of union with you, son, and holy spirit. Send your spirit in our hearts to create new life that can influence meaningfully our lives and the lives of others and establish community of love where barriers do not exist.

Tuesday,

MEMORY VERSE: Psalms 18:24

The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

PRAYER: Loving parent you cleanse us from the iniquities of this earth, the shortcomings of our lives, the failures we have committed. We desire to live in purity and blameless lives that will bear testimony to the goodness and kindness of the Lord.

Wednesday,

MEMORY VERSE: Psalms 33:5

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

PRAYER: God the source of love and justice we confess that we have failed to be witnesses of your gospel and bearers of justice in our society. Bestow upon us your unfailing love in order to live justly and righteously.

Thursday,

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 1:30

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

PRAYER: Almighty God, father of our saviour Jesus Christ, and giver of the holy Spirit we present ourselves to you as living sacrifices, your chosen people, a royal priesthood. Bless us with your holy Spirit to guide our lives and remind us of the teachings of Christ so that we can live in righteousness and peace, with you, and your creation.

Friday,

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Timothy 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

PRAYER: God the father, Son and holy Spirit, community of love, hospitality and grace. We confess that we have allowed the desires of the flesh to control our lives, influence our choices, and decisions. We repent and pray your freedom in our lives so that we live in accordance with your will and Spirit.

Saturday,

MEMORY VERSE: James 1:20

...because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

PRAYER: God of love and peace we turn to you for healing of our broken selves. Due to many scars and woundedness we have acquired we sometimes live our lives controlled by our anger, at times it is so destructive and damaging to ourselves and others. Heal us oh lord and redeem us from anger.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 19 June

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [Romans 6:15-23](#) & [Romans 3:22](#)

Activity/Family Moment:

Read Romans 6:15-23 as a family.

Today's devotion will focus on Romans 3:22

Read the Romans 3:22 a few times so you know it off by heart.

What do you think it means?

No matter how hard we try, we just cannot be as good as God. Absolutely no one!

Family activity:

- Print or draw a bullseye target. And stick it to a wall.
- Have each person fold a piece of paper into a paper airplane.
- Decide on a throwing point away from the target.
- Try hit the center of the target with your paper airplanes.
- Play as many rounds as you like.

If you think about God as the center of the target, we just cannot manage to always hit the target every time. And that is ok! Its ok because of Jesus.

Jesus died on the cross taking all our punishment. 3 days later he rose again! After we believe in Jesus, God helps us choose to follow Jesus so that we can be on the target.

