



### Sermon Discussion Questions: Romans 3:1 - 5:11

#### **Romans 3:1-20**

1. Have you ever had a day that you couldn't do anything right (or where nothing went right)? Share some of the circumstances.
2. Since no one is righteous, Paul anticipates and responds to several good questions related to God's relationship with the Jews, His character, and His purposes. What question do you most struggle with (whether it be the ones listed here or another one)? How can you bring your questions to God and seek His wisdom in finding answers?
3. Paul quotes from several Old Testament passages to reveal the signs and the effects of sin on all humanity. Which of these verses are particularly convicting to you and why?
4. Paul has spent 3 chapters highlighting our sin and need for a savior. How have you experienced these passages and sermons?
5. Spend some time praying for one another as a group—related to questions you're wrestling with, sin that you're convicted by, and/or people who you're longing to be saved.

#### **Romans 3:21-26**

1. Verse 21 starts with a wonderful word "but." Share a time when you heard the word "but" and what good message came after.
2. We've heard lots of bad news thus far, but now comes the greatest news. Share when you first believed this good news of Jesus.
3. There are some big words in this passage: redemption, justification, propitiation, forbearance. What do these words mean and how do they relate to the gospel? Which word is most meaningful to you right now?
4. Psalm 85:10 says, "Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other." How does this relate to verse 27, where Paul says that the God is both just and the justifier?
5. Who is a person you long to believe in Jesus? Spend time praying as a group.

### **Romans 3:27-31**

1. 1 Corinthians 1:31 says, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” Share a time you were particularly grateful and boasted in Christ.
2. What, apart from Christ, might you be tempted to boast in as the grounds of your confidence or self-worth?
3. Paul reminds us that the gospel makes an end of our boasting. Explain.
4. How can you seek to ensure you only boast in the Lord? (Consider looking at Paul’s example in Philippians 3:4-11 for help.) How can your group pray for you in this endeavor?

### **Romans 4:1-15**

1. Which person in the Bible (excluding Jesus) do you most appreciate, admire, or relate to? Why?
2. The Apostle Paul introduces us to Abraham and David in this passage. What might you learn from these men and their examples?
3. Sometimes we pit the Old Testament and New Testament against one another. Based on this passage, how would the Apostle Paul see things? How might his perspective change yours?
4. Paul quotes the first 2 verses from Psalm 32 related to the blessing of forgiveness. How do you experience this blessing? Are there ways you might tend to forget or under-appreciate it?
5. Read the rest of the psalm and spend some time reflecting on it as a group. How might God be calling you to respond to Him based on this passage? Spend some time as a group praying for one another.

### **Romans 4:16-24**

1. Share an example of faith that has inspired you in your own faith journey.
2. Paul recounts Abraham’s faith in this passage. What did Abraham believe about God? What barriers did he have to overcome to trust in God’s promises?
3. Reflect on your own faith journey. What ways have you acted in faith when it was hard?
4. Paul says that Abraham didn’t waver in his faith, but that he also grew in his faith. Explain.
5. What barriers might keep you from completely trusting in God (wavering) or is there a promise that is particularly hard for you to believe right now? How might Abraham’s example inspire you to grow in your faith?

### **Romans 5:1-5**

1. What was a gift you particularly enjoyed and why?
2. This passage lists several gifts of being justified. What are these gospel blessings? Which one do you most appreciate and rejoice in right now?
3. Paul also encourages believers to rejoice in their suffering. When was a time you grew through your suffering? What were the circumstances? What did God produce in you?
4. If you're in suffering right now, how might your group pray for you? Be specific about both the circumstances you want to change, but also how you sense God might want to change you through your suffering.
5. One of the ways the Holy Spirit ministers to us is by pouring God's love into our hearts. How have you experienced this in your past? What struggle/sin/shame in your life do you long for God's love to overcome right now?
6. Spend some time as a group praying for God to remind you and more fully apply these gospel blessings to your lives.

### **Romans 5:6-11**

1. Spend some time reflecting on God's love for us on the cross.
2. Paul uses several terms to describe the unbeliever: weak, ungodly, sinner, enemy. Which of these do you most identify with? Why?
3. What is God's response to our sinful, helpless state? How much does this demonstrate His love towards you?
4. Paul uses the phrase "much more" or "more than that" several times regarding our salvation. Why? How might this encourage you?
5. Paul says that we are reconciled to God through the death of His Son. What does this mean? Can your status before God ever change? How might remembering that you are reconciled to God help you right now?