



THE WIN

The group member will demonstrate understanding of the struggle to walk toward new life in Christ by summarizing/outlining Romans 8:1-13.

3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week the focus was to imitate Jesus rather than walking in our past life and imitating the world.

As you listened to the message, what challenged you? Encouraged you?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

Which is more gratifying: catching all green lights on the way to work or having the person in front of you in the drive-thru pay for your order?

Which is more frustrating: leaving your house for work only to realize you forgot something and you must go back and get it or being out to dinner at a restaurant and the table behind you is full of loud talkers and whiny children?

35-40
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

SAY THIS:

In America, freedom is cherished. We are able to dine, shop, worship, recreate, and work when we want, where we want, and for however long we wish. While we have freedom to do many things, we also enjoy freedom that, for the Christ-follower, can potentially harm our walk with God. Expression. We are free to show our displeasure with a noisy family sitting at the next table while out to dinner, a couple in public engaging in inappropriate displays of affection, or even someone in the office who uses unethical methods to secure a promotion.

There is a tension for the Christ-follower. Often times the focus is on how Christians should respond to situations in a manner that brings glory to Jesus. However, until the heart is pure, how a Christian responds is irrelevant. In Matthew 15:17-20 Jesus teaches that the condition of the heart is what causes a person to be guilty, not what they say or do.

- How does following Jesus affect your desire to sin?
- If the focus for the Christ-follower should be on the condition of the heart, how have you tried to keep your heart pure? What resistance have you put up against evil?

In Romans chapter 8, Paul teaches on the difference between the flesh and the Spirit.

READ THIS ALOUD:

Romans 8:1-13

DO THIS:

1) Divide the group into 3 groups. 2) Have each group work through the text (Romans 8:1-13) and summarize their teaching. Groups may summarize verbally or they may draw it out on paper. 3) Once completed, have a representative from each group present their summary to the group.

Group 1: 8:1-8

Group 2: 8:9-11

Group 3: 8:12-13

Leader Tip: Here's an example of what the general summary should be like.

8:1-8

Because God sent Jesus to defeat sin for all mankind, Christ-followers are not condemned when we fail to walk in the Spirit. When we fail we have our minds set on the sinful things that lead to death. Ultimately our mindset is to be set on the Spirit, which is life and peace.

8:9-11

Christians are in a new realm because of Jesus' work on the cross. Christians have the power of God inside of them and this will result in their bodies reflecting the glory of God (see contrast 7:22-25)

8:12-13

Since Christians know their ultimate destiny, they are not obligated to live according to their fallen nature. If they do, the Spirit is not in them and they will die. If they live by the Spirit, they will make war on the sin in their heart that leads to life in the flesh. By doing this, they will live.

SAY THIS:

Notice verse 13. Reread and consider the phrase "put to death" (HCSB version).

- When you hear "put to death" what images come to mind?
- What emotion does the phrase "put to death" incite in you?
- What level of intensity is required to accomplish putting to death something?

SAY THIS:

Some might say, Christianity has a mean, violent streak. Paul is arguing that in order to live by the Spirit, a person must be ready to "put to death" or make war on what causes them to sin.

Leader Tip:

Be open and authentic with your group and be the first to share 2 or 3 things that cause you to sin.

ASK THIS:

- What are 2 or 3 things that cause you to sin.

SAY THIS:

Often times, Christ-followers wonder why their lives are on a downward trajectory. They wonder why things are going poorly. Based on Paul's argument in v. 13 Christ-followers struggle often because they haven't learned to make war and get violent with their sin.

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- If you were to make war on the 2 or 3 things you mentioned above that cause you sin, what would be your strategy? Would you need help? What training might you need? What weapons do you need to acquire?

SAY THIS:

Walking in the life Jesus has provided for us is not easy, it requires constant effort. Until we are in community with Jesus in Heaven we will always fight our sin and the need to make war on sin will be continuous.

5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

Introduction:

Divide the group in 2s and ask each group to take turns communicating the summary of Romans 8:1-13.