

**ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# **BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION**

## **Romans – God’s Righteousness Revealed**

### **Sermon Series**

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| <b>07 Feb 2021</b> | <b>Romans 4:1-13 God’s Righteousness Revealed – through Abraham’s Life and Faith</b>  |
| <b>14 Feb 2021</b> | <b>Romans 5:1-11 God’s Righteousness Revealed – in the Hope We Celebrate</b>          |
| <b>21 Feb 2021</b> | <b>Romans 5:12-21 God’s Righteousness Revealed – through Grace and Life in Christ</b> |
| <b>28 Feb 2021</b> | <b>Romans 6:1-23 God’s Righteousness Revealed – in Breaking the Power of Sin</b>      |



**07 Feb 2021**

**Romans 4:1-13**

**God's Righteousness Revealed – through Abraham's Life and Faith**

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Think about the various social groups you belong to (e.g. clubs, communities, countries...). What "proofs" of membership do they require?

### **OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

1. Read Romans 4:1-8.

(a) Was Abraham counted as righteous by God because of his works or because of his faith? (cf. Gen 15:1-6 and Rom 4:18-22)

(b) What would be the difference between being declared righteous because of what you have done versus being declared righteous because of your trust in God who justifies the wicked? Consider also the implications of this.

(c) Consider v.5 – does this mean that we should not try to be righteous (since Paul has already established that we cannot succeed) but should instead purely trust in God to justify us? Explain your conclusion.

2. Read Romans 4:9-13.

(a) Read also Gen 12:1-3, 13:14-17 and 17:1-22. When was Abraham declared righteous by God? What role did circumcision play in this? How does this lead to Paul's conclusion in vv.11-12?

(b) Consider Paul's question in v.9 – what is his answer to this?

(c) What role does faith play in defining Abraham's family? (Rom 4:14-16; Gal 3:6-9, 25)

3. According to Paul, how are those in Abraham's family to be identified? What does he base this conclusion on? Why is membership in Abraham's family important to us?
4. What significance did the Abrahamic covenant (Gen 12, 15, 17) have for the Jews? How is this the same or different for us?

### **APPLICATION**

5. How do we try to justify ourselves through acts of righteousness today? What are we saying to God when we try to do this?

### **REFLECTION**

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

### **DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS**

- Abraham was declared righteous by God because of his trust in God and not because of his deeds
- God's justification of Abraham preceded both circumcision and the law
- Abraham's descendants are defined by those who are like him in their trust in God, and not defined by biological means
- It is faith in God that justifies and not our deeds – a life of righteousness is a necessary result of faith in God and hence of being justified before God; it is not a prerequisite to being justified before God

**14 Feb 2021**

**Romans 5:1-11**

**God's Righteousness Revealed – in the Hope We Celebrate**

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What are some things that we take pride in? How do these contribute to our self-identity?

### **OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

1. Read Romans 5:1-5.

(a) What does Paul say that we rejoice in?

(b) Why are we able to rejoice?

(c) What role does the Holy Spirit play in our rejoicing?

2. Read Romans 5:6-11.

(a) What did Christ do? Why is it surprising?

(b) What did Christ's death accomplish for us? What did Christ's resurrected life accomplish for us?

(c) How does this lead to us rejoicing in God?

3. According to Paul in Romans 5:1-11, what basis do we have to boast/rejoice? Contrast this with the boasting he has excluded before this. How is Paul's recommendation superior?

4. In Romans 5:1-11, Paul states that those who have faith in Christ often exhibit one characteristic. What is this characteristic? (See Rom 5:2, 11). Where does this come from? (cf. Rom 5:5, John 13:34-35)

5. A common belief of Judaism in Paul's time was that it would only be on the Day of Judgement that the final verdicts of justification and condemnation would be pronounced. On the contrary, here Paul is stating that we are already justified by faith before the Day of Judgement. What impact does understanding this have on us?

## **APPLICATION**

6. Consider the message of Romans 5:1-11. How does this impact your daily discipleship? What difference does this make in your daily priorities and relationships?

7. Recall what Paul says about suffering in Romans 5:3-5. How does this challenge us?

## **REFLECTION**

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

## **DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS**

- Christ's death and resurrection is the sole foundation for our hope of the glory of God
- We can stand tall, confident in the hope that we have, no matter our circumstances because of our faith in what Christ has accomplished for us
- Christ's death and resurrection has enabled us to be reconciled with God and we are now being fitted for eternal fellowship with God
- God is faithful – through Christ He has reconciled us to Him, and He will keep us safe and secure to our final salvation on the Day of Judgement
- It is by no action or by anything inherent or innate in us that we have been reconciled – we have nothing to boast about save in what Christ has done for us
- Christ is therefore our boast and cause for rejoicing, hence also our foremost priority and direction

**21 Feb 2021**

**Romans 5:12-21**

**God's Righteousness Revealed – through Grace and Life in Christ**

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What impact do you think the personal actions and choices of the President or the Prime Minister of Singapore have on Singaporeans?

**OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

1. Read Romans 5:12-14.

(a) How did death enter the world? What implications did that have for mankind?

(b) What is the extent and magnitude of sin and death, according to Paul?

(c) What does Paul mean by calling Adam a “pattern” or a “type” of the one to come?

2. Read Romans 5:15-17.

(a) In what ways does Paul say that the gift is not like the trespass?

(b) What is the relationship between Adam's work and Jesus' work?

(c) Is the gift for everyone? Explain your answer.

3. Read Romans 5:18-21.

(a) How does Paul contrast Adam and Jesus? (Consider also the impact of the law being given to Israel – v.20)

(b) On what basis are the many made righteous?

4. What is Paul saying about Christ's work in Romans 5:12-21? How is this linked to what he has said before this?

5. Is it difficult for you to accept the idea that Adam and Jesus act as representatives of humanity, and hence their actions and choices have implications for us? Why or why not?

## **APPLICATION**

6. How does the message of Romans 5:12-21 encourage you in your walk with God?

## **REFLECTION**

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

## **DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS**

- All of us were without hope of life – because of Adam’s sin, all of us were dead in sin and unable to be otherwise
- The Law given through Moses highlighted the presence of sin, convicting man of sin and confirming the judgement against man
- Adam, as mankind’s representative, disobeyed hence choosing sin and death on our behalf; Christ, as the believers’ representative, obeyed hence reversing the condemnation and giving us life
- We should place our hope and faith fully in Christ, who has done all that is needed, reversing the consequences of Adam’s actions, giving us fellowship with God and life eternal

**28 Feb 2021**

**Romans 6:1-23**

**God's Righteousness Revealed – in Breaking the Power of Sin**

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How do you break old habits and/or start new ones?

**OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION**

1. Read Romans 6:1-14.

(a) Paul starts with a question in v.1 – why does he ask this question? (Consider Rom 5:18-21)

(b) What reason(s) does Paul give for his answer to his question in v.1?

(c) What should believers be doing as a result? Why is it necessary for Paul to say this?

2. Read Romans 6:15-23.

(a) Paul asks another question in v.15 – why does he ask this question? (Consider Rom 3:21-26, 4:13-17, 5:20-21)

(b) How is the question Paul asks in v.15 the same or different from the one asked in v.1? What differences are there in his answer?

(c) What life change is Paul asking of the Roman believers? Why does he ask for this?

3. What analogies does Paul use in Romans 6:1-23 to illustrate his point? Taken together, what is Paul's message to the Roman believers?

4. Today we do not often think of ourselves as being under the reign of anyone or anything, or as being slaves. What word pictures would you use instead to convey the same message as Paul wished to?

## **APPLICATION**

5. Prayerfully and thoughtfully examine your life and your heart – is there sin in your life that you have excused? How will you break your ties to them? How can your group support you in this?
  
6. What habits of grace do you need to inculcate or strengthen so that you can “offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness” as well as “offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness”?

## **REFLECTION**

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

## **DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS**

- Sin and death no longer have any claim on us; Christ has paid it all
- We have a new identity and a new life in Christ
- Grace does not give us an excuse or a reason to sin
- Grace means we are able to serve God instead of sin – it is unthinkable that we turn back towards sin
- Trusting in the gospel means that we commit our lives wholeheartedly and fully to God’s service, turning away from our previous habits and turning towards God’s desires