

Praise: Start your time in worship together as a family by following the order of service posted by Westview.

Pray: Spend some time inviting Holy Spirit to be with and guide you today. Your prayers don't have to be the right or perfect words, your thoughts may even be jumbled but ask Holy Spirit to interpret for you (psst, that is one of the roles of HS). Ask God for deeper faith and trust. Come to our Lord exactly as you are.

Today: We finish looking at the book of Romans

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SVTI4Xa5fY>

Read: If you were not able to complete the challenge from last week, find time to complete the challenge throughout this week. There is a depth and a simplicity to Romans that will keep you coming back.

Questions/Discussion: read Romans 6:23. Ask:

- **What's the difference between "wage" and "gift"?**
 - *Answer:* A wage is something you get that you earned; a gift is something you get without earning it.
- **So if we combine what we just talked about in chapter 3 with the fact that a "wage" is something you deserve, what does this say about us in this room?**
 - *Answer:* While it's a simple concept, the fact that because of our disobedience against God, we deserve death—both physical and spiritual—is a difficult one to come to terms with. This is especially true since most of us have been told that we are basically good people who sometimes make small mistakes. Give your group time to wrestle and even disagree with this idea.

NEXT, highlight the importance of this verse by helping your group understand that in many ways, this one sentence is the core of the Gospel. Say something like:

- **This is a short sentence, but the reality is that it outlines the difference between life and death for us—spiritual life and death. Just so we're all on the same page, let's put something on the board for us to look at the rest of the lesson. What do we deserve—what is our wage?**
 - *Answer:* The answer is death—on the left side of the board near the top, write, "What We Deserve." Below it, write the answer when a student says it: "Death."
- **Okay. And why do we deserve death?**
 - *Answer:* Our sin. Below "Death" write, "Why: because of our sin."
- **Great work. Now, what is the gift God has given us?**
 - *Answer:* Eternal life. On the right side of the board, write "What God Gives Us As a Gift" and below it, write "Eternal Life."
- **Lets ask a harder question: Why did God give us eternal life?**
 - There are many valid answers to this, such as God's grace, because we believe in Jesus, etc. Help your group work directly from the text in order to land here: Because Jesus died for us. While it's not stated that way in the text, it's what Paul meant when he said that the "gift of God is eternal life in (or through) Christ Jesus our Lord." Below "Eternal Life" write "Why: because Jesus died for us."
- **Awesome. Now, let's read our last couple of verses in Romans and see how Paul ties it all together.**

THEN, read Romans 10:9-10. Ask:

- **What do these two verses have to do with the gift that we just talked about in verse 6?**
 - Allow your group to discuss this open-ended question for a couple of minutes. The goal here is to get them thinking about this theological idea: If God really does give eternal life as a gift, how is it that someone comes to accept that gift?
- **Why do you think Paul says that trusting in Jesus involves both believing in our heart *and* declaring something with our heart? Do you think that he's saying if we don't say the right words, we can't be saved?**
 - *Answer:* Paul's point isn't that we have to say the right thing, but that trusting in Jesus means more than mere words; it involves our heart, the center of our being. The idea is to clarify what Paul is saying about how someone is "saved."
- **So how can something be a gift *and* require us to do something to receive it?**
 - Again, provide some space for students to work through this concept. Point them in the direction that what Paul is talking about isn't about *doing* something, but about committing ourselves to Jesus as Lord and trusting in Him. However, you don't need to land on an answer at this point; you'll do that in a minute.
- **The bottom line is this: If someone gives you a gift, the only way you really can enjoy that gift is if you accept it. If we were to pull together the three short passages in one idea, it would be this: God has given us a gift we desperately needed: eternal life. There is no other source of eternal life for us, because we deserve death for our disobedience against God. But we have to trust Him enough to open it; trust that God loves us, that He sent Jesus to die for us, and that Jesus really did rise from the dead, because He is God.**

Discuss as needed

Conclusion/ Challenge:

Read 1 Peter... I seriously believe you can do this! It is 5 chapters... that means less than 1 chapter a day, so less than 5 minutes.