

Facilitator:

1. Open with prayer.
2. Welcome any newcomers.
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour at the most.

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for Aug 19, 2018

Title: “The Way of Salvation”

Read Romans 10:14-15

1. According to Romans 10 what is our individual responsibility to proclaim the gospel to those around us who haven't heard? What are some practical ways your group can help each other be obedient to Christ in this area?

Facilitator: Romans 10 begins with Paul expressing his great desire for Jews to be saved. These are people that he has a personal and historical connection to. He knows them, and therefore he feels some responsibility for their souls. Likewise, the New Testament teaches us that it is our individual responsibility to reach the people around us with the gospel (2 Cor 5, Matthew 28, etc.). God loves us and saved us, and God wants us to love and share the gospel with the people around us. This isn't a matter of spiritual gifting or of calling. Anyone who is a Christian has been named an ambassador for Christ, and God wants to make his gospel call through all of us. We simply have to decide whether or not Jesus is really Lord, and if he is, we must obey.

Let your group discuss some practical ways they can follow Christ and share the gospel together. Make sure you, as the leader, offer your group as one way your group members can follow Christ by sharing their faith. Your group should always be the place where our church members can invite their lost friends, so you can help share the gospel with them. If you or your group need some help with this or need an easy method of sharing the gospel, revisit the short evangelism training video we sent out back in the spring. It is quick, easy, and really good.

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/96082854>

Make the video available to your group members as well.

2. According to Romans 10 what is our individual responsibility to get the gospel to the ends of the earth? What are some practical ways your group can help each other be obedient to Christ in this area?

Facilitator: Paul is clear. Our obligation to Jesus and the gospel doesn't end with our immediate circle of acquaintances. Only those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved, and only those who hear can call. No one will hear unless the church sends missionaries. It is the mission of the church to get the gospel to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28, Romans 1, etc.).

Let your group discuss some practical ways your group can get involved in both sending and going. Here are a few quick reminders: 1) Operation Christmas Child

(you'll be hearing a lot about that in the coming months) is a great way to help get the gospel to the ends of the earth 2) Our student ministry is trying to go on a mission trip this year. Brainstorm some ways your group could help them. 3) Our church is working on several new North American and foreign mission trips for 2019 and 2020. Get your group praying now about how they might participate.

Read Romans 10:16-17

3. What does Paul mean when he says that faith comes by hearing the word of Christ? How should this truth change the way we interact with the Bible? What are some practical steps we can take to grow in our relationship to the Scripture?

Facilitator: The Scripture is what we must offer lost people, if they are to have faith in Christ. There is no substitute for that. Kindness is good. Community service is good. Social justice is good. A helping hand is good. But none of those things ever saved anyone. Those things point people to the gospel. No one will ever believe the good news if our message is, "God loves you, but I don't love you enough to help you." Good works are a sign of the gospel, but they are not the gospel. We must always stand ready to share God's Word about Jesus with anyone who will listen.

*Also, remind your group that this is not just true for non-believers. We must be connected to the Bible for our faith to grow as well. Let your group brainstorm how they might better interact with God's Word. We have uploaded a 90-day New Testament reading plan to the PlanningCenter resources page for your groups. It was also attached to the weekly email we sent out. Encourage your group to be reading through Romans and spending some time in study and preparation for your weekly small group meeting. The **S.O.A.P.** method works great. 1) **S**cripture, 2) **O**bserve what the text says. 3) **A**pply what the text says. 4) **P**ray that God would help you believe and obey what you have read.*

Read Romans 10:18-21

4. What does the Bible teach us about God's love for us? How should our knowledge of God's love for us change our lives and ministries?

Facilitator: It is the gospel that changes us. We can't guilt people into following Jesus as Lord. We can't bribe people into sharing their faith. We can't shame or scare people into living like Christ. People only change when they encounter the gospel through the Scripture. We love to the degree that we understand God's love for us. We share our faith to the degree that we love people as God loved us. We are as generous as we understand God' generosity toward us. It is only as people dig into the Word, find God there, and worship him that people change.