

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012

Passage: Romans 1:16

Memory Passage: Romans 8:3

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:16-17 & Rom. 10.** Rom. 1:16-17 reveal the theme of Romans, but we must not separate these verses from their context. How does the thought of vs. 16-17 connect with what has preceded? What clues do you find in v. 16 to help you understand this connection? How do they connect with what is to follow?

(b) Why does Paul announce that he is “not ashamed of the gospel?” What reasons would anyone have to think he *was* ashamed of the gospel?

(c) Are you ashamed of the gospel? Think deeply before you answer this question. Your first response will probably be, “Of course not!”, but think for a moment about how often you share the gospel with others, preach the gospel to yourself, teach the gospel to your family, live the gospel in your church. Does your mouth shout, “I am not ashamed of the gospel!” and yet your life scream, “I *must* be ashamed because I rarely speak/teach/live/share the gospel!”? If so, take a moment right now to write a psalm of repentance to God, confessing your need to be more gospel-centered in your life and then pray, asking for Him to strengthen your gospel witness so that your life, not just your words, screams, “I am not ashamed of the gospel!”

(d) **Family: Read Rom. 1:16.** Ask your family, “Why does Paul say, ‘I am not ashamed of the gospel’ (you might need to explain what the word “ashamed” means)? After they give their thoughts, suggest (if no one has suggested it already) that Paul might have been saying that even if it leads to trials & persecution he is not ashamed of the gospel and he intends to keep preaching it. **Read 2 Cor. 11:24-33.** As you go through this list of trials and persecutions that Paul faced, ask, “If these things were happening to you solely because you preached the gospel, would you keep preaching it? If you stopped, would this seem like you were ashamed (embarrassed by) the gospel because you quit?” Close in prayer asking God to make your family unashamed of the gospel of God and bold in your proclamation.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:1-17 & 2 Tim. 1:8-14.** What similarities do you see between these two passages (words, content, exhortations, etc.)? What does Paul admonish Timothy to do in place of being ashamed of the gospel (“the testimony of our Lord”) in 2 Tim. 1:8?

(b) According to 2 Tim. 1:9, what is the reason God saved you? When were you saved: “before the ages began” (v. 9) or at “the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ” (v. 10)? What is Paul teaching when he uses both of these phrases to describe our salvation from God? According to verse 10, what did Christ do through the gospel?

(c) Why does Paul say he is not ashamed of the gospel in 2 Tim. 1:12? What is he convinced God is able to “guard” until that day? What comfort does this bring you? How does it help you overcome fear? How does it help motivate you to share the gospel more often and with greater boldness?

(d) **Family:** Remind your family of last night’s study and the ways Paul suffered that *could* have led (but did not) to him being silent about the gospel to avoid this persecution, and therefore demonstrate that he was “ashamed” of the gospel. **Read 2 Tim. 1:8-14** and teach your family Paul’s commands to Timothy (v. 8), and his description of the results of and reasons for the gospel (vs. 9-10). Then show from v. 12 why Paul can say he is not ashamed of the gospel and help your family draw encouragement about how they can live not being ashamed of the gospel.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:16-17 & 1 Cor. 1:18-2:5.** Paul states that the gospel is “the power of God.” As you read 1 Cor. 1:18-2:5 take note of (either circle/underline in your Bible or write a note on your paper) every instance of the words/idea of power, wisdom, weakness, & strength.

(b) In v. 18 Paul states clearly, as he does in Rom. 1:16, that “the gospel is the power of God.” What is this power accomplishing here? With what is it contrasted in vs. 18-19, and what do “those who are perishing” think of the gospel? How does God respond to them with His power?

(c) What is the vehicle through which God exercises His power to save (i.e. how is this power delivered and applied), and what is the requirement given in order to receive that salvation (v. 21)? To whom is Paul referring when he talks about the foolish, weak, & lowly in this world, and what was God’s goal in using them (vs. 26-29 & 2:4-5)?

(d) Now return to Rom. 1:16 and explain what Paul means when he says “for it (the gospel) is the power of God?”

(e) *Family*: **Read Rom. 1:16**. Ask your family, “What does ‘salvation’ mean?” Write the different responses on your white board and then have your family vote on which answer they think is best. Now ask, “If someone is saved, is their salvation a past, present, or future act?” Next, lead your family through a study of **Eph. 2:8, 1 Cor. 1:18, & Rom. 5:9** and show them that salvation is spoken of in Scripture as a past, present and future idea. We have been saved (at the point of our salvation), we are being saved (because we are being sanctified as we fight sin in this fallen world), and we will be saved (from the wrath of God when Jesus returns). Remind them that for those who are saved all three aspects of our salvation are sure because of the finished work of Christ on the cross, the power of God for salvation.

#### **DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 1:16-17**. What does Paul mean when he uses the word “salvation?” From what are we saved? Does the word “for” prior to the word “salvation” mean that the gospel just makes salvation available, or does it express a different relationship between the words “salvation” and “to everyone who believes?”

(b) **Read Matt. 24:13, Rom 5:9 & 8:24, 1 Cor. 1:18 & 15:2, 2 Cor. 2:15, Eph. 2:5, 8; & 2 Tim. 1:9**. From these verses, explain what is meant by the statement: “We are saved, being saved, and will be saved” (and you must give more detail than I did in the family question above ☺!)

(c) *Family*: **Read Rom. 1:16**. Ask, “What restriction or limitation is placed on “the power of God for salvation?” Discuss their answers (We usually don’t think in terms of restrictions on the gospel because it is a free gift, which is true, but the Bible also says the requirements for salvation are that one must repent & believe, and repentance & faith are gifts from God.). Now ask, “In what must we believe if we are to be saved?” Now **Read & teach Rom. 10:9-12** to give an answer.

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 1:16, Acts 18:1-7, 19:8-10, Rom. 9:1-8, 30-33 & Rom. 11**. I know this might be a lot of reading and that there is much theology that could be discussed in these verses other than the question I ask next, but I think you can handle it! As you read, make notes about what you learn that will help you answer one question for today: What did Paul mean when he said, “to the Jew first, and also to the Greek?” By “Greek”, Paul is referring to everyone who is not a Jew.

(b) *Family*: **Read Rom. 1:16** and ask your family, “What did Paul mean when he wrote that the gospel was, ‘to the Jew first and also to the Greek?’” Then read through the following passages with them and show that one thing Paul meant was that the gospel came to the Jews first in history and that they were given many privileges (**Rom. 9:1-5**), and next in history, the gospel came to the Gentiles (**Rom. 11:11-12**) to make Israel jealous (emphasize that salvation of the Gentiles was always God’s plan [Psalm 98, et al.]). Also show that this understanding influenced the way Paul often preached the gospel when he entered a city. He would enter the synagogue first and preach to his countrymen, the Jews, and then after they rejected his teaching, he would move away from the synagogue and preach to everyone (**Acts 18:1-7 & Acts 19:1-10**).

**DATE: January 29, 2012**

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*I Am not Ashamed of the Gospel*