



# RENEWED CHILDREN

Romans  
8:12-25

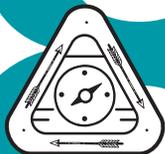


## *This week's* **FOCUS**

While there are a lot of ways in which the character traits of a good coach and a good father are similar, they are different in at least one key way: how they look at those under their charge. A coach, particularly coaches of higher level or more competitive teams, will judge their players based on their performance, abilities, or skills. In contrast to this, a good father will love and accept his children no matter what. While a good father will want his children to grow, his love for his children is secure and doesn't change based on how his children perform. While some of your students may have fathers who aren't involved in their lives or judge them based on their performance, the gospel reminds us that God offers to adopt us into His family and promises to accept us through the work of His Son. Through the gospel, God adopts us as His children, securing us in His love and renewing our hearts.

### *Central* **TRUTH**

Through the gospel, God adopts us as His children, securing us in His love and renewing our hearts.



# EXPLORATION

Romans 8:12-25

*Begin by reading  
through the  
passage.*

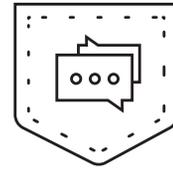
12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, 13 because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" 16 The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, 17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of him who subjected it—in the hope 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. 23 Not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 Now in this hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? 25 Now if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

**.01 WHAT ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD FATHER?**

*Talk it out*

**.02 WHAT ARE SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD COACH? HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE QUESTION?**

# CONVERSATION



## Romans 8:12-13

.03 WHAT DID PAUL SAY HIS READERS WERE NOT OBLIGATED TO? WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THIS?

.04 WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THIS OBLIGATION OR DEBT? WHAT BETTER WAY DOES PAUL SUGGEST?

## Romans 8:14-17

.05 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHILD AND A SLAVE? WHAT WAS PAUL COMMUNICATING TO THE ROMANS BY MAKING THIS COMPARISON?

.06 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A COHEIR WITH CHRIST? WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU ABOUT YOURSELF?



## THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Since we don't have to earn God's love and acceptance, does that mean we can sin as much as we want? Paul actually anticipated this question in Romans 6:1-5 and essentially said that living a willful life of unrepentant sin is impossible for those who are in Christ. The gospel is more than an offer of eternal salvation; it's the good news that God is at work resurrecting and renewing human hearts and giving a new identity to all who trust Jesus. Those who are in Christ are new creations who have been given the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:1-11). As renewed image bearers of God, we don't want to live in continuous rebellion against our good and gracious King.

*Reflect and respond.*



# 08

**.07 WHY DO WE SOMETIMES LOSE SIGHT OF OUR IDENTITY AS CHILDREN OF GOD AND HEIRS WITH CHRIST?**

## Romans 8:18-25

**.08 WHAT DOES VERSE 18 TELL US ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST?**

**.09 ACCORDING TO PAUL, WHAT IS CREATION CURRENTLY DOING (VV. 20-22)? WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THIS?**

**.10 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO EAGERLY WAIT FOR OUR ADOPTION AS GOD'S CHILDREN (VV. 23-25)? WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR US?**



### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

People in Rome were tolerant of most religions so long as they worshiped the Roman emperor and were polytheistic—meaning they worshiped many gods. Christians often found themselves at odds with Rome due to their belief in only one God and their refusal to worship the emperor. The Emperor Nero violently persecuted Christians, capturing and killing many toward the end of his reign. Romans was likely written during the early part of Nero's reign when his campaign of Christian opposition had just begun. When Paul wrote this letter, Christians in Rome also would have faced opposition from many Jews.

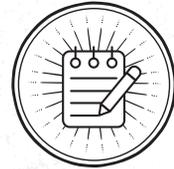
*Journal your response here.*



# CENTRAL TRUTH

Through the gospel, God adopts us as His children, securing us in His love and renewing our hearts.

## NOW WHAT?



**.11 HOW DOES KNOWING WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD ACTUALLY MOTIVATE US TO GREATER OBEDIENCE TO GOD?**

**.12 HOW HAS GOD REDEEMED YOU? HOW IS HE AT WORK REDEEMING YOU NOW?**

**.13 HAS OUR STUDY TODAY CHANGED HOW YOU THINK ABOUT DIFFICULTY OR SUFFERING? HOW SO?**

**.14 WHAT IS ONE WAY WE COULD PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION AND RENEWAL THIS WEEK? HOW MIGHT WE ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER TO FOCUS OUR TIME AND ENERGY ON CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM?**

*How does this apply to your life?*

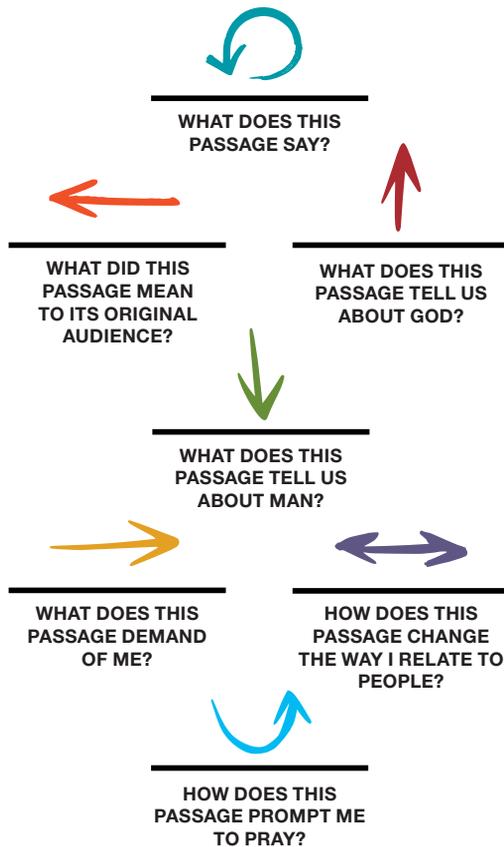




# Daily DEVOTIONS

Choose five days this week to set aside time to dig deeper into God's Word with these devotions. We hope you'll make this a priority and encourage others in your group to do so as well.

## 7 Arrows FOR BIBLE READING



## Day One

# ROMANS 8:12-17,26-27

## Dwell

The Holy Spirit is the part of the Trinity actively dwelling within each believer. His presence enables us to know and believe that we are sons of God, believing we may suffer but that we will also bring glory to God. The Spirit also prays when we don't know the words to say; what a blessing, because He knows our hearts and our minds.

➔ **.01 AS AN ADOPTED CHILD OF GOD, HOW ARE YOU CALLED TO LIVE? HOW DOES THE SPIRIT HELP YOU BELIEVE THAT?**

↻ **.02 HOW CAN THE SPIRIT HELP YOU KNOW WHAT TO PRAY TODAY?**

## Memorize

Write each word from this week's verse on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

## Pray

Praise God for the Spirit and the ongoing conversation He leads you to have with God.



## Day Two

# ROMANS 8:31-39

## Dwell

God's love for us doesn't just give us power over sin and death; it leads to so much more! Jesus, who conquered death, is fighting for us. Because of His power, nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God. And on top of that, we are able to conquer everything—through Him—that might come against us.



**.01 HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU SEE THE WORD LOVE/LOVED IN THIS PASSAGE? WHAT IS IT SAYING?**



**.02 HAVE YOU EVER FELT FEARFUL OF LOSING YOUR SALVATION? WHAT TRUTH DO YOU FIND HERE?**

## Memorize

Use a dry erase marker to write this week's verse on a mirror. Say it aloud. For a challenge, erase one word and say it again. Repeat!

## Pray

Thank God for the assurance that nothing—not even your sin—can separate you from Him.

## Day Three

# ROMANS 9:1-13

## Dwell

Paul was genuinely distressed over the Jews who had not believed in Jesus. He knew their impact: how through them the world understood God's identity through their story. But God's plan did not fail when the Jews didn't believe; He had already made the way for those of us who were not Jews—the Gentiles—to become His children through faith.



**.01 HOW DO YOU THINK THE JEWS IN ROME WOULD HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS PASSAGE?**



**.02 HOW DOES PAUL'S PASSION FOR HIS FELLOW JEWS INSPIRE YOU TO SHARE YOUR FAITH?**

## Memorize

Write down just the important words from this week's verse (nouns, verbs, adjectives). Try to say the verse aloud by filling in the other words.

## Pray

Pray for the unbelievers you know, asking God for wisdom in how to pray for each one. Ask God to guide you in your relationships.

## Day Four

# ROMANS 9:14-29

## Dwell

Believers then, just as now, tend to doubt God's eternal plan. They may wonder why He chose a particular people or how He chose those who would be His children. To those questioning, Paul basically responds by saying humans have no right to accuse or question God almighty. Like clay doubting the potter, we dismiss His holiness when we doubt His plan. God is all-knowing and all-powerful; we can trust Him.



**.01 WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TEACH ABOUT GOD'S LOVE? ABOUT GOD'S ETERNAL KNOWLEDGE?**



**.02 WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DOUBTED GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU? CONFESS THAT TO HIM.**

## Memorize

Make up motions for each short phrase in this week's verse. Practice saying it aloud as you do the motions.

## Pray

Dwell on God's complete understanding of eternity and your role in it. Ask Him to strengthen your faith to believe He has a perfect plan.

## Day Five

# ROMANS 9:30-10:4

## Dwell

Paul, a Jew, is explaining that the Jews missed the point of the Law and Jesus. They wrongly believed that obeying the Law would make them righteous, and they mistakenly missed that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Paul doesn't doubt their passion for God, but they are missing the element of faith that is required for salvation.



**.01 WHAT CAN BE CONFUSING ABOUT THE LAW AND JESUS? WHO DO YOU KNOW THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND FAITH IN GOD?**



**.02 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO STUMBLE OVER THE TRUTH OF JESUS?**

## Memorize

Try to set this week's verse to a simple kids' song. Sing it aloud during your down time.

## Pray

Thank God for the knowledge to know Him and the men and women of faith who have helped you believe.