

One-on-One Bible Reading & Prayer

4 May - 15 June 2008

Why do it?

Reading the Bible and praying together is something we can never do too much of. Our problem is usually the reverse - we struggle to fit it into our busy lives. For many, sitting down with one other person to read and pray may even be a completely new idea! So, over the next six weeks we are going to **encourage everyone to find someone to read the bible and pray with**, for half an hour or so a week.

The easiest time to meet might be before or after church on a Sunday. Or perhaps you can make the time to catch up for a coffee during the week? **Give it a go.**

The simplest thing to do is to read the passage for church the coming Sunday, share how your lives are going, and pray together. In order to help you I've written some questions on the sermon series that we are covering at church. If these help you, then use them. Don't stress about finishing every one of them though.

I've also thought up a couple of prayer points for each time you meet. Again, they are only a guide. Another idea would be to have your church family photo-directory with you and pray for a couple of people each time. **The trick will be to start simple, and stick to the time you have allocated.**

Steve

... before Sunday 11 May

Romans 1:18 – 2:11

God's Wrath

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. Who is the wrath of God being revealed against, and why?
2. How is God's wrath being revealed?

Read Romans 2:1-11

3. Are these people any different from those in 1:18-32?
4. What do you learn about God's wrath in 2:5-11?

Think about this...

5. How does Romans 1:18-2:11 help us understand and appreciate the Gospel, the Power of God, that we heard about last week from Romans 1:1-17?

Prayer Points

You could also pray for:

- Mothers' day – thank God for the blessing of children and pray for those for whom mother's day is not a easy time.
- The work of AFES – for Tony Rowbotham on the Gold Coast, Andrew Brown at UQ, and Jen down in Wollongong.

Romans 2:12–3:20

God's Law

Read Romans 2:12-16

1. What difference does the OT law make?

Read Romans 2:17-29

2. How can the OT law, and observing the law be a distraction from a person's real spiritual state?

Read Romans 3:1-8

3. If the Jews (God's chosen people) were unfaithful - and God judges them, does that bring God's faithfulness under question?

Read Romans 3:9-20

4. Who is unrighteous, why? What does it mean to be unrighteous?
5. So then, what is the purpose of the law? (esp 3:19-20).

Prayer Points

You could also pray for:

- Brookfield Show – pray for the time we will spend at the Show on the weekend. Ask for opportunities to share the truth about Jesus, as we share our lives with others.
- Pray for Ron and Jean Lyons working in and around Weipa. Pray for them as they teach RE and ask that they would have people to do Christianity Explained with.

... before Sunday 25 May

Romans 3:21–3:31

God's Righteousness

Read Romans 3:21-31

1. List at least 5 things that you notice about the righteousness of God in Romans 3:21-22.
2. To whom does the righteousness of God come, and why is there no difference between them? (3:22b-24)
3. How does God demonstrate his justice? (3:25-26)
4. Why can't the Jews, the Gentiles, or **anyone** boast? (3:27-31)
5. How would you summarise Romans 3:21-31 in your own words?

Prayer Points

You could also pray for:

- Hapi and Etu in Bangladesh
- the Eatons Hill church plant. They are well into their second year now.
- Wilston/Windsor/Newmarket churches as Stu and the elders work towards combining them.

Romans 4

God's Credit

In Romans 1:18-3:20 Paul argues that everyone has rebelled against God, even the Jews who had God's law. In Romans 3:21-31 he explains how God can make rebels right with himself, while still remaining just and fair. This forgiveness and justification comes through Jesus, apart from the law. In fact the law shows us that it couldn't be any other way!

Now Paul turns to the example of Abraham, the father of the Jews and the man who received God's promises. Paul argues that Abraham demonstrates the very thing that he has been explaining – that righteousness comes by faith, not by works.

Read Romans 4:1-25

1. Why was Abraham credited as righteous? (v1-8)
2. What is the significance of the fact that Abraham received the sign of circumcision *after* he was declared to be righteous? (v9-12)
3. Who are Abraham's decedents? (v13ff)
4. *Think about this.* If God's plan was always to justify people from all nations, by faith, apart from the law – then why did he choose Israel, and why did he give them the law?

Prayer Points

You could also pray for:

- School Chaplains – including Jeanette at Middle Park/Jindalee and Wendy at Kenmore South
- Christ-Church Currumbin as they have their weekend away at Mt Tamborine this weekend.

... before Sunday 8 June

Romans 5:1–11

God's Peace

Read Romans 5:1-11

1. What benefits are *already* ours as Christians? (5:1-5)
2. How does the timing of Jesus' death highlight God's love for us (5:6-8)
3. What makes us sure that we will be saved from God's wrath? (5:9-11)
4. If someone asks you if you are sure that you will go to heaven, how would you answer them? What reasons would you give for your answer?

Prayer Points

You could also pray for:

- the picnic after church this Sunday – ask that it would be a good time of fellowship
- Queensland Theological College. For Wes and the other lecturers. For Annette and the other staff. And for Dan, Matt, Rob and the other students.

... before Sunday 15 June

Romans 5:12–21

God's Life

Read Romans 5:12-21

1. Why does everyone die?
2. What are the parallels and contrasts between the condemning work of Adam and the saving work of Jesus?
3. Since we are justified through Jesus Christ, what is the purpose of the law?
4. Have a flick back over Romans 1-5 (looking at the NIV section headings may be enough to prompt your memory). What is the flow of Paul's argument? Where do you stand in the light of this?

Prayer Points

You could also pray for:

- our church Growth Groups, Youth Group and KPC Kids.
- FOCUS as Dan and Ruth work with international students each Friday night.