

Romans 6; 8:1-2, 15 | 1 Timothy 4:1-2 | James 1:13-15 | 1 Corinthians 6:12
2 Corinthians 5:17 | Zechariah 3:1 | Hebrews 4:14-16 | 2 Timothy 1:7
Galatians 5:1 | Philippians 3:15-21

The Question: If God loves sinners, why can't I keep from sinning?

The Answers:

- If I died to sin, I shouldn't live in it any longer.
- I have been "united" with Christ, so "remain" in him.
- My old life was put to death, so I could live a new life.
- I am forgiven and freed to live for God, not for myself.

Simply Put: The tragedy is to take my freedom and live in prison.

Satan's step by step process to enslavement to sin:

- Desensitization
- Incrementalism
- Addiction
- Identification
- Accusation
- Shame

Answer in the Messiah to the enslavement to sin.

- I am created powerfully.
- I am invited to freedom.
- I am bound for heaven.

Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. We encourage you to take that next step in your journey with Jesus & His church by joining one today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>

Share your story

What insight, question, or resolution did you discover as we worshiped the Lord together this past Sunday?

All of us have stories we could share. What helps you feel comfortable sharing your story? What tends to shut you down?

What can you do to help our group be a place that encourages everyone to share their story throughout this session?

Connect to God's story

In John's first letter he discusses sin and gives some very clear-cut examples where we can choose sin or obedience.

Read 1 John 2:3-11.

How are you doing following John's instructions? What part do you struggle with the most? What steps could you take this week to grow in this area?

In Romans 6, Paul writes about the sin dilemma and gives us a number of reasons why our new lifestyle of "no longer following my own way" is the best thing for us. What motivations do the following verses give to not make God's grace "cheap" but to follow him as he has called us to?

Psalm 119:1-2 –

Galatians 6:7-8 –

Hebrews 12:7-11 –

2 Corinthians 5:10 –

Out of these verses, which do you find the most motivating? Which motivates you the least?

Read John 15:9-17

From the passage, what specific thing is Jesus commanding us to do? What are the things we gain by obeying Him?

Have you ever fallen into the trap of thinking you have to do something to get God to love you? Why is it important that your obedience flow from love rather than obligation?

Spend some time talking with God and asking Him to put someone on your heart and actions you can do to show them your love this week.

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships with Jesus and each other through the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25).

Here's how we accomplish this in our community throughout the week:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life by following Jesus.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Throughout the Life Group session, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways the Father has designed you to serve and make a difference in His kingdom as He conforms you to the image of His Son! (Romans 8:28-30)