

## GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

*Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.*

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1. It's getting colder out, and that usually means more time inside, and time inside usually means more TV. What is your favorite movie?
  
2. Read the message text (Romans 5:17-21) and look at the message outline to remind you of the message.
  - a. What was memorable from the message? Share it with the group.
  
  - b. What question did the message raise in your mind? Discuss it as a group.

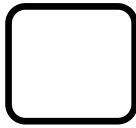
Because of Jesus we will live forever! Eventually we will all enjoy eternal life in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness (2 Peter 3:13). But there is a big event coming between that future and now: the end of the world. We live now with that day in mind. We will live forever after that day. And Jesus' words in Mark 13:1-23 prepare us for both now and eternity.

3. Jesus understood that to the disciples, the destruction of the temple would feel like the end of the world—so, in Mark 13:1-8 he talks about the end of the world.
  - a. When in your life have you felt like it was the end of the world?
  - b. Jesus responded to his worried disciples with compassion and truth. How does knowing everything ahead of time (vs 23) impact how you feel about the real end of the world, and how you feel when it just feels like the end of the world?
  
4. An opportunity for us to learn from mothers: Jesus compared the last days to the birthing process in verse 8. From the moment labor pains started, what were those “last times” of your pregnancy like? Describe your emotions, mindset and actions. How is that similar to the way we feel, think and live in these “last times” of this world?
  
5. In verses 9-13 Jesus predicts the suffering his people will experience in this life, the great purpose he has given us (vs 10) and the final victory he promises us (vs 13). Hmmmm—suffering, purpose and finally...victory. Does that sound like the basic plot of any of your favorite movies you discussed earlier? How does it change the way you feel about the difficulties in your life to know that Jesus has you in a heroic storyline with guaranteed victory?

- If you're curious about the “Abomination that causes desolation”, it is a reference to Daniel 9:27, 11:31 and 12:11. Our online Bible Study, Providence and Prophecy, will cover those verses soon. Follow the QR code to see the YouTube playlist of previous episodes!



6. Read verses 20-23. Twice Jesus refers to the elect. That's you! Close your time together with a prayer of thanks that God guides everything for the sake of the elect, and that he will keep the elect safe in faith until heaven. Don't forget that you are the elect!



# NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points.

## Romans 5:17-21

IN THE HISTORY OF LIFE AND DEATH...

### STAND FOR WHAT MATTERS

What will be YOUR legacy when you depart this earth? WHAT will people say about you?

Before we read:

- “trespass” = \_\_\_\_\_
- the 2 men: \_\_\_\_\_, the first human being + \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of God
- “grace” = God’s \_\_\_\_\_ love for us as sinners
- “righteousness” = right with God through \_\_\_\_\_
- “justification” = declaration of “\_\_\_\_\_” for sin

#### #1 HOW DID IT HAPPEN ANYWAY? DEATH AND ALL?

In the perfect world that God gave to our first parents, there was a garden filled with the blessings of the Creator...BUT...

...**H** \_\_\_\_\_ equals love in true relationships, right?

#### #2 WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT SIN...DEATH...HELL...CEMETERIES?

Many people actually think that we can weasel our way into heaven by being “good enough” for God—but trying to be good enough isn’t love! That’s **M** \_\_\_\_\_

#### #3 So, CAN GOD DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS? CAN GOD HELP US OUT?

For God to be **J** \_\_\_\_\_, he must punish sin. For God to be **L** \_\_\_\_\_, he must punish sin.

#### #4 So WHAT NOW? WHAT TO DO WITH THIS AMAZING KNOWLEDGE?

What good is a “bumper sticker” on our lives...if its statement is NOT how we

**L** \_\_\_\_\_...how we **L** \_\_\_\_\_...how we **D** \_\_\_\_\_?

#### Next Step

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Hebrews 2:9 (KJ21)

\* Jesus’ “life goal”?

\* Jesus’ path to achieve it?

\*Jesus’ legacy?