

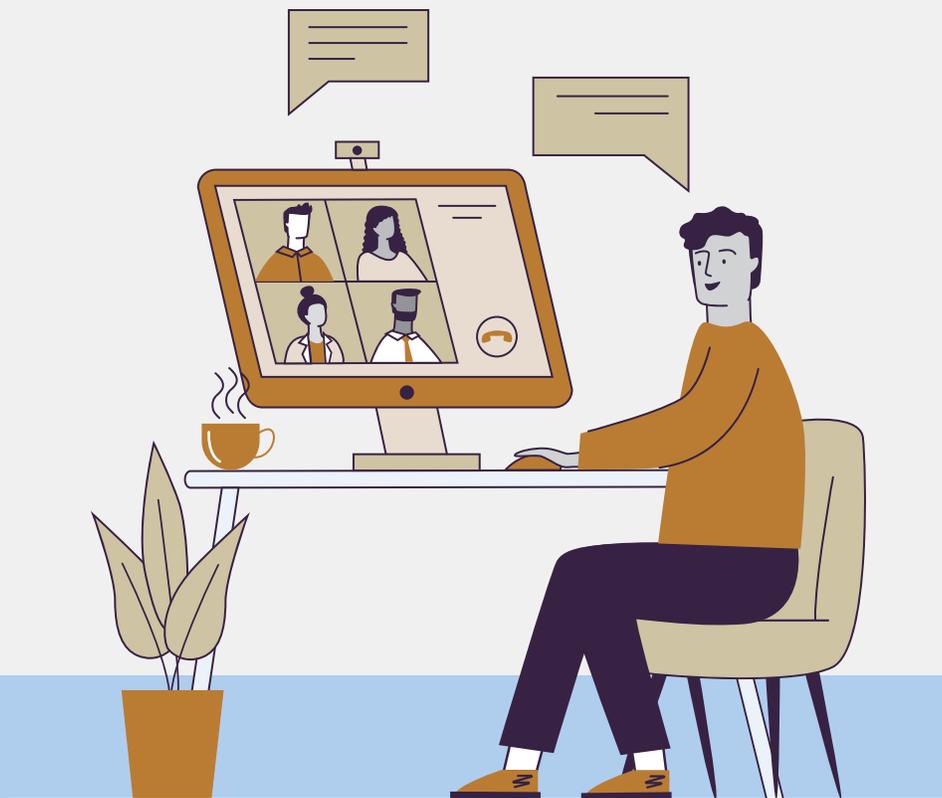


ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Spring 2020 // Romans // Session 9: Saved

Suggested Use Date: 4/26/2020

For use with Explore the Bible Leader Guide, Personal Study Guide, and Daily Discipleship Guide



PREPARATION

Best Practices for Leading an Online Group



PRAY for your group members and for God to grant you insight as you study and prepare your Bible study session. Do this throughout the week.



SCHEDULE your group's online Bible study using the online meeting tool you prefer. Invite group members and guests to participate using a meeting ID if required by your online meeting tool. [Click here](#) to view a Best Practices document for online groups.



SEND digital copies of the next session to group members who do not have a print copy. If using the *Personal Study Guide*, encourage group members to read the passage and comments for the next session. If you are using the *Daily Discipleship Guide*, encourage your group members to follow up your session by engaging with the five daily Bible readings.



CONNECT with your group via email or text messaging early in the week.

Create your own message:

- Briefly tell the group the title of your next Bible study, why it is important, and what they will learn.
- Challenge group members to study before the group session if your group uses a *Personal Study Guide*; remind group members to follow up your online study with their daily readings if your group uses the *Daily Discipleship Guide*.
- Remind group members when your group will meet online.

Or copy and paste this suggested wording into the email or text message to your group:

People try all kinds of things to be right with God. Paul answered this age-old question. Salvation is available only to those who call upon Jesus. Our salvation is rooted in the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus and available only through His completed work on the cross. In this week's lesson, we'll discover that salvation has always been granted through faith. Read Romans 10:5-15 in your Bible and the comments for Session 9 in your Explore the Bible *Personal Study Guide* or *Daily Discipleship Guide*. Reflect on God's grace shown in making salvation available in Christ through faith alone.

We will meet at (add time) using (name of online tool). Here is the link to our meeting: (add meeting ID if your online tool doesn't do that automatically)



PREPARE to lead your group's Bible study.

- **Study** Romans 10:5-15, noting Paul's use of Old Testament Scripture.
- **Listen** to the Explore the Bible Adult Leader Podcast. Go to goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training for an overview of the main points and key ideas from each session.
- **Visit** the Explore the Bible blog for additional leader helps at goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps
- **Create** your teaching plan for guiding your group's online Bible study experience. Use the Online Group Plan on the next pages as a starting point, modifying it for your group as needed. Consult the *Adult Commentary*, *QuickSource*, and *Leader Pack* for additional ideas and resources.



REMIND your group members to study and prepare via another email or text message closer to the day your group meets.

- Include a quote from the *Personal Study Guide*, a question, or an insight you plan to discuss with the group when you meet online.



HELPFUL LINKS

- Explore the Bible main landing page: goExploreTheBible.com
- Digital version of Explore the Bible: curriculum.lifeway.com
- Explore the Bible leader helps: goExploreTheBible.com/Leader-Helps
- Explore the Bible Podcast: goExploreTheBible.com/Adults-Training
- Free Coronavirus links and leader helps: lifeway.com/coronavirus



ONLINE GROUP PLAN

Explore the Bible // Spring 2020 // Romans // Session 9: Saved

NOTES

GREET *people as they join and invite them to identify ways they have attempted to gain favor with a family member, friend, or coworker. After all have had opportunity to report, ask: **What are some ways people try to gain God's favor? Why do people try to gain His favor?** (See PSG, p. 77; DDG, p. 73.)*

TRANSITION: In Romans 10:5-15, Paul explained what brings favor with God. God wants a right relationship with us and offers a way. Salvation is and has always been available to all people through faith in Christ. *Option: Use the Extra! idea. See goExploreTheBible.com/LeaderExtras*

INTRODUCE: Romans consists of two distinct sections: chapters 1–8 build a theological framework for salvation; chapters 12–16 address practical challenges of Christian living. In between these two sections, Paul included an extended sidebar (an excursus). Chapters 9–11 focus on the role of the Jews under the new covenant based on faith. The old covenant was based on a sacrificial system, but Jesus' death ushered in a new era. Paul believed the original chosen people continued to have a role in God's kingdom if they believed in Christ.

CONTRAST: Paul stated in Romans 10:4 that "Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." Then starting in verse 5, he contrasted the law and faith using Old Testament Scripture. Paul quoted from Leviticus 18:5 to make the point that obedience to God's law is required for righteousness. Anything less than perfect obedience falls short. He then quoted from Deuteronomy 9:4 and 30:12 to make his point that righteousness comes by faith alone.

READ: *Building on this foundation, read **Romans 10:5-10** and ask the group to listen for the action verbs. Identify the key verbs in verses 9-10 (confess, believe).*

EXPLAIN: In verse 8, Paul linked Moses' words in the Old Testament to the message of faith (the gospel) he has been explaining in Romans. Then in verse 9

he defined the message of faith (confess and believe in Christ), and in verse 10 he explained its importance. His point was that salvation is not the result of our own efforts.

DISCUSS: *Call attention to the comments about Romans 10:9-10 in the PSG on page 81 or on Day 2 in the DDG on page 77. Review the comments pointing to key sentences that help you better understand what Paul was saying. Highlight the paragraph that begins with the word Ultimately. (Ultimately, this two-fold demonstration of faith through confession and belief represent two sides of the same coin. You can't have one without the other.) Emphasize that salvation is not merely an intellectual exercise; it involves the mouth (confession) and the heart (personal trust). Say: Paul said a person gains salvation through believing and confessing. **Based on verses 9-10, how would you describe the relationship between confession and belief? Why are both necessary?***

TRANSITION: In verses 11-13, Paul shifted to identifying who can receive salvation.

READ: *Before reading **Romans 10:11-13**, explain that Paul based his message on the words of the prophets Isaiah (Isa. 28:16) and Joel (Joel 2:32) to say that everyone, Jew and Greek, who calls on the name of Jesus will receive salvation.*

DISCUSS: Paul made the point that all people are saved in the same way; there is not one way of salvation for one group and another way of salvation for a different group. **What makes this so wonderful and so difficult at the same time?**

READ **Romans 10:14-15** *and invite the group to note the progression in Paul's questions.*

GUIDE: *Using rhetorical questions, Paul explained God's plan for sharing the gospel. He began with the goal of calling on the Lord for salvation and worked backward. The progression of each question builds off the previous question (send, preach, hear, believe, call on). His main point was that if people are to call on the Lord for salvation, then someone must go and share the gospel with them.*

DISCUSS: What makes the feet of a person who shares the gospel so beautiful? (PSG, p. 84; DDG, p. 75) The Greek word that is translated beautiful can also mean “timely.” What makes the gospel message so timely in light of the current events in our world?

SUMMARIZE: Direct the group to review the Summary Statements on page 85 of the PSG (p. 76 in the DDG). Invite the group to contemplate living out these statements as believers. Ask: **Which of these challenges you the most today? Explain.**

CHALLENGE: Answer the third set of questions on page 85 of the PSG (p. 76 in the DDG): **Believers can support missions through praying, giving, and going. How can you participate more actively in each of those areas? What obstacles do you need to overcome?** Discuss with the group ways of participating in each of these areas while practicing social distancing.

NEXT STEPS



- Contact group members daily to simply pray with them. Pray specifically for the people they identify who need to know about Jesus.
- Send digital copies of the next session to group members who do not have a print copy. If using the Personal Study Guide, encourage group members to read the passage and comments for the next session.
- Repeat the process outlined in the Preparation section of this document.