

## STUDY ON ROMANS: WEEK 2

GOD SHOWS HIS  
**LOVE FOR US,**  
BECAUSE WHILE WE  
WERE STILL SINNERS,  
CHRIST DIED FOR US  
ROMANS 5:8

**JUST SAY “YES”**

### ICE BREAKER

Share an experience in your life when you were helpless and had to be rescued. What did it feel like?

### OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we are like people thrown into the middle of the swirling ocean. We have no hope of survival. Help to see your outstretched hand in Jesus; help us to realize that hand is our only hope of life; help us to entrust our lives to your grasp and the life you save us to.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Romans 5:1-2,6-8.

### STUDY AND DISCUSSION

In verse 1, faith as a key element in salvation is stressed. In chapter 4, Paul, using the example of Abraham, has made the point that salvation is unearned and undeserved. It is received entirely by faith just as Abraham's relationship with God was by belief and trust which came before his circumcision and the giving of the law. Paul also states that our salvation is God's gift through the death Christ – this was entirely his plan and his initiative.

1. What do you think that faith involves? How do you find the phrase “saying ‘yes’ to God” to be a helpful way of understanding faith.
2. What was involved in your journey to the point where you could say “yes” to God?
3. Critique this statement: “the acceptance of our powerlessness is essential to saying ‘yes’ to God’s gift of salvation” What would you say this powerlessness is all about?
4. How, in your view, does the death of Jesus draw us to a place where we deeply want to say “yes” to God.

In the passage, Paul touches on some characteristics of our salvation. There is peace with God. This means being in harmony with God and all that God has made. Then there is having access to grace. Grace is the continual self-giving of God for our salvation. Then there is the hope in the glory of God. This is a difficult phrase but is one which has to do with the ultimate realization of God's purpose for us and all creation. So, salvation is a present and ongoing experience of intimacy with God, of God's working in our lives and of our being changed bit by bit into all he plans for us to be. The word justification, which is about being brought into a right relationship with God, is the doorway, the first step in a journey.

1. Given the explanation of "peace with God" above, how do you think that this our greatest need? What is your experience of peace in your walk with Christ?
2. In what ways does God continually give himself to us? How do we experience that self-giving?
3. How do you understand God's ultimate goal with your life? In other words, where do you think he is going with you?
4. How do you experience "saying yes" to God as an ongoing and daily aspect of your Christian life? Can you share a practical example of this saying "yes"?

### **SOMETHING TO DO**

Take a few moments at the end of each day this week to think about your day and make a brief note along these lines: Today I said "yes" to God by .....

### **CLOSING PRAYER TIME**

Let each person write on a small piece of paper one need they have in their growth as a Christian. Names are **not** put on the papers. The leader puts the papers in a container; each draw a slip – then have a shared time of prayer, asking God to meet the need written down.

To close recite together the memory verse: ***God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us – Romans 6:8***

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. To what extent is our faith God's gift to us; and to what extent is it our trusting response?
2. How does the death of Jesus save us? Is it that his death satisfied God's anger at our sin? Is it that the magnitude of his love demonstrated on the cross melts our resistance to God and draws us to him?