

ADULT GROUPS

For each of the following questions, answer together if in a group or write in a journal if doing it individually. For more details on each of the questions, go here <https://tinyurl.com/gotoDBS>.

By its very nature, the word “but” is a word of change. In a sentence, it has the power to completely negate every word before it and validate every word after it. It truly is a remarkable word. So what happens when you combine a word that can negate the past and validate the present with a God who can do the same? Let’s find out this week in our groups as we study **Romans 5:6-8**.

SHARE AS A GROUP

1. **Thankfulness:** What is something you’re thankful for that happened this past week?
2. **Challenges:** What challenges are you facing?
3. **Assistance:** How can the group (or those you’re in contact with) help with those challenges?
4. **Accountability:** How did you practice and share with someone what you read last week?

STUDY AS A GROUP

1. Read **Romans 5:6-8**. Re-read it in a different version, re-tell it in your own words, and write down any parts that really stuck with you.
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. What did you learn about people from this passage?
4. How can you put the passage into practice? “I will...”
5. Who needs to hear about what you learned from this passage? “I will tell...”

PRAYER

1. Give thanks for everything listed in Share Q.1
2. Ask God to help with everything listed in Share Q.2
3. Ask for a greater understanding of what you read in Study Q.1
4. Ask for courage to do the things listed in Study Q. 4-5

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

ICE BREAKER

Describe some of your favorite stories (book, movie, tv, video game, etc) in which the good guys are saved in their darkest moment by a powerful force or unexpected circumstances.

GROUP DISCUSSION: Psalm 66:16-20

1. Use parts 1, 2 and 3 of the DBS steps listed in the adult group section above.
2. Discussion Spark Questions in the event that your group is not responding well.
 - ***“What did you learn about God from this passage?”***
 - This passage speaks highly of prayer. What do the events of this passage and the language used tell us about the importance God puts on prayer?
 - What does it mean to “cherish sin” in your heart? And how might that prevent God from listening has vs. 18 indicates?
 - What does this passage tell us about the character of God? The details the psalmist gives about himself & God reveal certain characteristics about God to us.
 - ***“What did you learn about people from this passage?”***
 - Every person has a breaking point, at which even the strongest will cry out for help. Is crying out to God for help in difficult situations a sign of weakness? If so, is this even a bad thing?
 - Vs. 18 indicates that confession of sins is a major part of gaining the attention of the Lord. Other than gaining His attention, in what ways does confession of sin benefit you?
 - In the first verse of this passage (16), the writer invites the listener to hear his tale of God’s faithfulness, and in the last verse, we see the writer react to God’s faithfulness by praising him. We have this idea of inviting others to hear our story and openly praising God for what he has done. What barriers might a person face to following this writer’s example?
 - ***“How can you put the passage into practice? ‘I will...’”***
 - Simply put, this passage is about crying out to God in prayer. What is the one thing in your life right now that you can really any truly surrender to God in prayer?
 - Throughout scripture we see this idea that we need to let God do His God-thing, while we submit to and trust in His power and authority. In what area of your life do you currently need to step back and invite God to pull off a “but then God did this!” moment?
 - ***“Who needs to hear about what you learned from this passage? ‘I will tell...’”***
 - Who, outside of your family, do you expect to have an interaction with later this week and what would it take for you to bring these truths into your conversation?

PRAYER

1. Give thanks for everything listed in Share Q. 1
2. Ask God to help with everything listed in Share Q. 2
3. Ask for a greater understanding of what you read in Study Q. 1
4. Ask for courage to do the things listed in Study Q. 4-5

CHILDREN

SING:

- Don't Forget to Remember (All Ages) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNsoXsyeUE0>
- Fear Not (All Ages) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDNIFzcqinq>
- I'll Grow Up Loving You (Ages 2-7)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ClzWp9EK8U&list=PLDkPuLE8g0qAr2Xh9DG_IKq-ZkDoetGZr&index=44
- Forever (all) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6umWkVwVpfBk>

WATCH: Give Thanks! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8r_gjQbKuk

READ: 1 Chronicles 16:8-12; Psalm 118:1; 2 Thessalonians 5:16-18

BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS: We have much to be thankful for!

- How does it feel to be taken care of? And by who?
- What do you like to take care of in your room, house, or school?
- Why do you think people, animals, and where we live need to be taken care of?
- God created us and loves us! He wants to take care of you. Share one way God has taken care of you this year!
- How can we thank God for all he has done for us?
(choose to do the right things; worship him; pray; give to others; be positive, etc.)

PRAY:

O Awesome God! You are so good and wonderful! Thank you for your creation! Thank you for your great love! Thank you for all blessings! Thank you for keeping promises! Thank you for Jesus and giving us hope! Amen.

ACTIVITY/CRAFTS:

1. **Finger Prayers:** Based on the ACTS pattern for praying, inform the children that their fingers can remind them of how to structure their prayers. The thumb reminds them to begin by telling God how great He is (Adoration). The pointer finger reminds them to tell God what they are sorry for doing (Confession). The middle finger reminds them to thank God for all the good things in their lives (Thanksgiving). The ring finger and the pinkie remind them to ask God to help people they are close to and also people or situations they have heard about (Supplication). Emphasize the point that God always listens to our prayers.
2. **Thanksgiving Art:** Have the children draw or paint a picture of what they thank God for this Thanksgiving season and have them share with the family. Hang on the wall or on the refrigerator as a reminder.
3. **Don't Forget to Remember:** As a family reflect back on the year and share how God heard and answered prayers. (health, finances etc....) As a parent, point out how God's Hand was in every situation and that He never left. This simple activity helps everyone focus on the positive rather than the negative.
4. **Upper Elementary Writing:** Write a poem of praise to God, like David wrote in the book of Psalms. Share how God has taken care of you and your thanksgiving for that.