

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

This study focuses on the first step to overcoming sin - beginning a relationship with God who forgives our sin..

Read Isaiah 59:2; Habakuk 1:13; Romans 3:23, 5:8

Scriptures teaches that all, everyone, has sinned. This sin separates us from God.

- Why does sin cause a separation between man and God? Who is the problem?
- Why do the Old Testament writers focus on God's face, sight, being hidden from us?
- How does Romans suggest that God reaches across the separation in spite of our sin?

Read Romans 3:9-10, 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7

Scripture also teaches that no amount of human goodness, works, morality or religious activity can gain acceptance with God or get anyone into heaven. All of our efforts fall short.

- Who is righteous?
- Why does Paul tell us that salvation is "not of yourself"? How great is your tendency at times to think that it is about what you're doing?
- Salvation comes as a result of God's character according to Paul. What different expressions does he identify that lead to salvation?
- In Romans 4 Paul identifies the one ingredient that is necessary for many to find redemption?

Read Romans 2:4, 4:25, 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18

Not only is God holy and just but, He is also full of love, grace and mercy. Because of this He took the steps to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

- How did God demonstrate His love for all people? Do you believe that includes you? Why or why not?
- What do these passages tell us about what Christ did for us?
- In addition to forgiving us of our sin his acts also accomplished something else for us. What is it? Why is that so significant?

Read John 1:12; 3:16-18, 8:12; Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 1:8-9;

- These passages include key words that express how we must respond to God's invitation in order to know the wonders of salvation. What are some of those expressions? What do they mean for us?
- What are some of the benefits that we can enjoy after accepting God's invitation.

This is good news that is worth sharing!

- Are there individuals that you know of who might be open to you sharing how this has impacted your life?
- Do you feel like you could do this? Why or why not?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Meditate on and/or memorize Romans 6:23
- Pray for and invite a friend to church as we begin a new message series on "Hope". _____
- Admit that I have try by my own works to bridge the gap between me and God.
- Commit my life to God today, asking Him to forgive me and help me to begin to live for Him.

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior spend some time expressing your thanks for God's work of redemption in your life.
- If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, what is holding you back? Why not do it today? All you have to do is say yes, he is already asking.
- Pray for those who you know that don't know Jesus. Ask God to help you be ready to share when the time comes.