

Weekly Worship Guide 2024 – Week 8

Prayer Focus: Suffering People In Your Church

Memory Verse: “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

– Romans 10:17

Shepherding Notes	Family Worship	Bible in a Year
<hr/> Sunday <hr/>		
Service Review	Service Review	Service Review
<hr/> Monday <hr/>		
Romans 8	Genesis 42	Leviticus 16 Leviticus 17
<hr/> Tuesday <hr/>		
Romans 9	Genesis 43	Leviticus 18 Leviticus 19
<hr/> Wednesday <hr/>		
Romans 10	Genesis 44	Leviticus 20 Leviticus 21
<hr/> Thursday <hr/>		
Romans 11	Genesis 45	Leviticus 22 Leviticus 23
<hr/> Friday <hr/>		
Romans 12	Genesis 46	Leviticus 24 Leviticus 25
<hr/> Saturday <hr/>		
Job 12.	Proverbs 8	Job 13 Job 14

February 18th Sunday Service Review

- Was there anyone at church today that you think might need extra encouragement from you this week? How could you go about showing the love of the Lord to that person in a practical way?
- What was the primary text of Scripture that was preached this morning? Was it a text that you are already well versed in? What did you learn that you never knew before? What did the Lord refresh in your memory that led you to a deeper love of Him?
- How did the sermon reveal the glory of Jesus Christ?
- What will you meditate upon over the course of the week from today's service?

February 19 Shepherding Notes – Romans 8

By Jonathan Rodriguez

After several chapters of Paul unpacking the theology of salvation, we come to this chapter where Paul shows us the position of a true Christian. There are several things we can note.

We can walk by the Spirit - Those who are in Christ have no condemnation. That means that we are not bound by sin and death but rather we have the freedom to live a life by the Spirit of God. That means we have the ability to seek after all those good and precious things that come from God. We can seek the fruit of the Spirit, we can walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, we can worship our creator and it be a pleasing aroma to him, we can walk close with God, we can pursue that which is righteous, we can pursue that which is good. All these things we can do because we will do so by the power of the Spirit who works in us.

We are children of God - Many times in the past several chapters Paul has mentioned that people in their sinful nature, in their original state, are enemies of God, but here Paul gives us the hope that because the Spirit of God dwells in us, we become children of God. This is a glorious truth because that means that the most powerful person in this universe, the most powerful person that exists no longer stands against me but cares for me as his own child. Instead of opposing me, vs 31 says “If God is for us, who can be against us?” I can walk in peace knowing that God the supreme ruler of this world, of this universe, and of anything else that exists is for me, he backs me up, he cares for me, he holds on tightly to me.

We can hope for glory - This world and our lives are and will be filled with painful, hurtful, difficult, and hard things we will suffer. But there is a promise for us, the things that we endure in this life CANNOT compare to the glory we will be in when we close our eyes and wake up in heaven. One day we will be with the Lord in glory and there will be no more tears, no more suffering, no more pain, no more hurt, but God would have made all things right in Christ. The things we experience now are meant to help us to long for heaven. Paul says that even creation itself longs for that renewal, the effects of sin has affected not just us but all of creation and there is a deep longing that all of creation (including us) to taste what it is like to live in a world that operates in the way God intended for it to operate in, complete harmony.

We are loved by God - If God gave us the very thing (person) he loved the most, then why do we doubt his love? God sent Jesus Christ his beloved Son, the person who he loved the most to die for us on the cross. If God did that, why would he not give us these lesser things we need. More than anything, this chapter shows how deep, vast, incomprehensible, unique, and powerful the love that God has for us. Nothing, absolutely nothing can break or separate us from the love of God. When we feel like we have messed up, sinned, or failed miserably we can be reminded that God’s love runs deeper than our failures because of the glorious gospel.

February 19 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 42

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think Joseph felt when he first saw his brothers? What would you feel if you saw the people who had sold you into slavery?
- Why do you think Joseph was so adamant about bringing Benjamin to Egypt? (Maybe he wanted to make sure that they had not killed Benjamin as well. Maybe Joseph wanted to ensure that he was safe from these brothers who had done so much harm to Joseph.)
- According to verse 22, why did Reuben think all of these things were happening to them? (He thought God was avenging Joseph by punishing the brothers.)
- Why were the brothers and Jacob (Israel) upset to find the money still in their sacks of grain? (Because they were afraid that if they went back to Egypt they would be called thieves and Joseph would have them killed.) So, what did Joseph decide they should do? (They should just leave Simeon for dead.)

Song: [Are You Washed in the Blood?](#)

Prayer Focus: Pray for one person or family in your church that is particularly suffering right now.

Family Activity: 'The Big 12'

There are many things in the Bible that come in packs of 12. This game is designed to quiz you on how many you can get right in a particular category. This week's challenge is 'The Twelve Sons of Jacob (Israel).' Hint – we have been learning about them in the last few chapters – this is not the same as the list of the twelve tribes of Israel. Starting with the youngest person, each player must name one of the twelve sons. If you miss, you get one extra chance. If you miss again, you are eliminated from the game. One person will have to either know the list or look it up and function as a non-player referee. You can find a nicely stated list in Gen 35:23-26. Play until all but one player is eliminated, or if multiple players survive until all twelve are named. Surviving players share the victory.

Bible in a Year

- Leviticus 16
- Leviticus 17

February 20 Shepherding Notes – Romans 9

By Jonathan Rodriguez

Today we come to a chapter of the Bible that can be a hot topic because it deals with election (meaning God determines who he will save). Paul in this chapter mentions many people from the Old Testament, Abraham, Sarah, Rebekah, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Moses, Pharaoh... The question is, what do these all have in common? The thread that binds all these people together is the fact that God always initiated a relationship or spoke to them first. That means that in every circumstance the Bible mentions these people, it never says that they spoke to God, instead it says that God spoke, revealed, and made himself known to them first.

God initiated the conversation with Abraham and Sarah. God was the one who promised Isaac to Abraham initiating the relationship with Isaac before he was even born. God initiated the conversation with Moses in the burning bush. God is the one who raised up Pharaoh and put him in that position and later spoke to him through Moses. God is always the one who initiates and seeks people out, not the other way around.

The reason Paul brings this up is because he wants to show us that in a world that God created, ultimately, he is the one who decides what happens in his creation. He is the one who determines who he will have a relationship with, he is the one that determines who he will save. God is sovereign in electing those who he will save. Many times, we find a problem with that because we say, "that's not fair." I am thankful that God has not dealt with me fairly because that means I would be dead and in hell right now because that is what I deserve.

Paul makes a good point in vs 20" But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?" Our minds are limited, we may think we know what is right, but at the end of the day we live in a world God created and his sovereign will is far more vast than what we can even comprehend. Even though the bible does not tell us why God chooses who he chooses, Paul does give us a reason as to why this doctrine is beautiful. Verses 15-17 tell us that God chooses because he is merciful, compassionate, and so that no one can boast about their own salvation. Even though some might think it is not merciful to elect some and not others, as I said before I am thankful that God does not deal fairly with everyone because that means no one would be saved. You and I are sinners, who have sinned against an eternal, holy, and righteous God and we deserve not mercy but wrath. Instead, God has dealt with us with compassion and mercy in that he has given us a new heart and has saved us through the gospel of his Son Jesus Christ.

God did not have to send Jesus to the world to die on behalf of sinners, he could have wiped us all out, but because of God's deep mercy and compassion he made a way for people to be saved whom he elected according to his secret will. I wrestled with this many years ago was because I couldn't come to terms with a God who is all good electing some and not others. What changed my mind is that God's standard of good is far above my own understanding. I cannot comprehend the goodness of God in full depth and being that God knows everything, controls everything, ordains everything, helped me to come to peace that God knows what is best and knows how to best rule. I can trust in his goodness and his will.

February 20 - Family Worship

Family Activity: 'Perfect Read'

The family activity today will take place as you read the Bible together. If your children are old enough to read, have them read one at a time until they stumble over a word. Then, lovingly and graciously stop them and send it to the next reader. (Be sure to be encouraging with the words they get right.) This helps kiddos to focus more on the words in their Bibles and read with more precision.

Read Genesis 43

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jacob (Israel) decide to send Benjamin to Egypt? (If he didn't, everyone in their home would have starved.)
- Why did the brothers think they were being taken to Joseph's house? (They thought that they were in trouble because the money was placed back in their sacks on their last journey. They assumed that they would be treated as thieves.)
- Look at verse 30 again. What does it mean that Joseph's "compassion grew warm for his brothers?" If you have compassion for someone, what does it make you want to do for them? (Help them in any way you can.) If Joseph felt compassion for them, why do you think he still waited to reveal himself? (Because he is going to test his brothers further to see if they have truly changed.)
- How has God shown compassion for sinners like us? (Sending Jesus to save us.)
- Joseph gave Benjamin five times more food than the other brothers. It was a way of showing special honor to him and treating him like a prince. That was very unusual in that point in history. What do you think Joseph was testing by doing this? (Think back to the very reason the brothers were jealous of Joseph in the first place. It was because Joseph was elevated above them. Joseph is watching to see if there is jealousy in the brothers against Benjamin.)

Song: [Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

Prayer Focus: Select one person or family in your church who is suffering and needs prayer today.

Bible in a Year

- Read Leviticus 18
- Read Leviticus 19

February 21 Shepherding Notes – Romans 10

By Jonathan Rodriguez

In the last chapter we spoke about election and God's sovereign will in determining who will be saved. This is a truth that stands, and leads to the question: If God chooses who will be saved, then what is the point of evangelism? I think that is a good question and one that we should strive to understand since sharing the gospel is a major part of the lives of all Christians.

Romans 10 is a good chapter to study in terms of that. Even though God chooses who is to be saved, and even though that is such a wonderful truth to grasp, we should keep in mind that it is not our responsibility to determine if someone is chosen or not. God is the only one who knows that information and the bible has not told us that it is our responsibility to know. The bible has told us that IT IS our responsibility to preach the gospel to everyone. Vs 14-15 "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news."

As Christian's there is a responsibility, we must share the gospel with those who are around and near us. It is our responsibility to tell people that they have sinned against a holy God and that they are destined for eternal torture because of their sin but to also give them the good news that two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ came to die on a cross to pay the penalty of sin on behalf of those who repent and believe in him. We ought to be preaching the gospel because the only way people will be saved is if they hear the good news of the gospel.

Even though we do not know who the elect is, we are to preach faith and repentance to everyone. Even if not everyone is elected, all people are called to repent of their sins because we will all give an account to God. If people do not hear the gospel, how will they have faith? It is our responsibility to preach the good news and leave the rest up to God to do the transforming work in their hearts. We should even be praying that God saves those who come across our path in vs 1 Paul says "Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved." The one who wrote the chapter on election, is the same one telling us that he prays that God saves those who do not yet know him as their savior. That is because the posture of our heart should be one that is dependent on God for the salvation of others, and we show that dependency by sharing the gospel and praying that God does the transforming work of giving them a new heart so that they can believe.

Sometimes we can get nervous because we think we might be rejected, we may fear what people's response is, we might be afraid that they will have questions that we do not have the answer to. At the end of the day our responsibility should be to share the gospel as best as we can and sit back and watch the gospel do what it is supposed to do. The Word of God is a double-edged sword that cuts through the heart and soul, we do not have to be clever because the Word of God in the gospel will pierce through the hearts of people. Some will come to salvation, others will not. Either way we are to call all people to repentance. The gospel will either bring them into the people of God or pronounce judgment on them on the last day.

February 21 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 44

Discussion Questions:

- Joseph is going to present one final test to see if his brothers have truly changed. What is the final test? (He hid a silver cup in Benjamin's grain sack.) Why was that a problem? (It made it look like Benjamin was a thief.)
- At first, the brothers all denied having the cup. When it was discovered in Benjamin's sack, how did they respond? (vs 13)
- By creating this ruse, Joseph presented his brothers with the perfect opportunity to display whether or not there had been genuine transformation in their lives. If they hated Benjamin, or were jealous of him, this was their perfect excuse to leave him behind and tell their father that they had no choice. They could even say with all honesty that Benjamin had brought it on himself by stealing, which they probably thought to be true. But instead, they went back with Benjamin. What does this tell us about the brothers? (There had definitely been a true change in their hearts. If Joseph had been accused of theft, they would have abandoned him immediately. But they defended Benjamin.)
- Which brother is most vocal in defending Benjamin? (Judah) This is going to play a huge part in the blessing that Judah receives at the end of this chapter.

Song: [All I Have is Christ](#)

Prayer Focus: Someone in your church who is suffering and needs prayer.

Family Activity: Act It Out

Do your best to act out the events of this chapter. See if you can accurately capture the emotion and drama of the story.

Bible in a Year

- Read Leviticus 20
- Read Leviticus 21

February 22 Shepherding Notes – Romans 11

By Jonathan Rodriguez

Today we have come to a point in the book of Romans where Paul will be concluding his theology of salvation. For the past several chapters Paul has been unpacking for us human nature, being dead in our sins, the work of the Spirit, and how people are saved. I think one set of verses that would be beneficial to look at closely is 5-6 “So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.”

In the Old Testament, Israel was the chosen people and to them was given the promise of salvation. The Lord knew Israel - meaning that they were his people - and the mark of his people was that they would do what he commanded them to do. Every year the high priest had to go into the most holy place and make a sacrifice on behalf of the people to atone for their sins. Even though this never actually took away their sins, this was used to point to the future messiah who would come and take away the sins of his people once and for all.

Eventually when Jesus came down to earth, he was the perfect sacrifice that was nailed to a cross and appeased the wrath of God on behalf of those who come to him. This is important to know because after Jesus died on the cross, he paid for the sins of his people once and for all. Therefore, salvation is a free gift of grace. The Jews on the other hand were still believing that by doing everything that God had commanded them to do in the Old Testament, that would bring them salvation. Paul tells them that they are wrong.

The reason this is wrong is that animal sacrifices were not the end all be all. They were a means to an end, which was Christ. So, Paul wants to make everyone know that the Jews are not automatically saved just because they were the chosen people of the Old Testament. There is no secret way of salvation for Israel other than Christ. Paul wants to tell them; Jews are going to receive a free pass to get into heaven. If a Jew does not believe in Christ, they will not be saved.

To obtain salvation a person must know that is a grace freely given to them by God through the work of Christ, and there is no exception for that. Paul is reminding the Jews that they do not get special treatment, but instead must be saved in the same manner as everyone else. Nobody gets a free pass, all are accountable to stand before a holy God, they will either stand in their own strength or stand being covered by the righteousness of Christ.

At the end of this chapter Paul gives the doxology where he magnifies God. As I read through the doxology, I can't help but to stand back in awe at the vast knowledge of God and his wisdom. The Lord, for reasons known to himself planned to send down his one and only beloved Son to have him die on a cross on behalf of sinners. We do not know why this was the path that was taken to bring sinners into salvation, but who has known the mind of the Lord? Who can counsel him? Who can give him anything? The Lord acts on his sovereign will according to the deep, unsearchable, and inscrutable ways that are beyond our understanding. The one who created this world, the one who tells the waves how far they can come up, the one who causes the winds and waves to obey, is the one who chose to reveal himself to us through the person of Jesus Christ. May we pray to know the depths and riches of God in a much deeper way through the person of Christ.

February 22 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 45

Discussion Questions:

- Joseph finally tells his brothers the whole story. Why do you think Joseph cried so much? (He loved his family and is so grateful that he can now be reunited.)
- How do you think the brothers felt when they first realized they were standing before the brother that they tried to kill, then sold into slavery? (Verse 3 tells us that they were dismayed.) Why do you think they were dismayed? (They probably thought that Joseph would try to get revenge.)
- What do verses 7-8 tell us about how Joseph trusted in God? (It reveals that Joseph believed that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.)
- How did Jacob initially receive the news that Joseph was alive? (He didn't believe it.) After being convinced, how do you think he felt about the news? ("His heart revived within him." He must have been exploding with joy.)

Song: [Your Words are Wonderful](#)

Prayer Focus: Someone in your church who is suffering and needs prayer.

Family Activity: Vocabulary Challenge

This week is a review week – Last learned in week 2.

- **Longsuffering:** Being slow to anger and self-restrained. God displays longsuffering towards us by not destroying us when we sin.
 - **Grace:** Unmerited favor. Receiving Kindness and forgiveness when you don't deserve it.
 - **Covenant:** An agreement or contract between two parties. A promise. God always keeps His covenant promises.
 - **Antediluvian:** 'Ante' means before and 'diluvian' means it pertains to the great flood. Antediluvian is a way to describe the time or people who lived before the flood. For example: "The antediluvian people had hearts that only desired evil continuously."
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Bible in a Year

- Read Leviticus 22
- Read Leviticus 23

February 23 Shepherding Notes – Romans 12

By Jonathan Rodriguez

We are now coming more to the practical side of the book of Romans. Chapter 12 verses 1-2 is the anchor of what will follow in the coming chapters. The reason I say that is because in these verses Paul describes to us what gives us the ability to act as people who are born again. First, he begins by saying “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” He doesn’t say that God will present us as a living sacrifice but that we should present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

Being that we are a people that have been saved from the wrath of God and the power of self we are to present our bodies to the service of God. This is not a sacrifice that atones for your sin, this sacrifice means that you have died to your old self and now have put on the new self. What that means is that there should be a conscious effort on our end to pursue the things that pertain to godliness, servanthood, and love in action both for God and for our brothers and sisters. It is through the saving of our souls, that our bodies can be surrendered to God so that our salvation can be expressed in everyday life.

The first way this happens is not conforming to this world. This world tells us to do everything opposite of what the Lord commands, this world says put yourself first, live your best life now, get up to the top without worrying who you must step on to get there. There are many things the world tells us on how to live, what to desire, how to act, but as Christians we are not called to conform to the philosophy or lifestyle the world presents to us. We should always be cautious of new trends, different political issues, influencer ideologies and critically think if those things line up with scripture.

The next thing Paul says, “be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Be transformed by the renewal of our mind is something that happens to us. Our minds are renewed to think the way God thinks and to act the way God would act. It means that our minds are being conformed to the mind, will, and heart of God. The way that happens is when we seek him out and when we seek him through his word and we meditate on his Word, glean on his Word, delight in his Word, his Word will do the work of renewing our minds. It is when we bask in the Word of God and have a proper diet of bible intake that our minds will be renewed to think and act as God has revealed for us to do so.

Think about it like this: the world tells us to take pride and pushes us to think highly of ourselves, but verse 3 says to do the exact opposite. The world tells us to look out for ourselves but verse 10 says to outdo one another in showing honor. The world tells us to pay an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth but 19 says that vengeance belongs to the Lord. The mind of God has been revealed to us in his Word, and it is the responsibility of those who have been genuinely saved to present our bodies as a sacrifice to God, reject what the world tells us, and to let our minds be renewed by the Word of God so that Christ may be displayed in every moment of everyday life. By God’s grace our minds can be renewed, and Christ can be displayed because of the gospel at work in our lives.

February 23 - Family Worship

Read Genesis 46

Discussion Questions:

- At the beginning of this chapter, the Lord spoke to Jacob and told him to go down to Egypt. But, God also made him a promise. What was that promise? (“I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again...”)
- Did God go to Egypt with the Israelites? (Yes.) Did God allow the Israelites to become slaves before bringing them back to Israel? (Yes.) This means that for many generations the Israelites suffered before God kept His promise. Is God slow to keep His promises? (2 Peter 3:9)
- How many people from the house of Jacob came to Egypt? (70.) By the time the Israelites leave, they are going to have roughly two million people.
- Joseph’s story is a story of forgiveness and reconciliation. How does Joseph’s heart of forgiveness point to Jesus? In what way is Jesus’ forgiveness even greater than Joseph’s?

Song: [All Must Be Well](#)

Prayer Focus: Pray for someone in your church who is suffering.

Family Activity: Memory Verse Challenge

Starting from the youngest to the oldest, see who can accurately quote our weekly memory verse:

Romans 10:17

Bible in a Year

- Read Leviticus 24
- Read Leviticus 25

Shepherding Notes Track

- Read Job 12

Family Worship

Read Proverbs 8

- Who is talking in this chapter? (hint, it isn't a real person) - Wisdom
- What does this chapter teach you about the need to gain wisdom?

Prayer Focuses:

Christlikeness – (Sample – Lord, please help me to forgive and seek reconciliation, like Joseph, and much moreso like Jesus.)

Tomorrow's Church Service – (Sample – Lord, please prepare my heart to hear your Word so that I will be convicted and encouraged.)

Family Activity: Quiz over this week's reading: (Points are for fun. Use them if they are helpful, discard them if not. (answers on the reverse side of this page.)

30 Points – When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, Joseph accused them of being _____.

50 Points – Which brother was kept in prison in Egypt until the other brothers returned?

20 Points – Who didn't want Benjamin to go to Egypt?

20 Points – Benjamin's portion of food was _____ times more than his other brothers.

10 Points – What was placed in Benjamin's sack?

20 Points – Which brother stood up for Benjamin the most?

20 Points – Joseph cried so loudly that _____ heard it.

30 Points – What word is used to describe the feeling of the brothers when they realized they were talking with Joseph?

30 Points – How did God speak to Jacob while they were traveling down to Egypt?

30 Points – How many people of "Jacob's household" went down into Egypt?

Bible in a Year

- Read Job 13
- Read Job 14

Answers Key:

20 Points – When Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt, Joseph accused them of being _____.
Spies

50 Points – Which brother was kept in prison in Egypt until the other brothers returned?
Simeon

20 Points – Who didn’t want Benjamin to go to Egypt?
His father, Jacob

20 Points – Benjamin’s portion of food was _____ times more than his other brothers.
Five

10 Points – What was placed in Benjamin’s sack?
A silver cup

20 Points – Which brother stood up for Benjamin the most?
Judah

20 Points – Joseph cried so loudly that _____ heard it.
Pharoah’s household

30 Points – What word is used to describe the feeling of the brothers when they realized they were talking with Joseph?
Dismayed

30 Points – How did God speak to Jacob while they were traveling down to Egypt?
In visions of the night

20 Points – How many people of “Jacob’s household” went down into Egypt?
70
