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Leader Guide

Whoever Believes

January 22, 2023

Main Passage: John 1:12-13; 3:16; Romans 1:16-17; 4:1-5

Theological Theme

Scripture tells us anyone who believes in Jesus will be saved. There is no distinction—the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus is available to all people.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some ways you have lead someone to Christ? (Verses, process, etc.)
- ❓ Here are the Romans Road scriptures to help someone receive Christ: Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10, Romans 12:1-2

1. Whoever Believes (John 3:16; 1:12-13)

Today's focus phrase of John 3:16 is "everyone who believes," and it packs a lot of punch into three common words. Previously John wrote that God loved the world. He used this to set up the motivation behind salvation. "Everyone who believes" refers to the recipients of that great love of God. Though God loves the whole world and Jesus died for the world, no one receives that love or benefits from it until they believe in Jesus.

- ❓ Why is having a head knowledge about Jesus not enough? How does stopping at head knowledge fall short of full belief?
- ❓ What does it mean to be a child of God and part of His family? How does that change our lives?
- ❓ Application: What has kept you from fully believing and receiving the true gospel message? How might you move beyond those obstacles today?

2. Belief and Righteousness (Romans 4:1-5)

This concept of faith through belief is a big deal. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he addressed this issue. He used the example of Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation, who was highly esteemed by God's people.

- ❓ What are some ways we try to work our way to salvation today?
- ❓ Why is it insulting to Jesus's work on the cross for us to try to earn our way to salvation?
- ❓ Application: What needs to change in your life for you to display your faith and live in righteousness?

3. Belief Blesses (Romans 1:16-17)

Righteous living looks very different than the world. If you are very good at fitting into the world—looking, acting, and talking just like this culture—you may not be living a life of righteousness. Right living is about making choices that please God and reflect Him to lost people so that they may be drawn to faith.



Application: What do you need to do differently to further live by faith every day?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).

Close by taking time for attendees to read through Romans Road scriptures. Prayer time should include praying for opportunities to share your faith (Romans Road is one way to do this) with lost friends this week.