



Grow Group Syllabus Spring 2020

Welcome to Grow Groups at VRBC! Congratulations on your desire to grow deeper in your relationship with God and others in this group. As we grow together, we'll do three main things:

Dig into God's Word: Each week, we will open Scripture to discover what God is saying to us, discuss it together, and commit to do it!

Build True Friendships: Each week, we will spend time strengthening our relationships with each other and building friendships that are open, caring and encouraging.

Train for Our Mission: Each week, we will discuss how we can discover and live out God's mission for our lives, using the unique way he has gifted us.

Our group will operate by the following guidelines:

- 1) **Date and Time:** We will meet together on _____ at _____ am/pm. Groups begin the week of January 26-30 and end the week of May 3-7. The week leading up to Easter (April 6-12), all groups will meet together on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00pm.
- 2) **Group Discussions:** Our discussions will focus on a portion of Scripture related to that week's sermon or another spiritual growth topic. Our goal is to grow together to live out our faith in everyday life. We will:
 - Participate openly in group discussions
 - Honor each other by maintaining the confidentiality of everything discussed during our group meetings. (What's said here stays here)
 - Honestly explore our next steps for spiritual growth.
- 3) **Preparation and Attendance:** To allow each of us to make the most of our group experience, we will read the Scripture passages and questions in advance and attend group meetings as consistently as possible.
- 4) **Building true friendships:** During this semester, we will pray for each other, care for each other, and encourage each other. We will build friendships characterized by honesty, openness and trust. We will also participate in one serving project and one social event during the semester.

General Information

Each week this semester, we'll discuss a series of questions related to that week's sermon. The goal of our conversation is to help us apply the Bible to our everyday life! To help you prepare for the conversation, the primary Scripture passages (tentative and subject to change) are listed below. The discussion questions will be available on the VRBC App in the Grow section each week by Thursday afternoon as well as the Friday Grow Group email so you can review them in advance.

Outcomes we're praying for:

- **More like Jesus:** Our first goal is the same as for every semester! We hope that at the end of this spring, each of us is more like Jesus than when we started. Dallas Willard says a *disciple* is someone who chooses (by grace) to be *with* Jesus, to learn *from* him how to be *like* him. That's our goal!
- **Strengthened Foundation:** As we go through the book of Romans, we are praying that each person, no matter how long they've been following Jesus, will gain a stronger foundation for their faith – firmly rooted in the grace of Jesus.
- **Spiritual friendships:** Finally, we're praying that as we are *with Jesus together*, we'll develop spiritual friendships that encourage us along the journey.

Grow Group Topic/Passage Schedule

Romans, Part 1: Building Blocks of Faith		
Jan 26-30	Gospel	Romans 1:1-17
Feb 2-6	Sin	Romans 1:18-3:20
Feb 9-13	Justification	Romans 3:21-31
Feb 16-20	Faith	Romans 4
Feb 23-27	Peace	Romans 5
Mar 1-5	Baptism	Romans 6
Mar 8-12	Law	Romans 7
Mar 15-19	The Spirit	Romans 8
Mar 22-26	Sovereignty	Romans 9
Mar 29-Apr 2	The Church	Romans 10-12

Holy Week		
Apr 5	The King	Matthew 21
Apr 6-12	HOLY WEEK (all groups meet on 4/9)	Matthew 26
Apr 13-16	The King	Matthew 21

Romans, Part 2: Serving		
Apr 19-23	Serve your world	Romans 13
Apr 26-30	Serve the weak	Romans 14
May 3-7	Serve the Kingdom	Romans 15-16

Other Great Resources:

- **“The Climb” Trail Guide** – Available electronically on the VRBC App and as a hard copy in the seat backs in the worship center, this guide contains a ton of great info, including a schedule for a personal reading plan through Romans (two different “trail options”), a memory verse project, and more!
- **The Bible Project Videos** – These fantastic videos give you a great overview of the book of Romans in just a few minutes. Search “Bible Project Romans” on youtube.
- **Paul for Everyone: Romans, by NT Wright** – This is a good, accessible devotional commentary written by pastor and New Testament scholar NT Wright. There are two short volumes, both available on Amazon.
- **The Message of Romans, God’s Good News for the World, by John Stott** – another good commentary on Romans written by a wonderful pastor and theologian, John Stott. It’s a little more challenging than the first one listed, but worth the effort.