

PROMISES

Session 1 // The Promise of Purpose

Connect- These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- If someone asked you what your passion was, what would you tell them? Explain why this is your “passion?”
- What do you think gives you satisfaction? Why?
- Do you feel something may be missing in your life? How can you fill this void?

Watch Corresponding Video; Read *Romans 12:1-2*

Grow / Share

1. Explain what you think “true and proper worship” looks like in Romans 12.
2. In what practical ways do you go about “transforming” and “renewing” your mind?
3. What in your life gives you worth and purpose? Why does this give you value and direction?
4. Do you feel God has a purpose for your life? What do you feel is His purpose for you?
5. Does your purpose align with God’s will? How do you know that it does?
6. What are practical ways we offer our lives to the Lord?
7. Do you feel like you have different purposes in your daily life depending on the role you are serving at the time? As a...Husband? Wife? Son? Daughter? Boss? Co-worker? Believer? Do these different roles create conflict or peace in your life purpose? Why?

Serve

Take time to pray as a group that God will give us eyes to see who needs to be encouraged in knowing their purpose in life and that we will take action steps to help them.

Digging Deeper

Surrendering and Sacrificing in Romans 12 includes--accepting God’s mercy, surrendering to Him, sacrificing for Him, being holy, being pleasing to Him, being born again, being transformed.

PROMISES

Session 2 // The Promise God Is Not Done with You

Connect- These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- Why is it so hard for us to keep going when the bottom of life falls out?
- Would someone close to you describe you as a patient person? Why or why not? How would you describe yourself? Why would you use this description?
- Describe a time when you wanted to give up. How did you “get going” again?

Watch Corresponding Video; Read *Romans 8:26-30*

Grow / Share

1. How do you allow the Holy Spirit to help you in your weakness (Romans 8)?
2. How do you live out Romans 8:28? What does this teach you about following God?
3. Can you share a time when the seasons of struggle prepared you for the next season of your life? How did God show up?
4. How is God working for His good, His glory, and His purpose in your life?
5. How is God preparing you now for the next season in your life?
6. God takes our “mess” and makes it a “message.” How is God calling you to be a Gospel “message” to those around you?
7. How does your life—your message—imitate Christ? How can you draw closer to Christ so that you can be conformed into the image of Jesus?

Serve

Pray that God will show you and those around you that God Is Not Done with You...share a story about how God is working in your life.

Digging Deeper

Trust God in His Purpose for You:

- God works all things together for our good and His Glory!
- God is omniscient...He knows all things...past, present, future. Nothing is beyond God.
- God’s love transcends our emotions and situations! God is with You Always!

PROMISES

Session 3 // The Promise of God's Eternal Security

Connect- These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- Have you ever been separated from a loved one? How did that make you feel? How do you overcome these feelings of separation?
- Are you a person averse to risk or drawn to risk? Why do you have this preference?
- What in your life gives you security? Do you lean toward things, people, relationships, something else? Why?

Watch Corresponding Video; Read *Romans* 8:31-39

Grow / Share

1. Why do we often struggle with our security in the person and work of Jesus?
2. Why does the security of our salvation depend **ONLY** on God?
3. If God is for us, who can be against us? A question we have often heard, but why is it hard to live?
4. What do you think would happen if we lived in the fullness of what Jesus accomplished for us?
5. If we are secure in God, why aren't we taking more risks for God? What stops us from taking a risk for God?
6. What are you longing for? What risk is God asking you to take? Is God asking you to respond to salvation, baptism, joining Vaughn Forest Church, serving, growing, giving, leading, loving?

Serve

Our Eternal Security gives us confidence to Risk on Earth. Pray that God will show you how to demonstrate your confidence in Him to others.

PROMISES

Digging Deeper

Overarching Teaching of Romans through Romans Chapter 8:

- 1. We have all sinned and we cannot save ourselves from the penalty of our sins = death.**
 - Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory!
- 2. But Jesus came to set us free from SIN and DEATH, if we would surrender our lives.**
 - Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 3. Those who surrender their lives to Christ are filled with the Holy Spirit; it connects us.**
 - Romans 8:11 - The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.
- 4. Adopted as God's Child!**
 - Romans 8:15 - The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.
- 5. Given Responsibility in the work and Kingdom of God!**
 - Romans 8:12 - Because you have the Spirit you now have an obligation in God's Kingdom.
- 6. Predestined to be conformed into the image of Jesus.**
 - Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.

God foreknows all of History! NOTHING is out of His control or knowledge. God is omniscient...He knows all things in all of History = His-story before it happens!

PROMISES

Session 4 // The Promise of Hope

Connect- These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- How do you respond to trials?
- How do trials and challenges help you in your life?
- What do you place your hope and trust in? What does this look like on a day-to-day basis?

Watch Corresponding Video; Read *James* 1:1-11

Grow / Share

1. Why do trials have such a huge impact on our development as a follower of Jesus?
2. What are some things we can do to support our friends when they are in a season of trial?
3. If trials develop us and shape us, then how does this show God's love for us even in the challenges of life?
4. What past trials can you recall that God was faithful to help you through? How does this provide strength for you today?
5. How are you daily "fighting the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12) and responding in the midst of trials?
6. What does "radical faith" look like to you? Are you living a life of "radical faith?"
7. Trials engage and strengthen our faith...how are you persevering and clinging to God in your times of trial?

Serve

How can we reach out and provide hope to those around us this next week?

Digging Deeper

Three Essentials to Keeping Faith in the Trials

1. Remember we are in God's bigger plan – Consider it Joy! (v.2-4)
2. Seek Wisdom from God, not Wisdom from Man! (v.5-8)
3. Keep The Right Perspective - Focus on the Eternal, not the Material (v.9-11)