

WEEK TWO:

ROMANS 7:15-25

Reflect

Use one or both questions for private reflection and choose one to begin meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

R1 Can you remember a time as a child when you tried to hide something you had done? What were you afraid would happen?

R2 In what situations do you feel pressure to appear like you have everything together?

Grow in the Word

Spend most of your time in the main passage in Romans 7. Genesis 3 offers a supporting text, while Romans 8 will help guide your response in Practice Together. Move slowly, and don't feel pressure to cover every question.

The Struggle Within

The apostle Paul describes the struggle between wanting to do good and continuing in sin instead. He expresses a deep desire for obedience, frustration with failure, and a need for rescue.

Read Romans 7:15-25

G1 Where do you recognize your own experience in Paul's struggle? Is there anything in his description you find hard to understand?

G2 How does this passage challenge the idea that wanting to do good is enough to change us?

G3 Paul expresses both deep frustration with himself and gratitude to God through Jesus. How can both be part of an honest relationship with God? What does that look like in your own life?

The Hiding

Genesis 3 tells the story of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the garden and subsequent encounter with God. They covered themselves with fig leaves and hid from God, but God continued to pursue them anyway.

Read Genesis 3:6-13

G4 Looking at Adam and Eve's words and actions, why do you think they hid and shifted blame? Where do you recognize those responses in yourself?

G5 How does God's approach to Adam and Eve compare with what you expect from him when you have sinned?

Practice Together

Paul announces that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Jesus. He grounds this assurance in what God has done through Christ and describes a life lived according to the Spirit.

Read Romans 8:1-4

P1 What makes Paul's declaration of "no condemnation" dependable, even when we've failed? How wholeheartedly do you believe that this is true?

P2 When you're tempted to hide or excuse a struggle, how might trusting this assurance change the way you respond?

When you notice the urge to hide or make excuses, pause and talk honestly with God. What would a response shaped by Romans 8:1 look like in that moment? Consider inviting someone you trust to pray with you as you take that step.
