

Day 1

Read

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?”

Think

I love the way that chapter 6 starts with this rhetorical question. Shouldn't we just keep sinning since we know that God is going to forgive us? It's not a bad question, and I'm willing to bet most of us have asked a similar question in our life. Since God is always going to forgive, why can't I just sin and say sorry? Verse two highlights the flaw in this type of thinking. If we accept the forgiveness of God, then we have died to our sin nature, and taken on the identity in Christ! So maybe the better question isn't "can't I keep sinning", but rather, "how can I live in Christ more"?

Reflect

Rather than thinking about how much you can get away with in your faith this week, my challenge is to invite you to ask yourself, how much can you thrive in your faith this week. Sin keeps us from the fullness of life that God has for us, so this week try and focus on how you can live a life free from the slaver of sin, and alive in Jesus!

Pray

God,

I worship you as my king! Would you reveal yourself to me as Lord of all today. Help humble me, and show me your glory today.

I pray that today, I would avoid sin for the havoc that it wreaks in my life, and that I would pursue you, and your son Jesus!

Thank you for the gift of grace, help me live into that gift today.

AMEN

Day 2

Read

Romans 7:18-20 “18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.”

Think

Paul wrote these words in Romans. He is one of the most influential people to ever follow Jesus. He is responsible for starting so many churches and really the whole Jesus following movement. Yet even he struggled with sin. I find comfort in that, if Paul struggled it is natural for us to struggle too.

Reflect

What do you do when you realize you made a mistake, messed up or sinned? Paul teaches us what Jesus made possible. In our sin we should run to Jesus. He is the only one who ever lived perfectly and he wants to lead us.

Pray

Jesus I come to you in my sin. Thank you for making a way for me to be forgiven. Would you change my heart to be more like you amen.

Day 3

Read

Romans 7:22 & Philippians 4:8

“22 I love God’s law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.”

“8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.”

Think

What do you spend the most time thinking about? You know when you're sitting in your room trying to do your homework but your mind is wondering? The things we spend our time thinking about matter. They determine our mental health and how we cope with our changing world.

Reflect

Spend time filling your mind with the hope we have in Jesus. Jesus loves you, he has wonderful plans for you. He loves to spend time with you. He will never leave you. Allow your confidence to grow in the foundation of your relationship with Jesus.

Pray

Thank you Jesus for being constant in the ever changing world. For promising to be with me no matter what. Teach me to trust you. Amen

Day 4

Read

Romans 6:11-14

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Think

What might it mean to be dead to sin but alive in Jesus? Paul's writing here seems to echo the words dead and alive frequently. These are two ominous words that can have daunting definitions, but in the case of Paul's writing, they show a strong truth. Paul's words shed a light on the destruction of sin and the value of life in Christ, as well as showing the value of your choices. You can choose to offer yourself as an instrument of wickedness, or as an instrument of righteousness. Notice that Paul does not state that living in Christ means you will live perfectly. Rather, it means that sin is no longer your master because now you are under grace, following Jesus. To be alive in Jesus means to be under grace as an instrument of righteousness.

Reflect

You have the choice to follow God today, and every day. What choice will you make? This week are you going to choose to live for God or are you going to choose otherwise?

You may be scared by the idea of a choice, or you may not even feel worthy to choose Jesus. Remember the last words that Paul says, "under grace." This week, no matter the choices you have made in your past you are under grace and you can always choose Jesus.

Pray

God,

I pray that this week we choose to live for you. I pray that you would fill us up with your love so that we can overflow.

I pray that we remember that we are blanketed by grace.

Amen

Day 5

Read

Rom. 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **Rom. 6:11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Think

Romans 6 is an invitation to know who we are, and be what we know we are: we are dead to sin and alive in Christ! When we trust in Jesus death and resurrection, we are made new, and united with Jesus in every way. Jesus death becomes the death of our old nature, and Jesus resurrection becomes our new life. And because this is the reality of who we are, an action is required from us – we are to “count” ourselves dead to sin and alive in Christ, to live like people who are dead to sin and alive in Christ.

Reflect

Often we feel like we are alive to sin, and dead to Christ. But here Paul asks the follower of Jesus to recognize the reality of who they are, and to be what they know they are! So who are you? You are dead to sin and alive in Christ! So count and consider yourself as someone who is no longer under the power of sin. Don't present your life to sin, like an instrument ready to be played in the hands of sin's desires. Be what you know you are – alive in Christ!

Pray

Jesus, thank you that because of your sacrifice on the cross, I am dead to sin and alive in Christ. Help me to consider myself dead to sin, even when sin feels very much alive, so I can live out my true identity of being alive with Jesus.