

New Beginning—Restored
Study Questions
Romans 5:10-12, 18; Ephesians 2:8-10

Warm-up

1) What's something that you've fixed, repurposed, or rebuilt that you feel pretty good about? Why is it significant to you?

A little deeper

2) [Romans 5:12] This verse in Romans recalls the original sin in Genesis. Before the fall, God would walk through the garden and talk with Adam and Eve (hinted at in Genesis 3:8-9). They were fully themselves, fully transparent, and they felt no shame (Genesis 2:25). They were innocent and had no reason to question God or His motives. **Read through Genesis 3:3-13: What are some specific ways sin entered the world through Adam and Eve?** (Look not only at actions, but thought patterns, perspectives, emotions, motivations, and lack of appropriate action.)

3) [Romans 5:18] This verse in Romans recalls Jesus' death. Hebrews 2:9 explains what was really happening pretty well. The answer to sin and doubt and fear and pain was not a person's penance or faith or righteousness. **What was so crucial about Jesus' death on the cross that had the power to unravel our sin?**
What are some specific ways that Jesus' sacrifice justifies us and give us new life in the face of sin? (Again, consider our thought patterns, perspectives, emotions, and motivations...)

4) [Romans 5:10-11] Jesus' death reconciled us with God, but His resurrected life continues. **How does Jesus' ongoing life at the right hand of His father further affect our relationships with God today?**

5) [Ephesians 2:8-10] All we have done for our reconciliation with God is accept it from Him as His gift. It's not our achievement, that we can revel in—instead we're restored to carry out our original purpose. **Given this, and also the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39") Jesus gave us, where do you think God hopes to take our relationships with Him?**

Bringing it home

6) Take a look at your own relationship with God. What was your relationship with God like immediately before and after you accepted Jesus?

What is your relationship with God like now?

Is God calling you to deepen your relationship with Him further? If so, how?

**7) How can give support to others as they deepen their relationships with God?
How might you better seek and accept help from others as you deepen your own relationship with God?**