

Weekly Study Guide

The week of November 18, 2012

Daily Readings

Monday	Romans 6:1-4	Tuesday	Romans 6:5-14	Wednesday	Romans 6:15-23
Thursday	Exodus 16:1-3	Friday	Numbers 11:4-6-9	Saturday	Numbers 13:26-14:1-4

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *The Crucified King*

Next week's readings: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; John 18:28-19:22

Jesus is such an inspirational figure that many people have been drawn to many different visions of his life and ministry. Join us next week, in the final week of our *Trail Markers* series, to learn about the place of the cross in Jesus' life and why Jesus will always be "the crucified king."



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Group Discussion

Connect	Have you ever lived or traveled in a place with a culture different from the one you grew up in? What was that like?
Learn	<p>Romans 6:1-14 is a central passage for understanding our identity in Christ. To get a sense for the whole passage before exploring its parts, have someone in your group read this passage out loud. (If you have more than one translation in your group, the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are really good for this passage.)</p> <p>Consider the teaching in Romans 6:1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why should we not “remain in sin” according to these verses? (Some translations of v. 1 ask “shall we go on sinning?,” but the original text asks first about our status “in sin” before addressing our behaviors.)• What has happened to Christians that makes them not “in sin” anymore?• Do you have trouble embracing the idea that being a Christian means having died with Christ and having been raised to a new life? What helps make this more real for you? What takes you away from this truth? <p>This passage from Romans 6 draws on the Old Testament story of the Exodus. It tells Christians not to be slaves to their old master, Sin, like Israel was tempted to go back to its old master, Egypt. For examples of Israel’s temptation to go back to slavery, read Exodus 16:1-3, Numbers 11:4-6, Numbers 13:26-14:4, and Numbers 21:4-5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What made the Israelites want to go back to Egypt?• Use your imagination. Are there similarities to our temptations to go back to sin? What makes sin look better than life with God in God’s promised land? <p>Read Romans 6:11-14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do these verses tell Christians to do?• This passage says that being freed from the reign of sin means entering the reign of God, not being in charge of ourselves. Why would that matter?• A Christian reformer once said, “Sin remains but does not reign in the life of the believer.” What do you think of this statement? What is an area of your life where you need to walk free from the reign of sin?
Apply	This passage has taught us that we are free from sin and alive to serve God. What do you think God is saying to you in this study? How will you respond to this?
Pray	In addition to praying for other concerns in your group, pray for one another that you may walk in freedom from sin.