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FALL 2026 // WEEK 10

Life Group Questions

Romans – The Gospel is_____ // November 14/15, 2026

The Power of God // Romans 1:16-17

Introduction

Believing the gospel is the power of God for salvation changes how we live. As we conclude the Fall 2026 session of life groups, let's discuss Romans 1:16-17, and consider what it means to trust God enough to act, and where He may be calling us to take a step.

Discussion Questions *(with your group)*

1) Jacob shared about his skydiving experience and how, in order to step out of the plane, he had to trust that his parachute would catch him. Can you think of a time when you faced something similar? **When have you been in a risky situation where you had to trust that something was true before you could act on it?**

   Sometimes trusting isn't the hard part; acting is. **Have you ever believed something was true, like Jacob believed in his parachute, but still found yourself unable to take the step? What do you think kept you from moving forward?**

2) **Read Romans 1:16-17**. Paul states that the gospel is the power of God for salvation. **How would you define power?**

   What power has the gospel had in your life?

   In Romans1:17, we see that the gospel calls us to a life of faith. **What do you think it looks like to live by faith?**

3) We had the privilege of hearing from several pastors from Southeast Asia. Their testimonies are faith in action, showing that the gospel is the power of God for salvation. What stood out to you most about their stories? Was there anything that surprised or inspired you?

4) Creating an Oikos Map Activity

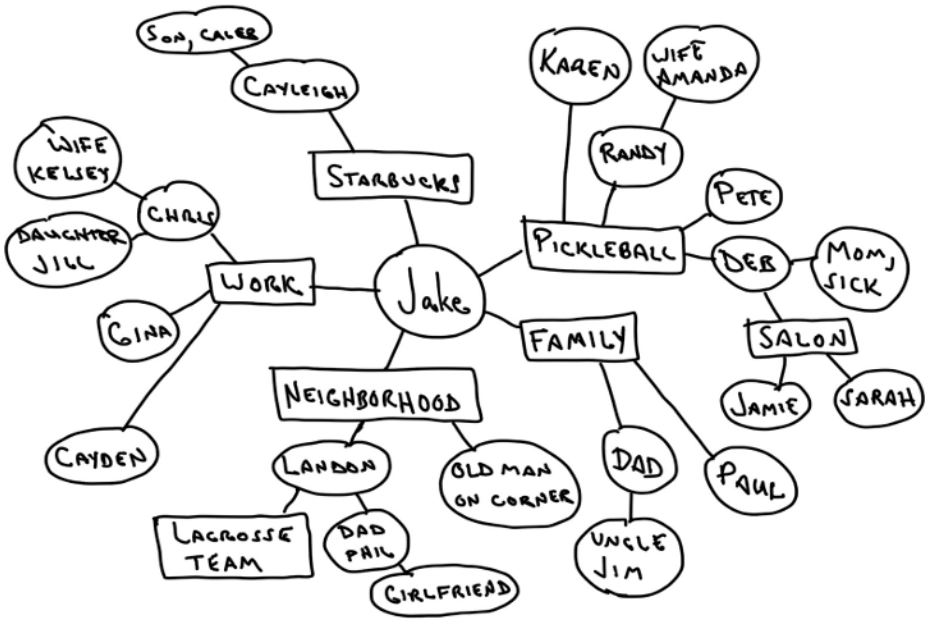
If people in your group have not completed this activity, give them 7-10 minutes to begin working on the activity. Then take some time for people to share about 3 people from their Oikos Map. And take time to pray for these people and opportunities to close out your group time.

God is at work through the pastors in Southeast Asia, and He can work through us too. Pastor Jacob mentioned that the gospel can have the same power in our context if we will live as though it is true. Below and on the next page is an activity to encourage you in taking steps to live as though it is true (because it is!).

Oikos is the Greek word for "Household". It refers to the people who are part of a person's immediate network of relationships, like extended family and friends.

An Oikos map is a tool to help you be intentional about praying for people and recognizing opportunities to love & serve people, develop relationships and possibly share the gospel with these people as God leads.

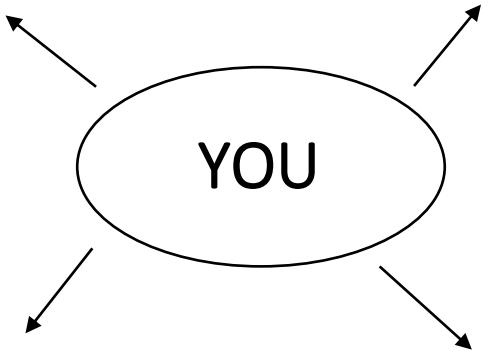
Here is a sample Oikos Map for a guy named Jake:



On the next page there are steps and a diagram to get you started making your own Oikos Map.

My Oikos Map:

1. Think of at least 4 places or groups (Family, Friends, Workplace, Neighborhood, Classmates) you are a part of in which you are around people who are not-yet followers of Jesus. Write the names of those places or groups around your name, drawing a box around each. Add more arrows if you need them.
2. Then add the names of the people you know in each of those groups, drawing a circle around each name.
3. Pray and invite the Spirit of God to highlight certain relationships to focus on.
4. As you go about your daily life, pay attention to who you seem to be connecting with more.
5. Keep this Oikos map in your Bible; periodically take it out to update it and pray, asking God a simple question, **"What is one next step of love, presence, or connection you're inviting me into?"** Not five steps. Not a long-term strategy. Just one faithful next step. That step might be: initiating a conversation, listening more deeply, sharing a meal, offering prayer, simply being more present, or sharing about your own faith.



Personal Spiritual Exercises

Just like physical exercises help strengthen and stretch our bodies for healthy living, these spiritual exercises are meant to move us spiritually in ways that may be new so that we might experience inner growth. Since God longs for us to experience Him with our whole selves—mind, body, spirit— we invite you to strengthen your souls with exercises that challenge and stretch you in new ways. Choose one and commit to repeating it until you gain strength in that area.

1) Scripture Reading: to listen and soak in the Word as an experience of the words washing over you. Read or listen to chapters 13-16 of Romans at least twice/week. As you take it in, resist the impulse to study and parse the details. The point is not to gain "head knowledge" but a stirring in the heart as the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life in you.

2) Memorization to internalize God's Word. A key passage for this session is ***Romans 15:4-6***. Commit to memorize it yourself and encourage others in your group to do it with you.

3) Walk & Pray: to actively engage with the scripture passage. Write out the memory verse above (in #2) on a card to take with you while you walk. As you walk and think on the scripture, take time to ask God, "Is there anything I need to know about my life related to these verses?"

4) Journal Reflection: to practice remembering what God has done. Make time in your schedule to put down in writing the feelings and thoughts that are stirring as you interact with the Word of God.

5) Self-control Exercise: to help you come to stillness from a busy or hurried pace of life. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Sit upright but comfortably in a chair with your palms open and upward on your lap. Focus on a word or short phrase about the character of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. When your thoughts wander to the things on your to-do list or other people's needs, redirect them back to the character of God. When the 10 minutes is up, close in a short prayer of gratitude.

Prayer

Praying together in a group is different than praying alone with God. It's a conversation that can help you grow closer to each other as you are in God's presence. One way to pray follows this often-used pattern in scripture – acknowledge who God is, recognize the need we have for Him, and ask to partner with Him on behalf of others. When possible, use the passage of scripture from this week's sermon as your starting point, then form a prayer that follows this pattern:

God, our Father, this week we learned that you are _____ and _____ .

As I looked into your Word, I understood how I need you to _____. Help me to be faithful to _____ in the week ahead.

Other people are on my heart, and I trust that you have put them there for a reason. I ask for your will to be accomplished in their life as they _____. Help me to know how to respond well to the needs of _____, even as my first step is in praying for them right now.

Each group engages in prayer differently. Some groups go around and allow anyone to pray who desires to do so. Other groups have several people pray or maybe 1 person closes the group in prayer. Still other groups split into smaller groups of 2-3 people, and those people pray for each other. How you choose to engage in prayer is dependent on your group and your choice to ENGAGE! We learn to pray by praying and by listening and praying with others!