

## Getting Started

1. Do you enjoy learning? Are you still committed to learning new things? What have you learned recently?
2. Do you think you know everything about the gospel?
3. What is your favorite book of the Bible? Why is it your favorite?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

## Digging Deeper

### 5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 21:

#### Q. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;<sup>1</sup> it is also a wholehearted trust,<sup>2</sup> which the Holy Spirit creates in me<sup>3</sup> by the gospel,<sup>4</sup> that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also,<sup>5</sup> forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation.<sup>6</sup> These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19 <sup>2</sup> Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16 <sup>3</sup> Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14 <sup>4</sup> Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21 <sup>5</sup> Gal. 2:20 <sup>6</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10 <sup>7</sup> Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

Do you have true faith?

6. Read Acts 9:1-22. How do these events give Paul the authority to be an apostle?
7. In Romans 1:16, Paul states that he is not ashamed of the gospel. 1 Cor. 1:22-25, 30 states that the gospel seems foolish to some people. How do you feel about the gospel?
8. Gratitude for God's work of grace in others was a constant feature of Paul's life (1 Cor. 11:4; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:1; Philemon. 4). Are you praying specifically for people in your life to hear the gospel? Are you thanking God for those who come to know him?

## Application

9. Reading and understanding Romans can be a challenge, but it is an immense blessing. In the book of Romans we read of God's grace and the new lives we have in Christ. Spend time each week reading through the book of Romans seeing what the Holy Spirit has to say.

## Praying Scripture

### Psalm 8

- 1 O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.
- 2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants,  
you have established strength because of your foes,  
to still the enemy and the avenger.
- 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- 4 what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him?
- 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly  
beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
- 6 You have given him dominion over the works of your  
hands; you have put all things under his feet,
- 7 all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
- 8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- 9 O Lord, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · January 8, 2017

### The Gospel: Class is in Session

#### “Open to Learning”

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1:11, 12

- **Who wrote this letter?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Who is the letter written to?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **Why was the letter written?**

Topics: Gospel, Paul, learning