

Curriculum



SAMPLE *Romans: Soul Work*

Justification
Sanctification
Transformation
Glorification

A sample study from the Romans volume begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The *BBT 1-2-3™* Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Romans

The bad news is, we are all sinners. But the good news is that God, in His love, has found a way to forgive those sins and to restore us to a right relationship with Him. If you desire to know yourself or express to others what it means to follow Christ or if your soul just needs to be re-connected, Romans offers the clearest expressions of Christian belief.

1. **Justification**
 2. **Sanctification**
 3. **Transformation**
 4. **Glorification**
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LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

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PRAYERS



LEARN

Reality Makeover

The makeover shows are popular because we all long to be better than we are – not just physically, but emotionally, relationally, and spiritually. We're painfully aware of our imperfections and failures. When we blow up at someone at work, hurt someone we love, waste time or money on something foolish, insist on having our own way, watch something we wish we hadn't, and think things about people that we know aren't right – we hate those things about ourselves. We want to be better than that. We know God created us for better than that.

Those of us who follow Christ wish we could be more like Him in our daily activities and interactions. It won't happen with a few months of coaching and workouts. Real change happens from the inside out, over a period of many years, and it must be the work of a wise, gracious, and powerful God.

The makeover begins when God justifies us through faith in his Son, Jesus Christ. When we turn to Christ in repentance and faith, God forgives our sin, secures our future, and moves into our lives to begin fashioning us into the glorious men and women He created us to be.

Sanctification

But justification is just the beginning. It's wonderful to be forgiven, to get a fresh start, a clean slate – “Just as if we'd never sinned.” But what's to keep us from slipping back into old ways, making the same old mistakes we've always made? What can God do to truly transform us into the kind of people he had in mind when he created us, the kind of people we have always dreamed of being?

It's called sanctification and it is defined as “the gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Spirit by which He delivers the justified sinner from the pollution of sin, renews the sinner's nature in the image of God, and enables him to perform good works.” Justification is an act, but sanctification is a process. Justification is a moment-in-time transaction. Sanctification is a lifelong journey. At justification, God declares you to be a righteous person. In sanctification, God develops you into a righteous person.



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [Romans 6:1-11](#). What is Paul trying to help you understand?
2. Read [Romans 6:12-14](#). How does being under God's grace instead of the Mosaic Law help you to conquer sin?
3. Read [2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#). How are you sanctified – purified from the guilt and power of sin?
4. Re-read [Romans 6:12](#). How can you keep this command?
5. Re-read [Romans 6:13](#). How are you using your skills, abilities and body to serve God?

Application Question: How does God's sanctifying work free you daily from the slavery of sin? If you applied this to your work, how would it change you?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

1) Read [Romans 6:1-11](#). What is Paul trying to help you understand?



Your sinful nature is still with you, and will be until you are glorified, but you don't have to obey it anymore. It no longer has control over you: you died to it and therefore, you no longer have to obey it. Just as justification sets us free from the *penalty* of sin, sanctification sets us free from the *power* of sin.



Paul asks a very important question. One that people today raise regarding evangelical Christianity. They say it is presumptuous and arrogant to assure people that their sins will be forgiven through faith in Christ because it would only lead people to sin more than ever. The gospel message is radical, and Paul was no stranger to its opposition. He wants us to understand that even though we received the gift of righteousness ("all are justified freely by His grace" [Romans 3:24](#)) and no good deed or moral effort will earn us salvation, it does not mean we should keep sinning. Being dead to sin does *not* mean it is no longer within us or that it no longer can control and influence us. Instead, it means that we no longer have to obey our sinful nature – we are free to NOT sin. We don't have to surrender to the same old desires and temptations.



Facilitate a discussion with your group. You might ask: "When someone loses their temper with you at work or gives you a juicy piece of information, what can you do based on what you just learned?"

Notes: *You are free to remain calm because God has put a new nature inside you. You can stop the gossip right there because you no longer need to prove your worth with inside information about someone else.*

2) Read [Romans 6:12-14](#). How does being under God's grace instead of the Mosaic Law help you to conquer sin?



You are motivated by God's kindness, love and goodness, rather than a list of rules.



"Christ died to save us from our sins. His forgiveness is for the purpose of making us hate our sins. We cannot be servants of sin and servants of Christ at the same time. We must choose one or the other. It is not possible to please Christ and continue to live in sin at the same time. This does not mean we can entirely overcome all our sins and place ourselves beyond the need of His mercy. But it does mean that there are two essentially different ways of life: the way of Christ and the way of sin. In our hearts we belong to one or the other."

other, but not to both. Christ, the perfect embodiment of the Law of God, furnishes us with the motive and supplies us with the power to struggle on toward that perfect holiness which, by His grace, ultimately shall be ours.”¹



Facilitate a discussion with your group. You might ask: “Where would your loyalty lie – For a boss who simply lays down the law, or one who is good, kind and loving?”

Notes:

3) Read [2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#). How are you sanctified – purified from the guilt and power of sin?



God calls you to reflect His Holiness. Fortunately, you are not left alone to accomplish this by your own efforts. God sent his Spirit to indwell in every believer to help you live the Christian life.



God has purchased our emancipation and sent His Spirit to indwell in us. By the death and resurrection of His Son, He has freed us from the penalty and power of sin. We really can become new people, the people we have always wanted to be, the people He created us to be, but only if we choose to be free. Only by deliberate, daily decisions can we leave behind the brothel of sin and walk in newness of life.

Notes:

4) Re-read [Romans 6:12](#). How can you keep this command?



First, you have to understand that justification – declared “not guilty” and given a clean slate – is not enough. You also need to understand that you have been set free from the power of sin. You can decide sin will no longer control you – declaring you are ready to live a different life – free from sin.



If justification was all God did for us, we would be doomed to make a mess of things all over again. If He only freed us from the penalty of sin, we would still be slaves to lust, pride, greed, selfishness and anger. While sin can tempt us, it can't control us. We need to remind ourselves we are free to be the people God created us to be. There are moments of decision when we can intentionally turn our back on sin and determine to walk in the newness of life with the help of the Holy Spirit. At any critical moment, remind yourself of this, listen to His Spirit and find yourself free to walk away from all kinds of temptations.



Facilitate a discussion with your group. You might ask: “Have you experienced a moment of decision about some sinful habit, relationship or attitude.”

Notes: *You don't have to bend the truth to close a deal or use that four-letter word. You don't have to have a nicer car than the people next door to prove your worth. You don't need a drink to calm you down or to loosen you up. You don't have to give yourself away sexually to feel loved and valuable. Remind yourself of this command every time you have the opportunity to do something wrong, stupid, selfish or hurtful.*

¹ Halley's Bible Handbook: NIV. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007, p. 695.

5) Re-read [Romans 6:13](#). How are you using your skills, abilities and body to serve God?



You must choose, moment by moment, to live for God.



Every day, a hundred times a day, we have the choice to serve sin or to serve God – with every part of our being. Take our hands, for instance. We can use them to hit somebody or shake their hand. We can use them to steal something or to do an honest day's work. We can use our eyes to lust after people or things or instead appreciate the beauty of the people and the world around us. With our mouths, we can curse and demean or bless and encourage. With our minds, we can obsess over negative, hurtful, gloomy thoughts or pursue truth, knowledge, and wisdom. With our whole self, and every part of ourselves, we can serve sin – or we can serve God – the one who created us and destined us for eternal glory. It's a choice, every moment of every day.

Notes:

Application Question: How does God's sanctifying work free you daily from the slavery of sin? If you applied this to your work, how would it change you?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: What recurring scenarios at home, at work, at church, and/or in my community am I most tempted to ignore my power over sin and fall into temptation? Try to memorize this verse, "Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires." [Romans 6:12](#)

PLEASE NOTE: This is study 2 of [Romans](#). What will you consider next? Consult a [BBT Coach](#) for suggestions.



PRAYERS

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LEARN

Paul says that because of Christ, sanctification frees believers from the power of sin. It is now possible to defy the temptations that believers encounter. This work is not something that the Roman believers have to do by themselves. The Spirit dwells in them, renewing their soul and empowering them to daily choose to live for God.

Scripture References for this study: [Romans 3:24](#), [Romans 6:1-14](#) & [2 Corinthians 4:17-18](#)



LIVE

- Daily deliverance from sin
- Daily renewal of your soul
- Daily empowerment by the Spirit

Application Question: How does God's sanctifying work free you daily from the slavery of sin? If you applied this to your work, how would it change you?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: What recurring scenarios at home, at work, at church, and/or in my community am I most tempted to ignore my power to resist and fall into temptation? Try to memorize this verse, "Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires." [Romans 6:12](#)

Sample