

## HOW A CULTURE CRUMBLES

### THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Acts 9:31 & 1 Timothy 1:12-15

### THE PASSAGE

Romans 1:13-32

#### Two Important Words

Romans 1:13-17 Hebrews 11:6 Ephesians 2:8-9

#### Here's Why We All Desperately Need Jesus

Romans 1:18-32

### HOW A CULTURE CRUMBLES

Step 1: **IGNORE** God (vs 21)

Step 2: **REDEFINE** God (vs 22-23)

Step 3: Set aside all **SEXUAL RESTRAINTS** (vs 24-27)

Step 4: Set aside all **RELATIONAL RESTRAINTS** (vs 28-31)

Step 5: **PROMOTE** & **CELEBRATE** sin (vs 32)

### TWO LESSONS TO TAKE HOME

(1) This isn't a list to show us why **EVERYONE ELSE** needs Jesus.

It's meant to show us why **WE** need Jesus.

(2) The solution to a messed-up culture isn't to make  
**NON-CHRISTIANS LIVE LIKE CHRISTIANS.**

It's to introduce everyone to **JESUS.**

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 15, 2017

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## Welcome to the Winter Quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Winter Growth Group Quarter. Your first meeting will include a potluck dinner, time to get acquainted, as well as time to discuss your Growth Group Covenant. The homework has been shortened this week to allow ample time to accomplish this.

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting as you come together to connect and encourage one another to grow and to see God work!

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you could live in a movie, TV show, or book, what would it be?

2. In 2017 which one of the following do you hope to experience the most and why?

- Adventure
- Relaxation
- Challenge
- Fun
- Something else (\_\_\_\_\_)

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we saw that Paul's list written in Romans 1 isn't about how others need Jesus, but rather how we each need Jesus. How do the following verses affirm our need for Jesus or show what that looks like and/or the positive result that follows?

**2 Timothy 1:7** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>7</sup>For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

**John 14:6** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Galatians 2:20** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>20</sup>I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Romans 5:8** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. One of Paul's purposes in writing Romans was to reach the people of Rome with the Good News of what Jesus has done for everyone! What do the following verses say about how to reach and introduce others to Jesus?

**Matthew 5:14-16** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Colossians 4:2-6** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Further Instructions*

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

**John 13:35** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

As we begin this quarter and look to the new year of 2017, is there a statement or idea from the verses above that you would like to remember to live out this next year to help others see Jesus? If so, explain.

## **LAUNCHING YOUR GROWTH GROUP QUARTER**

Every quarter a group meets, it's interesting to see how God works as you get to know each other better, apply God's Word, and encourage each other to grow. Before you go over the Covenant in your group, take a moment to discuss your responses to the question below:

What are you looking forward to in your Growth Group this quarter?

## **THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS**

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.

## SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church because we are the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.



The "Amazing Race To Serve" event is just three weeks away on **Saturday, February 4!** It will be part race, part party and all FUN for everyone, from the adrenaline junkie to the couch potato and everyone in between. If you haven't already, start making your plans to be part of a team, support a team, or just cheer a team on! Don't miss the new **family friendly course** option and the **grand prize fundraising challenge!**

You can sign up, make a donation, become a corporate sponsor, or get more information online at [amazingracetoserve.com](http://amazingracetoserve.com)

*All money raised will go to our next Weekend of Service, scheduled for April 29-30, 2017.*