

Small Group Discussion Guide — April 12, 2026

- Series: The Basics
 - Sermon: Level Ground, Sober Truth
 - Scripture: Romans 3:23-24
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CONNECT

Have you ever been in a situation where everyone is in the “same boat,” a time when the playing field is leveled for everyone regardless of age, social status, educational level, or monetary wealth? Please share.

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Last week David preached on the Resurrection. He mentioned how the first fruits of a given season reveals what the future harvest will be like. He went on to say that Jesus was resurrected on the Feast of First Fruits and that He is a first fruit. What is the spiritual significance in all of this for us?

ENGAGE

Romans 3:23 states that all have sinned. Do non-Christians you know believe there is such a thing as sin? What do you think is the definition of sin for most non-believers in our culture? And finally, and most importantly, what is God’s definition of sin?

The Romans Road lays out the basics of our faith. Read the following verses and dwell on their respective meaning, their respective implications. Spend some time with them - Romans 3:23, 6:23a, 5:8, 6:23b, 10:9-10, 13. How do these truths inform how you should view God? And how do they inform how you should view yourself and life in general?

APPLY

Pete mentioned that we can often diminish our sins. We may justify our actions, or fake our righteousness, or generalize our sin and not name it. Think deeply about your own life. Which of these three actions are you prone to pursue? Knowing these three diminishing actions, and your own tendency, how should you change the way you think or behave? How can you operationalize new thinking or behavior?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we are all sinners in your sight, we all fall short of your glory. We often fake our righteousness. We sometimes fall into the trap of generalizing our sin instead of naming it. At times we even downplay or justify our sin. Help us to more fully understand our need for you, to admit and to own our sin. Holy Spirit, please not only convict us of our sin, but strengthen us so that we may turn from it and humbly repent. And last, but not least, thank you for your forgiveness for we know that if we confess our sin, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

GOING DEEPER

Pete mentioned that John Piper once said that with the Romans Road we are to walk in confidence, with light in our eye and with conviction in our voice, unless we forget to tie our shoes. What did he mean in making this statement?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:8, 6:23, 8:1, 10:9, John 3:16

QUOTES

Sin is a cruel tyrant that holds the human race imprisoned in guilt and under judgement. Sin is on the top of us, weighs us down and is a crushing burden.
- John Stott

Original sin is the only part of the Christian Theology that can be empirically verified. It's a fact as practical as potatoes. - G.K. Chesterton