

Forged

STUDY GUIDE



SUMMIT VIEW CHURCH
summitview.net/forged

Introduction

How to Use This Guide

This guide has been specifically prepared with you in mind. It will help life groups grow deeper together in relationship with God and one another. Each week there are conversations starters to help get things rolling, followed by questions for discussion based on the text. Each week wraps up with personal applications and things to pray for to help you grow spiritually.

We realize you may not be able to get to every question. Pick the ones that would best work for your group. Obviously, you are more than welcome to pull in other resources, or highlights from the sermons each week. Our hope is that by participating in this study, you will have a firmer grasp on the Scriptures and a stronger connection with Christ.

Introduction

Last year did not go as planned. New obstacles and challenges were presented before us on a seemingly monthly, if not weekly basis. Forget growing, many of us were looking simply to survive. We usher in 2021 with a certain level of expectancy that it cannot get much worse and it must get better.... Right?!? Amid a storm, we have battened down the hatches and have sought to find ways to just make it through. However, what if, for those who are called by God, He was attempting to do a work in them all along? Paul tells us in Romans 8:28, God is at work in our lives for good. What is that good exactly? The ultimate good, transformation to make us look more like the image and likeness of his Son (Rom. 8:29). Sometimes this is a gentle work of the Spirit by revealing things to us, other times it's placing us into the furnace to soften us and subsequently bringing a hammer in to do the shaping.

FORGED

*Forged /fôrjd/
to make or shape metal by
heating it in a fire or furnace
and beating or hammering it.*

Introduction

We hold our ultimate future with certainty, knowing that God will bring it unto completion (Rom. 8:30). If there is anything this past year has taught us, it is that we should hold our plans and expectations of the immediate a lot more loosely. While we cannot control our circumstances, we can control how we view and approach things.

The next four weeks we will be spending time in Romans 8 and 12, looking at four calls to action, four heart postures, four ways of living that God has invited his people to press into. While these have been evident in God's people's lives all along, it appears that these are four He is inviting us to reassess and commit to pursuing in 2021, regardless of what comes next.

This year God is inviting the people of Summit View to be led by the Spirit in all that they do. Live with an expectancy, longing for Jesus' return. Love those in our lives, community, and church selflessly. To walk humbly, not dependent on our own strength, and treating others with the value and dignity they carry as image bearers of God.



Introduction

Scripture Memorization

Psalm 119:11

*I have stored up
your word in my
heart, that I might
not sin against
you.*

"Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization." ("Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person" by Dallas Willard)

During this four-week series, we'll be primarily working through two chapters in the book of Romans. Each week will key in on one specific concept with one key verse. We'd encourage you to make a commitment to memorizing it. Consider asking your family or your life group to join you in this. Scripture memorization allows us to meditate and reflect upon God's word to bring about further Christlike transformation. It helps us experience triumph over sin, It provides us the tools to comfort and counsel one another as well as communicate the Gospel to others. Ultimately it is an act of worship to find enjoyment with God. The following verses have been selected for the coming month.



WEEK 1
Romans 8:14

WEEK 2
Romans 8:25

WEEK 3
Romans 8:37 & Romans 12:10

WEEK 4
Romans 12:3

Introduction

New Year? Another Chance to Grow in your Bible!

For your convenience, we've compiled a list of Bible reading plans for you to choose from (all available through the Bible app).

- **The Bible Project | The Bible** – This plan takes you on a chronological journey through the entire Bible over the course of one year. Each book includes videos specifically designed to enhance your understanding and engagement with God's Word.
- **First Steps** – This plan includes just a few, brief readings each day to build consistency and confidence for new believers or those wanting to explore the Bible more.
- **M'Cheyne One Year Plan** - Read the New Testament and Psalms twice and the Old Testament once. – For more resources on this plan, including podcasts & devotional material visit: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/read-bible-tgc-2020/>



Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Romans 8:14

*For all who are led
by the Spirit of God
are sons of God*

Introduction

Our first study in Forged is looking at what it will take for us to live a life led by the Spirit, not our own desires or comforts. Often people assume that Christianity is simply a restrictive or judgmental belief system. Unfortunately, the main point of Christianity is missed when the faith is viewed that way. This false view misses out on the wonderful

message of the forgiveness of sins offered freely through Jesus Christ. Not only is there a forgiveness of sins but also the gift of eternal life, as well as the gift of the Holy Spirit to lead and empower your new life. The Holy Spirit helps us overcome trials, tribulations, and sins, making us experience true freedom.

Main Idea:

Gods indwelling Spirit leads us in a life of freedom from sin and death.

Conversation Starter

Q. At the beginning of each year, people often make resolutions to make significant changes within their lives. Can you think back to one you may have made in the past you were successful with and what empowered you to meet that goal?

*“Be killing sin or it
will be killing you.”*

– John Owen, *The
Mortification of Sin
in Believers*



"God not only provides in Christ the full completion of the law's demands for the believer, but he also sends the Spirit into the hearts of believers to empower a new obedience to his demands."

– Douglas Moo

Read & Discuss

READ ROMANS 8:1-17

Q. Familiarize yourself with this passage. Read it aloud, taking note each time Paul mentions something the Spirit does within a believer's life. What are some of these things? Is there anything that surprises you? Anything that brings comfort to you in this season? Anything that challenges you?

Q. In your own words summarize verses 1-4; what exactly has God done? How is this good news.

Follow Up: What does "no condemnation" mean to you?

Q. Looking at verses 5-8, what is the difference between those who live according to the flesh and those who live according to the Spirit? How can one tell the difference in their own life?

Follow Up: What practical steps can we take to have "our minds set on the things of the Spirit" (verse 5)?

Q. How does Paul describe the identity of believers in verses 14-17?

Q. Based upon what Paul says in verse 17, suffering is presupposed as a normal part of the Christian life, meaning that living a life led by the Spirit isn't always easy. How does this compare with the expectations of most Christians today?

Q. How would you share the truths from this passage with someone who is not a Christian? How would you describe to them a life led by the Spirit?

Personal Application / Reflection

When presented with the truth from Romans 8:1-17, we are told "to put to death the deeds of the body" (see verse 13). What this verse teaches us about is a death that leads to life. Theologians of the past have called this *mortification of sin*.

Mortification is neither masochism (taking pleasure in self-inflicted pain), nor asceticism (resenting and rejecting the fact that we have bodies and natural bodily appetites). It is rather a clear-sighted recognition of evil as evil, leading to such a decisive and radical repudiation of it that no imagery can do it justice except 'putting to death'.¹

It's an act in which believers acknowledge sinful impulses that arise from inside and resist them for the sake of living in the power of the Spirit. All of this is done in service to living a life more in tune with and led by the Spirit. Pray for God to reveal areas in which you may be more alive to sin than to God. Confess these areas and ask for God to provide you victories in them for the weeks, months, and year to come.

For further reading on Mortification, consider reading: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-mortification-of-sin/>

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World, The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 228.



Romans 8:25

*But if we hope
for what we
do not see, we
wait for it with
patience.*

Introduction

During the month of December, the church celebrates and remembers Christ's first advent, his first coming. Today, we live in the time between his first and second advent, patiently awaiting his return. Because of this we live in the tension known as the "already but not yet". We are "already" in the kingdom, but we do "not yet" see it in its glory. God's promises are being

fulfilled; however, they are not yet complete, there is more to come! The first coming of Christ is definitive and conclusive, which is why our hope is sure and certain; though not yet seen, our hope will be fulfilled at Christ's second coming. As God's people in this time, we are called to embrace this tension with realistic expectations of what we are to face in our time, yet not without hope knowing something greater is coming.

MAIN IDEA

Christians find hope in God's promise that one day we will be glorified and all of creation will be redeemed.

Conversation Starter

Q. What do you think are some of the biggest problems facing our world today? What is the source of that problem?

Consider watching this short clip to help set up our discussion time:
<https://www.crossway.org/articles/the-already-and-the-not-yet/>

*"God works all things
together for your
good. If the waves
roll against you, it
only speeds your ship
towards the port."*

- Charles H. Spurgeon

"Keep in mind that verse 28 says all things work together for good. That doesn't mean that when something bad happens, we can decide to give God a week to show us how the situation is going to turn out for good. In fact, don't wait a month. Don't wait a year. Don't wait a decade. The promise isn't for a month or a year or a decade. The promise is not that we will see how every bad patch in our lives works out for our good. The promise is that God will make sure that all the bad circumstances will work together for your life in its totality."

– Tim Keller

Read & Discuss

READ ROMANS 8:18-30

- Q.** How does Paul describe the difference between his present reality and his expected future?
- Q.** How does creation waiting for its own redemption fit into the story of God's plan of salvation?
- Follow up:** Where else in the Bible is restoration of this broken world mentioned? Hint: See Isaiah 65:17–25; 66:7–24; Colossians 1:20; Acts 3:21
- Q.** Paul mentions three kinds of "groaning" in verses 22, 23, and 26. Identify each one, the cause of the groaning, and the long waited for hopeful outcome.
- Q.** One of the best ways to endure hardship, wait expectantly, and not lose hope is by having a vibrant prayer life. Yet it is in these moments we often struggle to find the words or organize our thoughts. How does Paul tell us God helps us in these seasons?
- Q.** Romans 8:28 is often quoted and one of the more famous Bible verses in all of Scripture. However, the promise that we cling to is connected to something even greater. What is the criteria for this promise?

Personal Application / Reflection

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus says this: "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10) When we recite this prayer, we are asking

for God to move in such a way that every knee bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, that He will be made King in every human heart. Ultimately, we're crying out and asking for His return. As we conclude our study this week, take some time confessing areas in which we have grown impatient in waiting for his return. Even consider ways in which we've been resistant to the work He's doing in establishing his Kingdom.

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

For further reading on the "Already, Not Yet" consider reading: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/already-not-yet>



Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Introduction

If you had the power and ability to write your own obituary, what is it that you would want to have said about you?" How would you want to be remembered? In this week's study, we'll be examining how for a believer, our aim in life is to be loved by God, love God and love others with a God-like love. As disciples of Jesus, we have been called to not only look out for ourselves or to our own interests, but also the interest and well-being of others. Love without action is not love. This week's study calls for a radical yet biblical display of love.

MAIN IDEA

Be loved by Jesus. Love Jesus. Love like Jesus.

Conversation Starter

Q. Have you ever served someone to meet a real need in real time simply because you wanted the person to know and experience the love of Jesus? If so, share about that time.

"If you are suffering from a bad man's injustice, forgive him lest there be two bad men."

– Saint Augustine

**Romans 12:10**

*Love one another with brotherly affection.
Outdo one another in showing honor.*

“Why is love so distinctive? Because the world doesn't know much about love. A world ruled by sin is a world ruled by self, so people will never experience real love apart from Christ”
– Ken Sande

Read & Discuss

READ ROMANS 8:31-37

Q. Read Romans 8:31-32 and 1 John 3:1. What do these verses teach us about God and how he feels about his people?

Follow Up: How does this love impact the way we worship, pray, and live out our relationship with him?

Follow Up: How should this love impact the way we interact with others in our lives?

Q. Verses 31-36 compose a series of rhetorical questions. Identify these questions and answers proposed by Paul that speak to potential obstacles to God's love in our lives. *Note: It's important to remember that Paul outwardly rejects any of these obstacles.*

Follow Up: What are some contemporary challenges that we could insert as obstacles for modern day believers? What hope does this passage offer them?

Notes

Personal Application / Reflection

Deuteronomy 6:4

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

In Mark 12:28-31 Jesus is proposed a question by a scribe. In this interaction he asks Jesus which of God's commandments is of utmost importance. Jesus responds with what is introduced in Deuteronomy 6:4, to love the Lord your God. Jesus quickly follows up with another command, to love your neighbor as yourself. This loving God asks the objects of His love to be a conduit of love to other human beings.

One of the biggest hindrances to our ability to do this is our self-centeredness. Self-centeredness puts God and our neighbor indebted to our service. Take time in prayer and reflection considering, do you love the Lord above all things? Have you shown the love of God with your neighbor? If not, guilt and shaming yourself will not fix the problem. Only seeing and experiencing the love of God yourself. Take some time to reflect upon our memory verse in Romans 8:37 about God's love for you, asking for God to show you just how He has loved you.



Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Introduction

Humility and diversity should be a marker of God's people. Within the church there are men and women with diverse backgrounds, experiences, educations, temperament, and capacities. While it may be easy to list the differences, God invites us to build a community around the commonality we all share. A common Heavenly Father, the same Savior, and a Spirit indwelling us. In addition to the indwelling Spirit, we receive gifts for the good of the whole. In our final week of Forged, we will be examining Paul's exhortation to believers to live with humility with one another. Paul anchors all of this by solidifying our understanding in who God made us to be and how He's gifted each of us.

*Jack Miller, founder of World Harvest Mission, used to say that the entire Bible could be summed up with two sentences:
(1) Cheer up: you're a lot worse than you think you are, and
(2) Cheer up: God's grace is a lot bigger than you think it is.*





"There is, therefore, a great need for discernment in our self-understanding. Who am I? What is my 'self'? The answer is that I am a Jekyll and Hyde, a mixed-up kid, having both dignity because I was created and have been re-created in the image of God, and depravity because I still have a fallen and rebellious nature. I am both noble and ignoble, beautiful and ugly, good and bad, upright and twisted, image and child of God, and yet sometimes yielding obsequious homage to the devil from whose clutches Christ has rescued me."

- John Stott – The Cross of Christ

Main Idea:

A right view of God leads to a right view of self.

Conversation Starter

Q. What characteristics would you use to define authentic Biblical maturity?

NOTE: This week we will be touching on the spiritual gifts; for more teaching and study content for the Spiritual Gifts, consider visiting our previous series Empowered here: <http://summitview.net/empowered/>

Read & Discuss

READ ROMANS 12:3-8

Q. What is humility? Why is it necessary for being a part of a community?

Follow Up: What is the difference between thinking "more highly than you ought to think" and thinking "with sober judgement"?

Follow Up: What is the difference between the view Paul speaks to that we should have for ourselves and how the world would speak to one's "self-esteem"?

Q. Why do you think Paul starts his argument for humility with the emphasis on the grace shown to him? How should that instruct us?

Q. What seems to be the logical connection between the command in verse 3 and the illustration Paul uses in the rest of the passage describing our participation in the body of Christ?

Q. Our text this week can be broken down into 3 main sections with 3 questions.

- 1. Who are you?** - Verse 3 – Accurately thinking about yourself
- 2. Where do you belong?** – Verses 4-5 – Knowing the role we fill
- 3. What are you supposed to do?** – Verses 6-8 – Discovering & Deploying your gift(s)

Of these three questions, which one do you feel as if you have the clearest understanding of? Which one needs more time and help to discover?

Q. What are the gifts that Paul mentions here in this passage? How are they useful to our church today?

Follow Up: Why is it important for us to remember that these gifts we have been given are gifts of grace to us? How does this help us walk in humility as Paul did at the beginning of the passage?

Follow Up: In what ways might we be able to help others recognize and develop these gifts

3 Main Questions

1. Who are you? - Verse 3 – Accurately thinking about yourself
2. Where do you belong? – Verses 4-5 – Knowing the role we fill
3. What are you supposed to do? – Verses 6-8 – Discovering & Deploying your gift(s)



1 Corinthians 15:9-10a

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain

Personal Application / Reflection

Self-examination is an essential part of the sanctification process. It reveals areas in which we are in lock-step with becoming more like Jesus, and areas that may need a little attention, effort, and a whole lot of prayer. It provides us an opportunity to let the Spirit open our heart to what is true about me. We examine our life for conformity to God and his ways. Self-examination brings about encouragement when there is alignment, and challenges to repent and welcome guidance to

change. This week we addressed key areas within a disciple's life our humility and the exercising of the gifts God has us. Spend time in prayer this week asking God if you are truly making progress in this area of your spiritual formation.





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