

Identity in Christ

KEY VERSES

Romans 7:21-25

KEY THEMES

Struggle with the sin nature
Victory over sin possible
Identity in Christ

TEACHING NOTES



The principle of life (Romans 7:21)



Struggle with the sin nature (Romans 7:22-23)



Despair (Romans 7:24)

INTRODUCTION
INNOCENCE
CONSCIENCE
HUMAN GOVT.
PROMISE
LAW
GRACE

 **Victory over sin possible (Romans 7:25, 7:6)**

Know, consider, surrender

Truth about God

 **Identity in Christ (Galatians 2:20-21, Colossians 3:1-3)**

Lesson objective: *To rightly identify where the struggle with our sin nature comes from as well as that the victory over it is found in Jesus Christ*

PERSONAL STUDY

Study 1

Prepare your heart and mind

Pray Psalm 139:23-24 as a way of preparing to examine your heart before the Lord during today's study time.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

One of last week's Personal Study times instructed you to make two lists: things you have learned to be true about God and things God says is true about you and what He has done for you. Then in your small group you had an opportunity to discuss responses to those two questions. You should now have a good grasp of what you **know** to be true about God with which to draw upon. Please have this sheet from last week in front of you as you work through today's Personal Study.

Sitting quietly before God and taking as much time as you need, write out struggles you are currently facing.

Now choose one of the struggles from above. With that struggle in mind, look down your lists from last week to find a truth that you can apply. **Consider** this truth. Ask yourself, "Does this truth contradict what I believe to be true about my struggle?" Continue to go through your list, applying other truths to this particular situation. Write down your thoughts and prayers to God.

With the information you now have in front of you, it's time to make a choice. Will you choose to believe what God says is true or will you continue to be in bondage to the lies fueling the situation? **Surrendering** to God's Spirit is choosing to live in light of the truth, while surrendering to the sinful nature is choosing to ignore the truth. If you are ready to yield to God, write out a prayer of surrender in the space provided.

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. – 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Take time over the week to apply this method to every struggle you face. Repeat this practice as struggles come up in the future. Keep in mind that surrendering is an ongoing process.

Key verse

Put to memory Romans 7:24-25a. Place the provided scripture someplace you'll see it throughout the day.

Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. – Romans 7:24-25a

Prayer time

Close this time of study in prayer. Ask God to give you the strength to surrender to His Spirit. Thank Him for the way He is working in your life.

PARENT GUIDE

Parents, last week you worked on making a list with your children of what they knew about God and what He has done for them. This week we will be taking the next step with this list and talking about how we apply all these truths to our lives. Below are a few questions and scenarios to help jumpstart the conversation.

Questions

Think about your week. Were there any situations where one of the truths we talked about last week could have been important?

Walk through each item on your list from last week, and to the right of each statement write an area or situation in your lives where you could apply this truth.

Scenarios (Talk about what truths would be important in each of these scenarios.)

Friends – I have a hard time letting my friend pick what we're going to do when we hang out.

Parents – Sometimes I have a hard time obeying my parents.

Siblings – I usually fight with my brother or sister about who gets to pick the TV show.

Once you have finished discussing the application of these truths, take a few moments to pray about how you can apply them. Place the list in a central location where you can continue to add to it. Be strategic and make plans to revisit the list later this week to see how it has changed.

ADDITIONAL STUDY**Read Romans 8:1-2****Observation**

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

Interpretation

(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)

Application

(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)