

Autumn 2011

# Homegroup Study Guide

## St Mark's Battersea Rise

Dear Homegroup Leaders,

I hope you have all had a good summer and that you were able to enjoy a bit of a break from leading homegroup in August.

Now that Autumn is upon us, here is this term's guide with questions and material to assist you in your meetings together. In the "What Matters to us" section you'll see that the material focuses on four of the targets and the suggestion is that you spend the month engaging with these two themes.

Thank you all for your ongoing leadership, St Mark's Battersea Rise wouldn't be what it is without you doing what you do!

Bless you as you meet this term. I look forward to hearing the stories of how God has met with you as you've met together.

Sincerely

Dave Larlee

### Coming Under Grace

Continuing our series in the letter to the Romans we'll be exploring chapters 6-8; getting up close and personal with the Grace of God. How do I overcome old habits? Will my faith survive tough times? What's my purpose in life?

### What Matters to us

At the AVS we shared God's call on our community and set out some targets for how we might realize this vision. In this series we'll be taking a practical look at our call to be a part of our Church, Community, City, Country and Creation.

Don't Forget the  
Pastoral Leaders Evening!  
November 7th, 2011

# Coming under Grace

## Romans 6

1. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are not only historical facts and significant doctrines, but also personal experiences. In what way is this true for you?

2. What is the relationship between our freedom from the tyranny of sin on the one hand and the crucifixion of Jesus on the other?

3. What does it mean for you to 'live with' Christ?

4. What is the major secret of 'holy living'? Have you discovered it?

5. In verses 15-23 Paul deals again with the question whether grace encourages sin. What 'two significant shifts of emphasis' are there compared with his answer in verses 1-14?

6. What contrasts does Paul draw out between slavery to sin and slavery to righteousness?

*Our heavenly Father says to us every day: "My dear child, you must always remember who you are".*

## Romans 7

1. How do the questions Paul asks in verses 7 & 13 provide the framework for the passage?
2. Look at verse 7. What has Paul said previously that might lead to the conclusion that the law is sin?
3. To what extent can you identify with Paul's struggles in these verses? Explain
4. According to verses 14-20, why does Paul feel so wretched?

5. Why is it important to realize that only Christ can rescue us from the power of sin?

## Romans 8

1. How many times does the word Spirit occur in v 1- 17? If we were unable to defeat sin as non-Christians, how can we as Christians?
2. This chapter describes how the law of sin brought about our spiritual death. What has God done to free us from the law of sin and death? (see v 1-4)
3. How does this affect the outcome of our struggle with sin described in v13-25?
4. What evidence do you see of your life being controlled by the Spirit? What are the result of having the Spirit live in us v 10-11 ?
5. What words and vivid images in these verses underscore the difficulties of the present time?
6. How can 'eager expectation' (v 19) help us cope with our present problems and sufferings?
7. Read Romans 8:28-39. Describe the mood of these verses.
8. How might trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or the threat of death cause us to question God's love for us? (v. 35-36)
9. In spite of these things, why does Paul proclaim that we are 'more than conquerors'?



# What Matters to us

## Both Personal and Accountable

**Target 1: Double the percentage of members who read their Bible regularly.**

1. As a home group share with each other how you engage with scripture on a regular basis.
2. For fresh inspiration in your daily bible reading visit the htb, bible in a year website (below) or try one of the bible notes available from the church bookstore.

<http://www.htb.org.uk/bible-in-one-year>

**Target 2: Increase the percentage of members in homegroups to 75%**

1. Discuss what you enjoy most about church. Share with each other what your first experience of St Marks was like.
2. Agree as a home group to make a visitor on Sunday feel at home and welcomed by introducing them to your group over coffee.

The logo for St Marks, featuring three overlapping blue circles of varying shades above the text "st marks" in a bold, dark blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

st marks

## Both to Home and on the Street

**Target 3: Increase the men:women ratio to 45:55**

1. Choose one man you know who doesn't know Jesus create a list of their names. Pray for these men regularly as a homegroup. That they encounter Jesus and for an opportunity to invite them to St Mark's.
2. Pray for the Women's Weekend Nov 25- 27. Sign up if you haven't already.
3. Pray for this term's Alpha course and pray for an opportunity to invite someone along to the Spring term course.

**Target 4: More opportunities to connect with local residents**

1. Pray for the residents of the Peabody estate and give thanks to God for the opportunities we've been given to connect with them. Pray for Dan Burrows our Community Ministries Coordinator and his work in our local community.
2. Pray for Phil Thain and the ministry of Future Skills as it seeks to empower, support, care for and give hope to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people of the area.
3. Pray for your Connect Group and brainstorm how you might connect with the local community in mission.

