

Scripture: Romans 1:18-32

Also: Psalm 8:3-4; 19:1; 139:13-15

OPEN:

1. What is your most vivid childhood memory of being disciplined? How did you feel about it then? Now?

DIG:

1. If verse 17 is the solution, how do verses 18-21 describe the problem?
2. From verses 19-21 (also Psalm 8:3-4; 19:1; 139:13-15), what do you know about God through nature?
3. What phrases in verses 18, 21-23, 25, and 28 describe attitudes or actions which lie behind the various acts of evil?
4. How does God respond to these evil attitudes. How might giving people over to this evil (verses 24, 26, and 28) be a part of their punishment? What does "giving over" mean? How does their "freedom" actually become a trap?

REFLECT:

1. How have you seen examples of a futile mind and a darkened heart in your own life? When has your freedom to resist God only ended up hurting you?
2. How would you use this section of scripture to talk with someone who believes people are basically good?
3. In reading through the list of sins in versus 29-32, how do you feel having some of your faults listed right along with the "really awful" sins others might commit?