

Scripture: Romans 7:7 — 7:25; Phil 3:4-6

OPEN:

1. During your teen years (if you can't remember back that far then younger years), what was one of your biggest struggles? How have you handled this struggle since?

DIG:

1. What is the significance in the shift in pronouns from 7:1-6 and this section? How does Paul's example in vv 7-11 illustrate what he meant in v 5? Give an example of this principle in your own life.
2. What parallels do you see between The Fall in Genesis 3 and what Paul is struggling with in vv 7-12?
3. How is it that the law that is actually supposed to lead to life actually leads to death? How do vv 14-20 answer this question?
4. Do you think Paul had this kind of inner turmoil prior to his conversion? How did Paul deal with the law then (see Phil 3:4-6)? What has Paul found in Christ?
5. Why do you think God's law was given for us to follow: As a means to be saved? As a guide once we are saved? A stumbling block, impossible to follow, which points the sinner to God's grace?

REFLECT:

1. In light of your own struggles with sin, how do you feel reading about Paul's conflict? How is this a model for a realistic, healthy self-image?
2. When have you experienced the sense of Jesus rescuing you from sin or situations that were way too big for you to handle? How does Jesus help you now?