



**SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C's of Small group health:**

**CONTENT** - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

**CONSISTENCY** - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

**CARE** - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

**CELEBRATION** - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

**COMMISSION** - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

**CHARACTER** - *as a leader - growing in my example for my group*

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**ICE BREAKER:** (Choose one)

- Did you ever get into a fight as a child? What happened?

**Into the Word:**

*Leader Note: Because of the complexity and depth of the past 2 weeks' Scripture passages, we will study the same verses preached this weekend. We will return to studying "parallel" passages next week.*

Read Romans 8:1-4

1) Why is condemnation such a powerful force in people's lives?

2) In your own life story, what have been the sources of condemnation?

3) Why do we struggle to believe, accept and live out the fact that in Christ we are not condemned?

Read Romans 8:5-13

4) How would you explain the Holy Spirit to a new Christian?

5) According to these verses, how does the Holy Spirit work and how do we cooperate with His work in us? *Teaching Tip: This is a good time to discuss the role of our thinking and mindset in how we are Spirit-led.*

6) How is our struggle against sin through the Spirit a sign of assurance (see v. 13)?

**Apply the Word:**

7) Think about a particular struggle in your life right now. Share what it means for you to reframe that struggle in terms of "flesh vs. Spirit."

8) How can you be more intentional in thinking about the things of the Spirit and maintaining a mindset focused on Christ?

**Prayer Time:** 2 options:

A-Practice Psalm 46:10 (being still to know God).

Leaders: Encourage your group just to fix their mind directly on God. They can focus on one of His attributes (holiness, mercy, sovereignty, goodness, etc) or on the Gospel of Jesus. Then just let everyone be still and practice "setting" their minds. You might even encourage group members to go to different rooms to have more solitude. Practice this stillness for about 5 minutes.

B-Sentence Prayer: Holy Spirit, I declare my dependence upon You in \_\_\_\_\_.