

EXPLAIN

Romans 4:1-8

People today are often searching for meaning, for forgiveness, for belonging. They look for fulfillment in consumer culture, social groupings, political affiliations, and lifestyle choices. Often, they don't find what they are seeking, or don't find the kind of meaning or belonging that lasts. So how might we guide others to find the meaning, forgiveness, and belonging we experience in knowing and following Jesus?

Monday: Read Romans 4:1-3.

How can faith in God's promises transform a person's life?

Practice Step:

Write down a personal example of how trusting God has shaped your life. Be ready to share it with someone searching for meaning.

Tuesday: Read Romans 4:4-5.

How can you help others understand that you don't have to earn God's love; that faith, not works, puts us right with God?

Practice Step:

Think of someone in your life who may believe they have to "earn" God's love. Reflect on what you would say to share the message of God's grace with them simply and clearly.

Wednesday: Read Romans 4:6-8.

What does it mean to you that God does not count your sins against you?

Practice Step:

Write an encouraging note or message to someone who may be struggling with guilt or remorse. Remind them of God's forgiveness and grace.

Thursday: Read Galatians 3:6-9.

Why do people search for belonging in culture, politics, or social groups?

How can you help someone find true belonging in Christ?

Practice Step:

Invite someone into Christian community—a conversation about what matters in life, a shared meal with a few friends, a Lenten small group starting in March, a worship service, a service opportunity, etc.

Friday: Read Philippians 3:7-11.

What does it mean to "know Christ"?

If someone asked, "Why do you believe in Jesus?" how would you answer?

Practice Step:

Practice explaining your faith in one or two sentences in a way that would be clear to someone who is not part of a church community. Share what you would say with a church friend or a family member.

Saturday: Read 1 Peter 3:8-22.

How do you find hope in knowing Jesus?

How can you prepare to share your faith with gentleness and respect?

Practice Step

Share with someone how your faith in Jesus gives you hope.

When Paul writes letters to the early church, he is often helping to explain who Jesus is, and why believing in Jesus is life-transforming. He desires to provide the early followers of Jesus with the language to explain the Gospel. He wants to be certain that distortion of the message, any inkling that God's love isn't a free and gracious gift to be accepted, is corrected. He is deeply aware of the cultural and political context, and how the message needs to be stated to help people hear the Good News. Are you equipped to explain the faith, the Gospel, to people along your path of life today? What do you need to be able to explain to others who Jesus is and why the love of Jesus matters?

Your readiness to explain who Jesus is can transform a life.