

Romans 3: The One About the Brothers  
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**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**Paul talks about sin a lot in the first chapters of Romans**

His focus is to help us understand what sin has done to us.

\*How does an accurate understanding of our own sin help us know how to talk to others about sin?

**God's gift of freedom demonstrates his faithfulness; we took that freedom and rebelled**

Read and discuss Romans 3:5-20 (NIV)

*<sup>5</sup> But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) <sup>6</sup> Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? <sup>7</sup> Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" <sup>8</sup> Why not say—as some slanderously claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just! <sup>9</sup> What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. <sup>10</sup> As it is written:*

*"There is no one righteous, not even one;*

*<sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands;  
there is no one who seeks God.*

*<sup>12</sup> All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one."*

*<sup>13</sup> "Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit."*

*"The poison of vipers is on their lips."*

*<sup>14</sup> "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."*

*<sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood;*

*<sup>16</sup> ruin and misery mark their ways,*

*<sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they do not know."*

*<sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

*<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*

\*What does this passage tell us about ourselves? What does it surface about your own brokenness?

\*What does it tell us about God?

**There are 2 ways to rebel against God and live for yourself:**

1. Do whatever you feel like doing. 2. Do so much good God is forced to bless you. Read or discuss Luke chapter 15. (2 Lost Sons parable)

\*What do these two look like in practice?

\*How do both of these rebellions break relationship?

\*What is the nature of your rebellion against God? Are you the older son or the younger son?

**There is only one Gospel, but younger brothers and older brothers experience it very differently**

What we all have in common is a Father who never gave up on us.

Read and discuss Romans 2:22-28 (NIV)

*<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— <sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

*<sup>27</sup> Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.*

\*How do these verses address both types of rebellion? What does it have to say to the younger brothers who do what they want to do and to the older brothers who does good things to get good things?

**Younger brothers need to practice obedience to know God's love**

**Older brothers need to practice transparency to know God's love**

\*How can listening to each other help us think and talk about sin in a better way?

\*What is the Spirit saying to you about they way you experience the Gospel and what to pursue?