

DISCUSSION GUIDE

JUNE

The Rise & Fall





JUNE 4TH, 2025

The Rise & Fall

SUMMARY

Over time, we've seen many people experience "The Rise & Fall". Whether famous or ordinary, the thing that we all have in common, is that all humans have boundaries. God since the beginning, has been placing boundaries on the earth and on mankind. When we go outside of those boundaries, is when we start having trouble. Boundaries are not to limit us, they're to protect us. The greatest boundary the world has seen is SIN. This separates us from experiencing a fulfilling relationship with God that will lead us to eternity but also life in abundance. The problem is that humanity tries everything to fill the void that separates us from God. The only true answer is His son Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and resurrected on the third day. Will you surrender your life to Jesus, or continue to live life separated from the one who created you? Today you can choose to surrender your sin and allow Him to forgive and begin the process of healing!

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Problem: If we don't learn to love and live by the boundaries of God, we will face destruction, because of sin.

What is Sin? Essentially, sin is loving and/or being dominated by anything other than God.

Romans 3:23 (NIV) 23 for ALL HAVE SINNED and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NIV) (a) 23 For the wages of sin is DEATH,

How does God get rid of a world of sin without getting rid of us, a people who contribute to sin?

Romans 6:23 (NIV) (b) 23 but the GIFT OF GOD is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 (NIV) 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus was born, died and resurrected for two reasons.

1. To forgive and save me from my sin.
2. To heal and restore my wounds.



01. Acknowledging Sin

SUMMARY

The Bible teaches us that we've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Then why do many people have a hard time giving their life to Jesus Christ? There are many reasons but a big reason is due to **PRIDE**. The Bible teaches us that in order to receive the free gift of salvation and life in abundance, we must recognize we are sinners and in need of a savior. Today, make the bold step of confessing the sin that so easily entangles humans. Many times humans are scared to confess sin because there are consequences to our actions but remember, God is not here to condemn (leads to death), He's here to convict (leads to life). Will you continue to walk in darkness or will you expose sin today once and for all?

KEY POINTS / VERSES

What is Sin? Essentially, sin is loving and/or being dominated by anything other than God.

What is the lasting consequence of SIN? Our sin separates us from God and keeps us from living the life He has planned for us. Without God in our life, it leads to a life and eternity of Destruction.

Hebrews 12 (NIV) 12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Read Genesis 3:1-14, what stands out?
- Have you ever been deceived (tricked) into thinking something was cool/good/pleasing, but then it made you suffer? What was it, how did it affect you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Read Hebrews 12:1-3, who do we have to “keep/fix our eyes on” in order to finish this race called life?
- Why is the answer Jesus and not something else?
- Do I want to run this race (life) with Jesus / without him?

Finish discussing the reflection questions above and close out in prayer for each student.



02. Equipped to Fight Sin with the Armor of God

SUMMARY

Acknowledging sin and the need of a savior through Jesus Christ is the first step in receiving eternal life. God does not only want us to be saved for eternity but also have a fulfilling life on earth. How is this accomplished when there's so much evil and challenges even as Christians? The Bible teaches Christians to put on the full armor of God. It recognizes that this battle of sin is not regarding flesh and blood but instead against Satan and his kingdom. Therefore, the armor of God is important not just in defending the attacks of the enemy but also in attacking and fighting back correctly. It's not enough to just "know" what to do, instead, let us put into practice what the Bible teaches and defeat the enemy the **right way**

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV): The Armor of God

1. Belt of Truth - Verse 14
2. Breastplate of Righteousness - Verse 14
3. Feet Fitted with the Gospel of Peace - Verse 15
4. The Shield of Faith - Verse 16
5. The Helmet of Salvation - Verse 17
6. The Sword of the Spirit - Verse 17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 1

- Leaders, share with students a moment when you were facing a challenge in your life as a Christian and "fought the wrong way (without God)". How were you affected?
- Students, take a moment to share the biggest L's you took in "fighting the wrong ways".
- Read Ephesians 6:10-12, what are the "devil's schemes"? What/who is our struggle against?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Read Ephesians 6:13-18, list in your journal the 6 different pieces of the Armor of God, where they're found (the verse) and why each is important.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS 2

- Discuss the reflection question above in the group. Finish off by making sure the whole group learns the Armor of God! If the whole group learns it, they will win an ice cream party next Wednesday.

SUMMARY

If you've said yes to Jesus, you've already experienced the best kind of rescue—He saved you from sin, gave you new life, and brought you into a real relationship with God. Even though we will fight sin until heaven, we have hope in Jesus Christ by putting on the Armor of God and fighting correctly! But it doesn't stop there. Jesus doesn't just want to change your life—He wants to use you to help change the lives of OTHERS, too.

There are people all around us—at school, on social media, even in our own homes—who don't know Jesus yet. They might feel lost, stuck in guilt, or searching for something real. And we know what that “something” is—it's someone, and His name is Jesus.

Jesus said He came “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10), and now He invites us to be part of that mission. Sharing Jesus isn't about being perfect or having all the answers—it's about loving people, telling them the truth, and pointing them to the only one who can truly rescue them. So don't keep the good news to yourself. You never know how God can use your voice, your story, and your heart to help someone else find the hope and freedom you've found in Him

KEY POINTS / VERSES

Luke 19:10 (NIV) 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) The Great Commission

Romans 1:16 (NIV) (a)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Leaders, then students, share with us a moment someone/something saved you from getting lost. What happened, how did it make you feel when you were found?
2. Read John 9:1-12, how do you think the blind man felt upon receiving sight?
3. When was the moment that you made a decision to follow Jesus and you were able to see that you needed Him and wanted to live for Him?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Who in my family and which of my friends have not decided to follow Jesus? How does that make me feel?
2. Read Matthew 28:19-20 & Romans 1:16
3. Who is God calling me to invite to VSM Night and/or to Vertical Church?