



Icebreaker:

Tell about a time you went to a doctor and heard some not so great news that eventually turned out to your benefit.

Announcements:

Easter is coming up soon– invite a friend to join you for one of our services.

Prayer Time:

Pray for our building project as renovations begin in our west wing and demolition begins soon in our parking lot and east wing.

Study Questions:

Why do people tend to look outward and blame other people for their problems– and the problems in this world– rather than look inward to see how they may be contributing to the problems? What are some ways we can make our problems worse? Why do we do this?

Read Romans 3:9–20. What stands out to you as you read this passage? Who is Paul talking about here (see v. 9,10,18)? How does this passage make you feel?

Why does Paul stress our inner brokenness and depravity? Is he just trying to make us feel bad? What happens if the doctor casually mentions we have a problem but doesn't press us to address a dangerous situation? How can bad news actually become good news?

Paul is quoting Psalm 14 in the above passage. How does this Psalm further illuminate the human condition? Why are we so inclined to seek human saviors and solutions rather than turn to God– cf Proverbs 14:12; why do people want to break His "chains"... even rip up His Word literally and figuratively– see Psalm 2:1–8.

The baseline sin in the Bible is idolatry. We are to have no other gods before Him. Why do we look for false solutions to our problems– politics, religion, escape, shutting down anything that makes us feel bad or brings conviction?

What do the following verses say about the ability Jesus alone has to forgive us, change our lives from the inside out, provide new power and set us on positive trajectory for our future– Romans 7:24–25; 3:23–24; 5:20–21; Colossians 2:13–15.

Conversational Prayer: Dear God show me...