

Connect Nano! 2020



When it's tough to belong to Jesus

NAME: _____



Monday
Know God's Plan
 Roman 8:28-30



Expect it to be t_____ to belong to J_____!

God's **BIG** plan is to transform those who b_____ to J_____ to be L_____ J_____.

Romans 8:29



God uses e_____ to m_____ us like J_____

Romans 8:28 – "in all things..."

God p_____ will s_____

Romans 8:30

Circle the speech bubble that would best describe you. (talk to your parents/friends about why you circled your speech bubble).

"I belong to Jesus and life is tough right now"

"I belong to Jesus and life **is not** tough right now"

"I don't belong to Jesus yet"

#Challenge:

When it's tough to belong to Jesus know God's plan

Monday: Think it through



Refresh your memory.....Read Roman 8:28-30

What is God's plan for those who belong to Jesus?

What two things did we learn about this plan?



Think of some situations where you have found it tough to belong to Jesus?

How did those situations make you feel about belonging to Jesus?

How does KNOWING the plan help us when it's tough to follow Jesus?

In what circumstances would you doubt that God is doing you good?

Why do we find it hard to believe that God is working for our good all the time?

Are you someone who belongs to Jesus? If not, why not?



What things can you say and do that will show that that you have been listening to what God is saying to you this week?

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

(Romans 8:28)



Pray about it



Tuesday

Know God has called you

Romans 8:28-30

Recap: *What is God's plan for those who belong to Jesus?*



A closer look at how the plan works... (Read Romans 8:30)

a) Make a list of things God does to people to achieve his plan:

P _____ → C _____ → J _____ → G _____



Today we are looking at the idea of being **CALLED** by God.

b) What do you think it means to be **CALLED** by God?

(Hint = *In the bible the word called often means to summon or invite*)



Draw a picture in the box below that you think represents what it means to be called by God.



Luke 5:27-31 – The calling of Levi

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?'

³¹ Jesus answered them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'

a) What does Jesus **say** to Levi? (v27)

b) What is Jesus **doing to** Levi in v27? (Hint: it begins with the letter 'C')

c) How does Levi respond to Jesus' call? (v28)
Circle words that best describe his response to Jesus:

Got up	Stayed seated	Left everything
Walked away from Jesus	Ignored Jesus	Followed Jesus

How is Levi a picture of what it means to be **CALLED** by God today?

Jesus' c_____ us to f_____ him.

We should respond to his c_____ by

f_____ him.

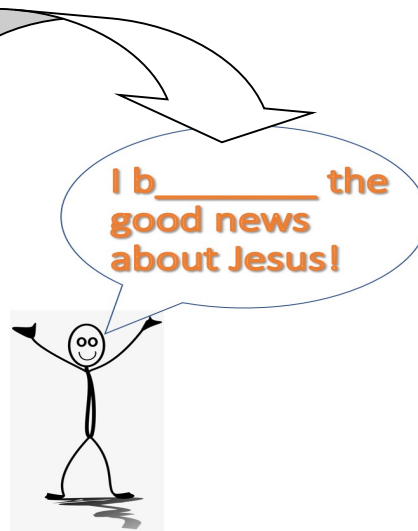




Romans 1

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to **everyone who believes**: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

- a) Look at the verse above.
What are people meant to do as they hear the gospel (good news about Jesus)?



Romans 1:5-7

5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. 6 And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.



How many times can you find the word 'called' in the box above?

Verse 5: Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.

Verse 5 - Calling people to the o_____ that comes from f_____.

What do you think this means?

Verse 6: And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Verse 6 - Calling people to b_____ to J_____.

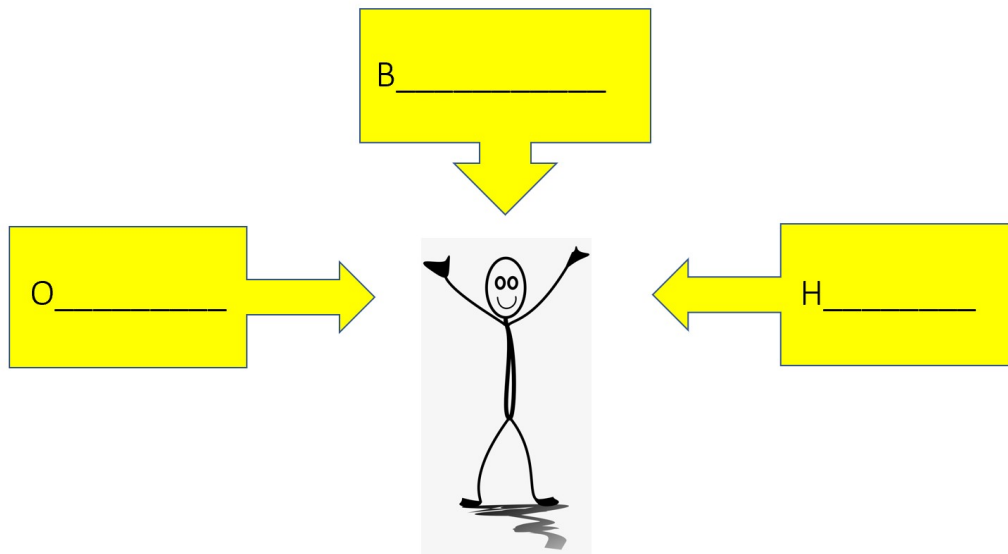
What do you think this means?

Verse 7: To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 7 - Calling people to be h_____

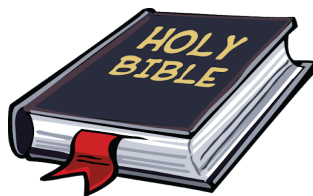
What do you think this means?

Write in the boxes below the words that describe a person who believes the gospel about Jesus?



a) So.....how does Jesus call people today?

Circle the picture that best fits the way Jesus calls people today.



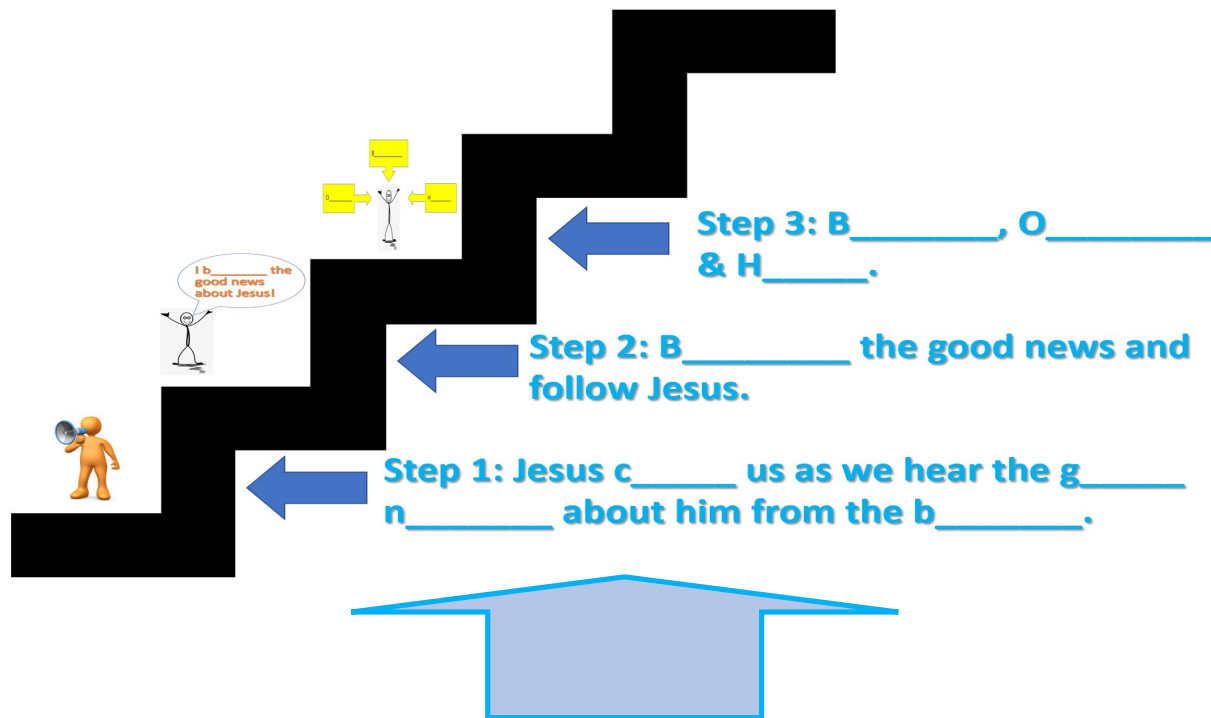
The story of Levi shows us how we should respond to Jesus as we read the bible.
Circle the words that best describe the way we should respond to Jesus.

Got up	Stayed seated	Left everything
Walked away from Jesus	Ignored Jesus	Followed Jesus

#Challenge:

SECTION 4:

Think it through...



- What are the steps we need to take as we respond to Jesus. Fill in the blanks
- Can you think of a time when you heard the message of Jesus and you responded to it in this way? Where were you, who told you the good news, what did they say?
- Sometimes it's tough to follow Jesus and it helps to know called has called you.

Draw a line to from the speech bubbles (on the left) to the response (on the right) that might help someone who is finding it tough to follow Jesus.

A) I feel lonely sometimes, especially when my friends make fun of me because I am following Jesus.

B) Sometimes I find it hard to do the right thing. Especially when my friends want me to say and do things that God wouldn't want me to do.

C) I feel useless compared to everyone else. I'm not good at anything.

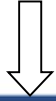
1) Being **obedient** to Jesus means that you believe that doing what he says is the best thing to do even when it's hard. Remember he will help you to be obedient if you ask him.

2) God has called you to be one of his **holy people** which means he has set you apart for a special purpose. You are being made like Jesus which means you are very special!

3) **Belonging** to Jesus means you are never alone because he is always with you. And you also belong to a church family who know how you feel.

Have you responded to God's call?

Looking back over what you have learned today will help you do this.



Write a prayer you can say to God:

Thank you.....

Sorry.....

Please help.....

A Admit your sin – that you do, say and think wrong things. Tell God you are sorry. Ask him to forgive you and help you to change.

B Believe that Jesus died for you, to take the punishment for your sin; that he came back to life, and that he is still alive today.

C consider the cost of living like you belong to Jesus from now on, with him in charge. It won't be easy. Ask God to help you do this.

D Do something about it! In the past you've gone your own way rather than God's way. If you are ready to ABCD, then talk to God now.

Dear God,

I have done, thought and said things that are wrong. I am really sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for me. From now on please help me to live like someone who belongs to Jesus. Amen.



When it's tough to belong to Jesus know God has called you to belong to Jesus

Wednesday

GUILTY

Know God has justified you

NOT GUILTY

Romans 8:28-30

God's charge against us: (Romans 3:23)

We've all f_____ short of God's p_____

We're all g_____



God's offer for us: (Romans 5:1-11)

Verse 1: J_____ through f_____ in J_____

No longer g_____ & At p_____ with God

Verse 8: While we were still s_____ C_____

d_____ for _____.



Write a prayer you can say to God:

Thank you.....

Sorry.....

Please help.....

When it's tough to belong to Jesus know God has justified you

Wednesday: Think it through



Refresh your memory.....Read Roman 8:28-30

What does it mean to be justified? Why do we need to be justified?

How does faith in Jesus justify us? What did he do to make justification possible?



How does being justified help us when it's tough to follow Jesus?

e.g. think about these situations...

- When you are battling with a sin that you just keep doing.
- When you feel like your sin is so bad that God will never forgive you

Are you justified? How can you know? (Hint: think about Jesus & the cross)



What things can you say and do that will show that you have been listening to what God is saying to you this week?

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Romans 8:29



Pray about it



Thursday

Know God will glorify you

Romans 8:28-30

Recap: What is God's plan for those who belong to Jesus? (Romans 8:29)



Read Romans 8v28-30 again

a) What is the last thing God does to those who are part of his plan? (v30)

Predestined-----Called-----Justified-----G_____

What does the word glorified or glory mean?

Circle the words below that you think best fit with the word 'Glory/glorified'.



These are all words that describe J.....

b) What do you think it means when it says God will glorify **US**?

The following part of the bible might help. Spot what happens to us when Jesus appears...

1John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. **But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.**

Who will appear?

What will happen? Fill in the blanks:

We shall him as he is.

We shall be him.



Finish the sentence: "**To be glorified means...**"

To be made P..... like Jesus



Read Romans 3:23.

a) What was God's charge against us? (v23)

b) What does it mean to fall short of God's glory?

c) Circle the words in the box that best describe people falling short of God's glory?



SECTION 3:

Read 2 Corinthians 3v16-18

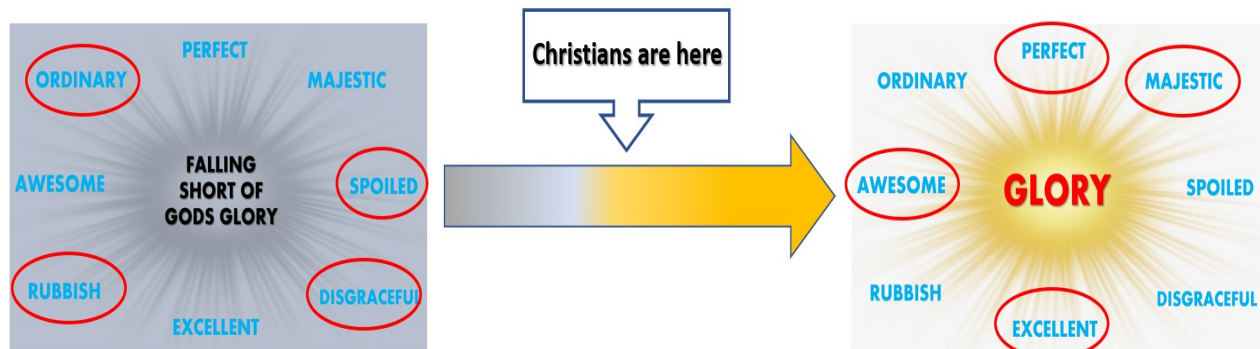
1 Corinthians 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate/reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

a) What does v18 say is happening to people who belong to Jesus?

Being t.....into his (Jesus's) image with
e.....glory

b) Mark with an 'X' where you think a Christian should be on the arrow below 5 or even 10 years from now.



c) So, what words could we use to describe someone who belongs to Jesus over many years?

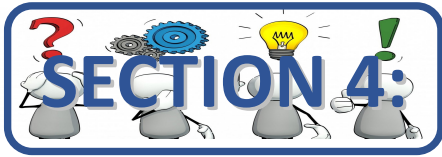
Finishing the sentences below might help you to answer:

As time goes by someone who belongs to Jesus will be less.....

.....

As time goes by someone who belongs to Jesus will be more.....

.....



Think it through...

- a) When it's tough to belong to Jesus how does it help to know that God will glorify you (make you like Jesus)?

This verse might help – what does it tell us?

“...He who began a good work in you will **carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 1:6)

- b) How could we answer someone who ask the following questions:

Q1) “How does knowing I will be glorified help me when I’m struggling with sin?”

Q2) “Why do I want to be made like Jesus? That sounds a bit boring to me and not as fun as other things I could be doing.”



Write a prayer you can say to God:

Thank you.....

Sorry.....

Please help.....

When it's tough to follow Jesus know God WILL GLORIFY YOU



Friday
Know God is for you
 Romans 8:31-32



God is on our s_____ (v31)



You'll k_____ God is for you
 if you're c_____ e_____



What does it mean that God is on our side? (v32)

GOD gives us

A_____ T_____ (v32)

TO HELP US WITH

A_____ T_____ (v28)

When it's tough to belong to Jesus know God is for us

Friday: Think it through



Refresh your memory.....Read Roman 8:28-32

How did the story of David and Goliath help us to remember something important about God?

How does that fit with Romans 8:31?

How can we know God is for us if we belong to Jesus? (*We look to the cross of Jesus*)



Make a list of things that you feel are against you?

How do those situations make you feel about belonging to Jesus?

How can we remind each other that God is for us when we belong to Jesus?

Can you say God is for you?



What things can you say and do that will show that you have been listening to what God is saying to you this week?

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

(Romans 8:31-32)



Pray about it

