

RECREATABLE

Series Sermon Notes

FROM THE AUTHOR

I wrote *ReCreatable* with the local church in mind, and particularly the discipleship ministry of the church. As much as I hope that many people will read the book and benefit personally from it, my greater hope is that pastors will see how *ReCreatable* can be a significant resource within their congregation's discipleship ministry.

To that end, I've written these notes to give an illustration of how you might introduce the major themes of *ReCreatable* in a four-week sermon series. Of course, you will use these notes as a launch pad for your own study, creative thinking, and preaching. Since the book already includes a small-group discussion guide, this additional resource gives you the tools you need to lead your church through a major emphasis on sustainable discipleship.

My recommendation would be to use this four-week sermon series to introduce the whole congregation to the discipleship concepts presented in *ReCreatable*. Then, as the series concludes, have your small groups ready to grow deeper by working through the book together using the small group discussion guide. By leading your congregation through both the sermon series and the small group study, you will be giving congregation members a new vision and vocabulary, along with the tools they need for sustainable, lifelong discipleship.

As you plan for your next discipleship emphasis, I pray that your congregation will learn together what it means to reflect his glory by living well in a pocket of the kingdom.

KEVIN SCOTT
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P.S. You might want to consider contacting Kregel Publications to discuss quantity pricing on bulk orders so that you can provide the book to congregation members or help them get it at the best price possible. Reflect his glory!

RECREATABLE SERIES SERMON NOTES

Week 1—The Good Life Romans 5

Redemptive focus: God offers the authentic good life, but we are too often deceived by imitations—like the consumerist life, the hedonist life, or even the religious life.

Theme: Since Christ has justified us, we can have “the good life”—a life shaped by faith, hope, and love, a life that brings healing to self and others.

Scripture reading: Romans 5 (or only verses 1–4)

Point 1: Since Christ justified us, we have grace and peace with God (verses 1–2).

Point 2: Since Christ justified us, we have the promise of God’s glory (verse 2).

Point 3: Since Christ justified us, we have purpose even in suffering (verses 3–4).

Point 4: Since Christ justified us, God’s love overflows our hearts (verse 5).

Conclusion: The good life can be ours through Jesus Christ—as we grow in faith (verse 1), hope (verse 2), and love (verse 5)—or in other words, as we become his disciples.

ReCreatable defines discipleship in this way: learning to “reflect his glory by living well (the good life!) in a pocket of the kingdom.” That’s how God begins to put broken lives back together again. And that’s what we’ll be breaking down during the next three weeks.

RECREATABLE SERIES SERMON NOTES

Week 2—Reflect His Glory Romans 6

Redemptive focus: We are God's image bearers, called to be fully mature human beings, but too often, we fall short and fail to reflect his glory (Romans 3:23).

Theme: Because of Christ's offer of new creation, we can once again take up our calling to be fully mature human beings, to reflect His glory in all of our relationships.

Scripture reading: Romans 6 (or only verses 1-14)

Point 1: Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we can be a new creation and have a new life (verses 1-4).

Point 2: Because of new creation, we can be free from our slavery to sin (verses 5-7).

Point 3: Because of new creation, we can begin to experience the eternal kind of life now (verses 8-11).

Point 4: Because of new creation, we must offer ourselves to God for his purpose and glory (verses 12-14).

Conclusion: The more we begin to live this eternal kind of life—the life of a fully mature human being—here and now, the more we will reflect God's glory and the more we'll discover that God is beginning to put the broken pieces of our lives and relationships together again.

RECREATABLE SERIES SERMON NOTES

Week 3—Living Well Romans 8

Redemptive focus: We try to do what is required of followers of Christ, but we fall into a seemingly endless cycle of sin and repentance, more sin and then more repentance.

Theme: Christ condemned sin on the cross (verses 1–3), so that means we can break the cycle of sin and repentance to experience genuine, sustainable growth toward becoming a fully mature human being, a person who lives well.

Scripture reading: Romans 8 (especially verses 4–9)

Point 1: Because Christ condemned sin, we can walk by the Spirit (verse 4–5).

Point 2: Because Christ condemned sin, we can fulfill the law of love (verse 4).
(i.e., the “righteous requirement of the law” is equated with Jesus’ new commandment to love God and neighbor; not that we can earn our salvation, but that we can truly reflect God’s glory)

Point 3: Because Christ condemned sin, we can have life and peace (verse 6).

Point 4: Because Christ condemned sin, we can please God (verses 8–9).

Conclusion: The condemnation of sin paves the way for the sustainable, good life—the eternal kind of life—to be manifested by God’s people in this life. But the life of the Spirit is never a solitary life. It always takes place in pockets of the kingdom.

RECREATABLE SERIES SERMON NOTES

Week 4—A Pocket of the Kingdom Romans 12–14

Redemptive focus: We think of discipleship as an individual pursuit, just between ourselves and God, but we grow best when we participate in community with other disciples.

Theme: The authentic good life—the attractive life—is lived with other Christians who come together in small pockets to learn together what it means to participate in the kingdom of God.

Scripture reading: Romans 12–14 (or selected passages)

Point 1: Being in a pocket of the kingdom means learning to value diversity (12:4–8).

Point 2: Being in a pocket of the kingdom means learning to treat one another with genuine love and understanding (12:9; or 13:8–10).

Point 3: Being in a pocket of the kingdom means learning to be there for one another (12:14–16).

Point 4: Being part of a pocket of the kingdom means we seek peace with one another (12:17–21; or 14:1–23).

Conclusion: Becoming a fully mature human being is a lifelong process, but we have an example in Jesus. As his life increasingly becomes our life, we will learn to reflect his glory by living well in the pocket of the kingdom where he has placed us.