**Small Group Material - Romans 4 (Ch 1. 18 - 32)**

**The Power of God: known but rejected**

**Welcome** What aspects of the natural world causes you to stand in awe of God - walking by the sea, being in your garden, being in mountains, a sunset etc?

**Worship**

Watch ‘Creation calls’ by Brian Doerksen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwGvfdtI2c0>

You could sing together, ‘When I in awesome wonder, consider all the works thy hands have made’. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GKhDCsLrUg>

Turn this into praise and worship of God.

**Word**

Read Romans Ch 1. 18 - 32. This is one of the most descriptive passages in the Bible on the ‘fall of humankind’.

1. v18. What did people do when given the truth about God?
2. As a consequence of people’s failure to accept the truth, how did God respond? (cf v24, 26, 28).

- How do you tend to view God - as a God of love or a God of anger?

- How do you view humankind - as generally good or bad? Why?

- What created things are most tempting for you (money, pleasure, food, gadgets, clothes, work etc)?

3. When did the truth of God (v25a), become true in your life?

For discussion: do you think our society has been changed for the better or for the worse since Paul wrote this description (cf v29-31)?

4. Paul explains that the root cause of many of the problems in our society is a ‘depraved mind’, v.28, (or the ‘sin nature’ that is in all of us). How is this different from what modern society teaches us?

5. If you wanted to show a friend the ‘depraved mind’ in action, where would you take them? What would you tell them about your own heart?

**Witness**

Look up either human trafficking (<https://www.stopthetraffik.org/about-human-trafficking/>), Christians against Poverty or care for the planet (eg A Roche at http://www.arocha.org/en/) and pray into the issues raised.