

**Week Ten | Sunday, March 14, 2010****“My Substitute”**
Romans 3:25-26

1. Take some time to explore together how many ways that God displays his love for us. Use scripture to show one another.
2. Discuss with one another a definition of sin. From God’s perspective why is sin such a bad thing?
3. When Jesus dies on the cross he becomes our mercy seat. In the Old Testament the mercy seat came to represent the place where God took care of the sins of people. Take a look at Leviticus 16 and Hebrews 9:5. This is the place of “atonement”. The fundamental point in “atonement” is that Jesus was our substitute, that he took our place. How does Jesus do this on the cross?
4. How do you reconcile God being a God of love and at the same time expressing wrath? Do you believe that it is necessary to see God as a God of judgment? What does Scripture say?
5. Read Matthew 26:36-45. Note the “cup” metaphor. The “cup” not only refers to Jesus’ death but is also used in scripture to denote God’s judgment (see Revelation 14:9-10; Jeremiah 25:15; Habakkuk 2:16). What does it mean to you to know that Jesus drank the cup of God’s wrath or judgment on your behalf?
6. Think about Romans 1-3 and how it says that we are all without excuse and express how important Romans 3:21-26 is to your understanding of who you are in Christ.
7. How important is “faith” in all of this? Paul says that this is all “by faith”. What does he mean?