Questions for Group Discussion

Opening Question: When you hear the word "saint" what words or images usually come to mind?

1) Do you resonate with feeling like you're "not enough"? How do we tend to d focus on our imperfections? What areas can you pinpoint that we ten to struggle with feelings of failure?

2) In what ways do you try in our own strength to measure up to others? How does this lead to both pride and despair?

3) Read Romans 7:15-8:11
   a. Do you resonate with Paul's inner wrestling described in Romans 7:15-19? How have you seen this battle in your own life?
   b. How does Paul describe himself? What does he desire? How does his struggle encourage you in your own faith?
   c. What brings relief to Paul's inner wrestling? What is he thankful for?
   d. How is it possible that "there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"? How does Christ free us from the law of sin and death?
   e. Does this means that Christians don't need to obey God? How you'll you answer that question in light of Romans 8:5-11?
   f. What does it mean that "he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your moral bodies? How is that encouraging to you as you fight against sin?

4) Read Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:1, and Colossians 1:2. How do these verses help you understand the term 'saint'? How is it similar to or different from your typical understanding of the word?

5) Are you more comfortable thinking of yourself as a sinner who is trying to be a saint or a saint who still struggles with sin? Why does it matter how we view ourselves?

6) How does the fact that Christ makes us righteous (he imputes his righteousness to us) affect how and why we do good works?

7) What role do our good works have as a saint? (See Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:12; Colossians 1:8-10, Titus 3:8, and Hebrews 10:24).

8) How would living out your identity as a saint increase your joy and peace?

9) As you think back over the chapter, what particular truth resonated with you? How will you live differently in light of that new understanding?