

Romans Discussion Guide

Week 1 Introduction | September 13, 2026

Romans invites us to understand the gospel more deeply and let it shape our lives. As we begin this series, we are asking God to grow our boldness, teach us to receive and show His love, and prepare us to trust His Word when we need it most.

I Opening Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to Scripture. Pray that your group would hear what He wants to teach and encourage, and be willing to respond.

II Weekly Sermon Discussion

20–40 minutes

Read the Scriptures together and share what stands out. The insights and questions below are provided to help generate discussion; you do not need to answer every question. Keep your conversation focused on Scripture and how it applies to your life.

- What part of the sermon stood out to you, and why?

Living Unashamed of the Gospel

Read: Romans 1:16

Paul's confidence was in the power of the gospel to save. Being unashamed of Jesus affects more than what we say at church. It shapes our conversations, lifestyle, and decisions, especially when following Him brings questions or disapproval from others.

- What does Paul say makes the gospel worth sharing? How does that change where we look for confidence?
- Where is it hardest for you to be open about following Jesus: in your words, daily life, or a decision you need to make? What holds you back?
- Who has helped you become bolder in your faith? What is one way you could encourage that same boldness in someone else?

Receiving and Showing the Love of God

Read: Romans 5:8

God demonstrated His love for us while we were still sinners. We do not have to make ourselves worthy before coming to Him. As we receive the love He has shown through Jesus, it can change how we speak and act toward the people closest to us.

- What does "while we were still sinners" reveal about God's love? Why can that love be difficult to receive personally?
- The sermon described expressing love as moving from absent, to awkward, to automatic. Where do you recognize yourself in that process?
- Who needs to hear and see your love this week? What specific words and actions could communicate it?

Responding to Conviction Without Living Condemned

Read: Romans 8:1 and Romans 8:37–39

For those who are in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation. That does not make sin unimportant. Conviction helps us recognize sin, repent, and become more like Jesus. Condemning lies tell us that failure defines us and that God has abandoned us. Paul points us back to the security of God's love in Christ, even in hardship.

- How would you explain the difference between conviction and condemnation in your own words? Where does each one lead you?

- When you fall short, are you more likely to turn toward God or pull away from Him? What thoughts influence that response?
- How do these passages help you take sin seriously without believing you are beyond God's love?
- What would trusting God's love look like in a struggle you are facing right now?

Scripture for the Season We Are In

Read: Romans 1:1–7 and Psalm 119:105

Paul wrote to believers navigating cultural pressure and differences within the church. He reminded them that they belonged to Jesus, were loved by God, and were called to be His holy people. They needed those truths for the challenges ahead. We also need God's Word to guide our choices now and prepare us for difficulties we cannot yet see.

- In Romans 1:1–7, what stands out about Jesus and about the people Paul is writing to? Which truth do you need to remember in your current circumstances?
- When has a Scripture you learned earlier helped you through a later challenge?
- Psalm 119:105 describes God's Word as a lamp and a light. Where do you need its guidance rather than relying on your feelings or the opinions around you?
- The sermon challenged us to "show up ready" with study and prayer. What specific habit will you practice during this Romans series, and how can this group help?

III Share and Prayer

20–40 minutes

Take off the mask and share honestly. Give one another room to talk about what is really happening, without feeling pressure to share more than you are ready to.

- How are you doing personally and spiritually? Share a challenge or victory, and name how you are feeling.
- Which application from this discussion do you need prayer and support to follow through on?
- How can your group support you this week?

Include your own needs when sharing a prayer request. For example, alongside asking for prayer for a struggling friend, share where you need wisdom, strength, or courage to care for them.

Have someone, or everyone, close your time in prayer for one another. Ask God to help you live unashamed, receive and show His love, respond to conviction, and put His Word into practice.