

Romans: Week - 1

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group hear what He wants to teach and encourage.
- Ask God to show each person what it looks like to continue gathering, serving, and growing.

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20–40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.
- Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask, “How does this scripture apply to this?”

1. WE MAY NOT HAVE THE SAME STORY, BUT WE HAVE THE SAME SAVIOR

Read: Romans 3:23 & Romans 5:8

The church in Rome was divided between Jewish and Gentile believers. They had different backgrounds, traditions, and ideas about how things should be done. Paul brings them back to the Gospel: everyone has sinned, and everyone needs Jesus. We may have differences, but the Gospel reminds us that we all start at the same place and are saved by the same Savior.

- Why do you think Christians can sometimes become more passionate about being right than being united?
- What are some things that Christians can allow to become “bigger than Jesus”?
- Romans 3:23 says “all have sinned.” How does remembering that change the way we look at other people?
- What does Romans 5:8 tell us about God's love for us?
- How can remembering the Gospel help us love people who are different from us?

2. THE GOSPEL DOESN'T JUST SAVE US — IT SENDS US

Read: Romans 15:24

Paul wasn't simply looking for people who would attend the mission. He was looking for people who would join the mission. The Gospel changes us from people who simply receive to people who participate. We aren't just called to know Jesus; we're called to make Him known.

- What is the difference between attending the mission and joining the mission?
- Why do you think it's easy to become a spectator in church?
- Where has God given you opportunities to make Jesus known?
- What could it look like for you to use your time, gifts, resources, or relationships for the Gospel?
- What is one step you could take this week to participate in God's mission?

3. REMEMBER THE GOSPEL WHEN LIFE GETS HARD

Read: Romans 8:1, Romans 8:28, Romans 8:38–39

Paul was writing to believers who would eventually experience intense persecution. His words about no condemnation, God working all things for good, and nothing separating us from God's love weren't empty encouragements. They were truths believers would need when life became difficult. The Gospel doesn't promise that we won't suffer; it promises that Jesus will be with us through it.

- Which of these promises from Romans do you need most right now?
- What does “no condemnation” mean to you personally?
- How does Romans 8:28 encourage us when we don't understand what God is doing?
- What are some things that can make us question God's love?

4. THE GOSPEL IS ENOUGH

Read: Romans 5:1, Romans 10:9, Romans 8:38–39

Romans will continually bring us back to the same truth: Jesus is enough. We can have peace with God because of Jesus. We can be saved because of Jesus. We are not condemned because of Jesus. And nothing can separate us from God's love because of Jesus. The Gospel doesn't need to be improved by our performance, traditions, preferences, or opinions. Grace is enough. Jesus is enough.

- Which truth from Romans are you most thankful for: that you are loved, saved, forgiven, at peace, not condemned, or never separated from God?
- What happens when we begin trusting in our own performance instead of God's grace?
- Is there anything you have allowed to become more important than Jesus?
- How can we keep Jesus at the center as we walk through Romans together?
- What would change in your life if you truly believed that Jesus is enough?

III. Share & Prayer

Time to ‘take off the mask’! Jesus doesn’t want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing
- What’s really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing “Please pray for my friend’s cancer journey”, include personal prayer: “Please pray as I’m struggling with my friend’s cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season”.

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.