

Discussion Guide

Week 2 | Romans 1:1–7 | September 20, 2026

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage

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 the topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask “How does this scripture apply to this?”.

Read: Romans 1:1

Paul introduces himself as a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, and set apart for the gospel of God. His identity begins with devotion and submission to Jesus, not status or personal achievement. To be set apart is to be separated from old patterns and dedicated to God’s purposes.

- What does Paul’s description of himself as a “bond-servant” teach us about true authority and devotion to Jesus?
- Where are you tempted to build your identity on achievement, status, approval, or what others think of you?
- What might it look like for you to be more intentionally “set apart” for God’s purposes this week?

Read: Romans 1:2–4

Paul reminds his readers that the gospel was promised beforehand through the prophets and that it centers entirely on Jesus Christ. According to the flesh, Jesus is descended from David; through His resurrection, He is declared to be the powerful Son of God. The resurrection is presented as the foundation of Christian hope and evidence of God’s faithfulness to His promises.

- What do these verses reveal about who Jesus is?
- Why is it important that the gospel is not a new invention, but something God promised beforehand through Scripture?
- How does the resurrection affect the way you understand the trustworthiness of the gospel and your hope?

Read: Romans 1:5–6

Through Jesus, believers receive grace and apostleship. The gospel does not simply save us; it sends us. Paul describes the goal as the “obedience of faith” for the sake of Jesus’ name among all nations. Faith is not passive—it produces a life of joyful, trusting obedience.

- What does “the obedience of faith” mean to you in practical terms?
- How can we keep obedience from becoming an attempt to earn God’s love rather than a response to grace?
- Where is Jesus inviting you to move from believing something to actively obeying Him?

- How can your everyday life point beyond your own reputation to the name and glory of Jesus?

Read: Romans 1:6–7

Paul tells the believers in Rome that they are called to belong to Jesus Christ, loved by God, and called to be saints. In a culture shaped by status, power, and competition, Paul gives them a received identity rather than an achieved one. Their worth is rooted not in who they are on their own, but in whose they are.

- How does knowing that your identity is received from God change the pressure to prove your worth?
- What old pattern, insecurity, or people-pleasing tendency do you need to surrender as you live from your identity in Christ?
- How could remembering that you are loved by God change the way you treat the people around you this week?

Read: 1 Peter 2:9

Believers are described as a people chosen and set apart for God. Paul's opening words in Romans point toward a Christian life marked by service, trust in a resurrected Savior, obedience, and a mission larger than ourselves.

- Where do you need to stop trying to make a name for yourself and instead live to reveal the One who has called you?
- What is one concrete step you can take this week to live "set apart for the gospel"?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

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.