

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group hear what He wants to teach and encourage.
- Ask God to help each person live unashamed of the Gospel and faithfully share what has been entrusted to them.

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?”**

God Can Still Work Through Us

Read: Romans 1:8–12

Paul was writing to a church that had issues, disagreements, and frustrations, yet he could still thank God for their faith and see how God was working through them. Paul also recognized that he needed the Roman believers just as much as they needed him. Their faith could encourage one another. God can work through imperfect people, and we were never meant to follow Jesus alone. We need one another to be strengthened and encouraged in our faith.

- What stood out to you about Paul thanking God for the faith of a church that still had issues and flaws?
- Why is it encouraging to know that God can still work through us even when we recognize our own weaknesses and imperfections?

- Paul said that he wanted to encourage the Romans, but also that he wanted to be encouraged by their faith. Why do you think we need both to give and receive spiritual encouragement?
- How have other believers strengthened or encouraged your faith?
- What is one way you can intentionally encourage someone else in their faith this week?

Unashamed of the Gospel

Read: Romans 1:13–17, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Paul said that he was under an obligation to share the Gospel with everyone—the Greeks and barbarians, the wise and the foolish. He understood that the Gospel had been entrusted to him and that it was meant to be shared. Then Paul makes a bold declaration: *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.”* The Gospel is good news because Jesus took our sin upon Himself and made a way for us to be made right with God. The power isn't in the messenger; the power is in the message. We don't have to change people—the Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation.

- What stood out to you about Paul's willingness to share the Gospel with everyone, regardless of who they were?
- Paul described himself as being “in debt” because the Gospel had been entrusted to him. What does it look like for us to faithfully share what God has entrusted to us?
- Paul said, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel.”* What are some things that can make us hesitant or ashamed to openly share our faith?
- Which of these truths about the Gospel encourages you most: **it is good news, it is powerful, it is free, or it makes us right with God?** Why?
- What is one practical way you can live unashamed of the Gospel and share it with someone this week?

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 for? (e.g., *overcoming shame or fear about your faith, trusting God to work through your weaknesses, or finding the courage to share the Gospel with someone.*)
- 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 to come to Jesus”*, include personal prayer: *“Please pray that I will have the courage and wisdom to share Jesus with my friend, and that I will trust God with the outcome.”*

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