

Romans Discussion Guide

Week 3 — Unashamed of the Gospel | Romans 1:8–17

The Gospel is the power of God for salvation. Because the power is in the message—not the messenger, we can live unashamed by fully entrusting our lives to God and allowing that faith to shape our lifestyle.

I Opening Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to remind your group of the power and beauty of the Gospel. Pray for courage where there has been anxiety, faith where there has been fear, and a willingness to trust God with both the message and the outcome. Ask Him to show each person one small next step toward living unashamed.

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?

Unashamed After All of It

Read: Romans 1:8–17

Paul writes near the end of his third missionary journey after years of travel, ministry, hardship, and seeing the Gospel transform lives. After all of it, his conclusion is not embarrassment or regret: “I am not ashamed of the gospel.” His words invite us not to feel shame over missed opportunities, but to become equipped for the next one.

- How does Paul’s history of sacrifice and hardship change the way you hear the words, “I am not ashamed of the gospel”?
- Where are Christians most likely to feel anxious, hesitant, or ashamed about their faith today?
- Think of a time you missed an opportunity to speak or live boldly for Jesus. What could help prepare you differently for the next opportunity?

1. The Gospel Itself Is a Powerful Story

Read: Romans 1:16

The Gospel tells the story of humanity unable to save itself and a Savior who comes for us: a conqueror who defeats death, a redeemer who restores what was lost, and a righteous King who will ultimately make things right. The Gospel is not powerful because we tell it perfectly. The power belongs to the message.

“The power is in the message, not the messenger.”

- What makes the story of the Gospel powerful to you personally?
- Why do we sometimes feel like we need powerful speech, knowledge, persuasion, or counterarguments before we can talk about Jesus?
- How could remembering, “It holds the power, not I,” change the way you approach conversations about faith?
- Where do you most need to replace, “I need to be powerful enough,” with, “The Gospel is powerful enough”?

2. The Actual Power It Gives

Read: Romans 1:16 and Ephesians 1:19–20

The Gospel is more than a powerful story; it is the story through which God brings salvation and transforms real people. Paul describes the Gospel as the “power of God.” In Ephesians, he points believers to the immeasurable greatness of God’s power toward those who believe—the same mighty power demonstrated in raising Christ from the dead.

The Gospel has power for real people who navigate real lives and face a real eternity. It does not merely change what we think; through Christ it changes who we are, our standing before God, and how we live.

- What changes have you personally seen the Gospel produce in someone’s life?
- What areas of your life would look different if you genuinely trusted God’s power to work in them?
- Is there an area that currently feels dead, stuck, or impossible? What would trusting God in that situation look like?
- Who is someone you may have quietly decided is too far from God, too difficult, or too unlikely to change? How can you begin praying for that person?

3. The Way It Is Received

Read: Romans 1:17

The righteousness revealed in the Gospel is received by faith. One of the most powerful elements of the Gospel appears when we recognize that we cannot save or transform ourselves. We receive what God has done by trusting Him.

FAITH: Forever... in All things... I... Trust... Him.

To “live by faith” means fully entrusting God with our lives. That also expands what it means to be unashamed. Being unashamed of the Gospel is a lifestyle. Evangelism is certainly part of it, but it is not the whole. Our words and our way of life together can point others toward the Gospel.

- What is the difference between believing facts about God and fully entrusting your life to Him?
- Where is it currently hardest for you to trust God with the outcome?
- How can the way we live make the Gospel visible to the people around us?
- What would trusting God look like in your home, your pursuit of holiness, your relationships, or the decisions you are making right now?
- Which is harder for you: trusting God enough to speak when He prompts you, or trusting God enough to obey when His plans differ from yours? Why?

Make It Small, and Watch God Do Something Big

Everyone has a next step. Living unashamed does not have to begin with something enormous. It can begin with one small act of faithfulness that becomes part of a Gospel-shaped lifestyle.

- Engage intentionally in a D-Group or C-Group.
- Use the Family Guide with your family.
- Change one part of your personal routine to create consistent time with God.
- Pray for one family member for one minute every day.
- Take one practical step toward holiness or obedience in your home.
- Speak when God gives you an opportunity, then trust Him with the outcome.

What is one small next step you will take this week?

Becoming Like the Church in Rome

Read: Romans 1:8–12

Paul describes a church whose faith was being reported far beyond its own walls. He thanked God for them, remembered them, longed to see them, and expected believers to be mutually encouraged by one another's faith.

- What would it look like for our faith to become noticeable in our homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and community?
- How can your faith encourage someone else this week?
- What would need to grow in us for people to speak about our faith the way Paul spoke about the church in Rome?

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.
- Where are you most tempted to become anxious or ashamed rather than unashamed of the Gospel?
- What outcome do you need to stop trying to control and entrust to God?
- What is your small next step this week, and how can the group support you?

Have someone, or everyone, close your time in prayer for one another. Ask Jesus to make you people who are unashamed of the Gospel—not because you are powerful, persuasive, or perfect, but because the Gospel itself is the power of God. Pray for courage to speak, faith to obey, holiness in your homes, and trust to leave the results with Him.