



EXPLORE **THE BIBLE**[®]
Adults

Romans

Daily Discipleship Guide

Fall 2026



ONE ROAD

“All roads lead to Rome.” It’s a familiar phrase. We understand it to mean that no matter what problem we’re facing, there’s probably more than one way to achieve a solution. Of course, thousands of years ago, it meant something much different.

During the days of the Roman Empire, the capital city was the hub of economic and cultural power. That included transportation. Justifiably, the Romans were proud of their roads. What’s more, many of those roads originated from a single spot, the *Milliarium Aureum*, the “Golden Milestone.” This large column was set up in the Roman Forum and served as the starting point for a vast network of highways that branched across the known world. As a result, all roads quite literally led to Rome.

Midway through the first century, the apostle Paul was hoping to take one of those roads and visit the church in Rome. In preparation, he wrote them a letter, an extensive explanation of humanity’s sin and God’s salvation. In it, Paul shared the meaning of the gospel and how Christ followers should apply it to their lives each day.

While many roads led to Rome, Paul was adamant that Jesus was the only road to God. He said that Jews and Gentiles alike were helpless to save themselves. Everyone needs Jesus as Savior. Things haven’t changed. We all still need Jesus if we’re hoping for a new relationship with God. If that’s where you find yourself today, here’s what you need to do . . .

-
- ▶ **ADMIT** to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning from your sin.
 - ▶ **BY FAITH RECEIVE** Jesus as God’s Son and accept His gift of forgiveness from sin. He took the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross.
 - ▶ **CONFESS** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You may pray a prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you: “Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In the name of Jesus I pray, amen.”
-

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.



SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

SEPT. 6

SEPT. 13

SEPT. 20

SEPT. 27

OCT. 4

OCT. 11

OCT. 18

OCT. 25

NOV. 1

NOV. 8

NOV. 15

NOV. 22

NOV. 29

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*Evangelistic Emphasis

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- ▶ Photos. Wedding invitations. Save the dates. Birth announcements. Our refrigerator doors often showcase important people in our lives and significant events. I put announcements on my refrigerator so I won't forget them and sometimes photos of past events are purposely left up because they bring me so much joy. Exciting milestones and photos of everyday moments are captured in one spot like a special collection to be reminded of and enjoyed over and over.



Good news and big announcements are hard to keep to ourselves. In the book of Romans, Paul wrote to believers meeting in Roman house churches telling them of the best news ever shared—the gospel. Paul expounded on who needs the gospel (we all do) and where we can find salvation (only in Christ!). Jesus, through His life, death, and resurrection, made salvation possible for us. We are “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24). The gospel truly is the best good news.

I hope this quarter of study brings a deeper appreciation of God's gift of grace and the new life we are offered in Christ. May this lead you to tell others this good news!

In Him,

Amber Vaden

amber.vaden@lifeway.com

BIBLE READING PLAN



SEPTEMBER

- ☐ 1. Romans 1:1-7
- ☐ 2. Romans 1:8-12
- ☐ 3. Romans 1:13-15
- ☐ 4. Romans 1:16-17
- ☐ 5. Romans 1:18-23
- ☐ 6. Romans 1:24-25
- ☐ 7. Romans 1:26-32
- ☐ 8. Romans 2:1-4
- ☐ 9. Romans 2:5-11
- ☐ 10. Romans 2:12-16
- ☐ 11. Romans 2:17-24
- ☐ 12. Romans 2:25-29
- ☐ 13. Romans 3:1-8
- ☐ 14. Romans 3:9-18
- ☐ 15. Romans 3:19-20
- ☐ 16. Romans 3:21-26
- ☐ 17. Romans 3:27-31
- ☐ 18. Romans 4:1-5
- ☐ 19. Romans 4:6-8
- ☐ 20. Romans 4:9-12
- ☐ 21. Romans 4:13-17
- ☐ 22. Romans 4:18-25
- ☐ 23. Romans 5:1-5
- ☐ 24. Romans 5:6-11
- ☐ 25. Romans 5:12-14
- ☐ 26. Romans 5:15-17
- ☐ 27. Romans 5:18-21
- ☐ 28. Romans 6:1-4
- ☐ 29. Romans 6:5-10
- ☐ 30. Romans 6:11-14

OCTOBER

- ☐ 1. Romans 6:15-18
- ☐ 2. Romans 6:19-23
- ☐ 3. Romans 7:1-3
- ☐ 4. Romans 7:4-6
- ☐ 5. Romans 7:7-12
- ☐ 6. Romans 7:13-20
- ☐ 7. Romans 7:21-25
- ☐ 8. Romans 8:1-4
- ☐ 9. Romans 8:5-11
- ☐ 10. Romans 8:12-17
- ☐ 11. Romans 8:18-25
- ☐ 12. Romans 8:26-30
- ☐ 13. Romans 8:31-39
- ☐ 14. Romans 9:1-5
- ☐ 15. Romans 9:6-9
- ☐ 16. Romans 9:10-15
- ☐ 17. Romans 9:16-21
- ☐ 18. Romans 9:22-29
- ☐ 19. Romans 9:30-33
- ☐ 20. Romans 10:1-4
- ☐ 21. Romans 10:5-13
- ☐ 22. Romans 10:14-15
- ☐ 23. Romans 10:16-21
- ☐ 24. Romans 11:1-6
- ☐ 25. Romans 11:7-10
- ☐ 26. Romans 11:11-16
- ☐ 27. Romans 11:17-24
- ☐ 28. Romans 11:25-32
- ☐ 29. Romans 11:33-36
- ☐ 30. Romans 12:1-2
- ☐ 31. Romans 12:3-8

NOVEMBER

- ☐ 1. Romans 12:9-13
- ☐ 2. Romans 12:14-21
- ☐ 3. Romans 13:1-3
- ☐ 4. Romans 13:4-7
- ☐ 5. Romans 13:8-10
- ☐ 6. Romans 13:11-14
- ☐ 7. Romans 14:1-4
- ☐ 8. Romans 14:5-9
- ☐ 9. Romans 14:10-12
- ☐ 10. Romans 14:13-15
- ☐ 11. Romans 14:16-18
- ☐ 12. Romans 14:19-21
- ☐ 13. Romans 14:22-23
- ☐ 14. Romans 15:1-4
- ☐ 15. Romans 15:5-6
- ☐ 16. Romans 15:7-12
- ☐ 17. Romans 15:13
- ☐ 18. Romans 15:14-16
- ☐ 19. Romans 15:17-19
- ☐ 20. Romans 15:20-22
- ☐ 21. Romans 15:23-25
- ☐ 22. Romans 15:26-27
- ☐ 23. Romans 15:28-29
- ☐ 24. Romans 15:30-33
- ☐ 25. Romans 16:1-2
- ☐ 26. Romans 16:3-16
- ☐ 27. Romans 16:17-19
- ☐ 28. Romans 16:20
- ☐ 29. Romans 16:21-24
- ☐ 30. Romans 16:25-27

MEMORY VERSES



SESSION 1:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.
- Romans 1:16

SESSION 2:

For there is no favoritism with God. - Romans 2:11

SESSION 3:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 3:23-24

SESSION 4:

For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. - Romans 5:19

SESSION 5:

So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. - Romans 6:11

SESSION 6:

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you also were put to death in relation to the law through the body of Christ so that you may belong to another. You belong to him who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God. - Romans 7:4

SESSION 7:

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"
- Romans 8:15

SESSION 8:

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

SESSION 9:

Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments and untraceable his ways!
- Romans 11:33

SESSION 10:

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. - Romans 12:1-2

SESSION 11:

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.
- Romans 13:14

SESSION 12:

So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another. - Romans 14:19

SESSION 13:

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in prayers to God on my behalf. - Romans 15:30



At the time he wrote this letter, Paul had not yet visited the church in Rome. He hoped to introduce himself because he was planning to travel there as soon as God allowed. As part of that introduction, he wanted the believers in Rome to understand what he believed about the gospel and how it shapes the lives of those who follow Christ.

It is not clear who established the church in Rome. It's possible that the Jews who had heard Peter's sermon on Pentecost carried the gospel to Rome and started the church. Whatever its beginnings, the Roman church had become a thriving, multi-ethnic congregation.

Paul likely wrote Romans from Corinth around AD 56–57. During that time, he may have learned more about the Roman church through Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:1–3). They had been expelled from Rome, along with other Christians, by Emperor Claudius around AD 49 and later became ministry partners with Paul.

In chapters 1–11, Paul presented a defense of the gospel. He highlighted the pervasive nature of sin and its universal effect on humanity, but he also proclaimed that God had offered salvation through Jesus Christ. Chapters 12–16 shift to practical application. Because believers belong to Christ, their relationships—both within the church and with those outside it—should reflect Him. Above all, love should be the defining mark of the Christian life.

Major Themes in Romans

1. *The Righteousness of God.* Paul was not ashamed of the gospel because it was the power of God for salvation to all who believed. God gave righteousness as a gift to those who believed in Christ (Rom. 1:16–17).

2. *The Universality of Sin.* All people sin, and sin produces death. Sinners cannot save themselves from the consequences of their sin (1:17–3:30).

3. *Justification by Faith.* Believers are declared righteous before God, not by works but by faith (3:28; 5:1).

4. *Life in the Spirit.* Believers are called to engage their flesh in the battle against the temptation to sin (6:1–14). Even this is a work of the Holy Spirit, who lives in all believers (8:1–17).

5. *God's Sovereignty and Israel.* Even though Israel rejected God, He still desired they be saved. Paul prayed for the salvation of Israel as well as the salvation of the Gentiles (chaps. 9–11).

6. *Practical Christian Living.* Believers should offer themselves to God as living sacrifices and have their mind renewed into the image of Christ. This is a daily process of sanctification (chaps. 12–15).



Romans

- I. Introduction** (Rom. 1:1-15)
- II. The Universal Need of Righteousness** (Rom. 1:16–3:20)
- III. Justification: The Imputation of Righteousness** (Rom. 3:21–5:21)
- IV. The New Life in Christ** (Rom. 6:1–8:39)
- V. The Mystery of Israel** (Rom. 9:1–11:36)
- VI. Exhortations about the Christian Life** (Rom. 12:1–15:13)
- VII. Epilogue: Greetings and Travel Plans** (Rom. 15:14–16:27)



USING THE DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A person's spiritual growth hinges on daily Bible engagement. *Daily* implies a discipline much like exercising, brushing teeth, or eating a certain number of calories EVERY day. Our spiritual training should be no different since we need spiritual nourishment every day. The focus is the *Bible*, God's Word. There is nothing wrong with knowing the thoughts of great philosophers, leaders, or theologians, as long as God's Word is the final word on the matter. Engagement carries the idea of participation and involvement. *Engagement* is active, requiring us to read, study, and reflect.

Your *Daily Discipleship Guide* is full of tools to help you engage with God's Word. But like any tool, you have to use it to get the benefit.

- Use this resource when studying with a group. The first four pages of each session help the group examine a Bible passage and move us toward acting on the truths discovered as a group and an individual.
- Use the **Talk It Out** page to hold yourself and others accountable by meeting in a smaller group of same-sex individuals (an accountability group). Share with the smaller group what God has been teaching you through the group time and your personal daily Bible study while working to memorize a Bible verse.
- Use the **Daily Exploration** pages to go deeper into God's Word, building on your group's study experience. Engage in daily Bible study, record your thoughts, reflect on the questions, and take action.
- Use the resource every week even when you are unable to attend the group's Bible study. Missing a group Bible study does not excuse you from being engaged daily with God through His Word.

Want this resource on your phone or tablet for when you are on the go? Purchase an eBook at goExploreTheBible.com or at Lifeway.com/digitalstudies.





Getting the most from Talk It Out

Talk It Out supports groups of three or four people who come together weekly to encourage, share, and sharpen each other. While other issues may be addressed, the Talk It Out section focuses on the weekly memory verse. The questions and comments provide a means for encouraging each other to memorize Scripture while reflecting on the main point of that week's lesson.

These groups are made up of three to four people...

- Participants should be of the same gender.
- These groups should be smaller on purpose.
- These groups can meet at almost any location.
- These groups can easily accommodate each other's schedules.

Some married couples may choose to use the Talk It Out section for a weekly family devotional activity.

...Who meet weekly...

- We were created to relate, so meeting weekly is important.
 - In some cases, your smaller group may need to meet virtually. You may find it best to meet face-to-face every other week or once a month and use virtual tools the other weeks.
-

...To hold each other accountable and encourage each other in their spiritual growth.

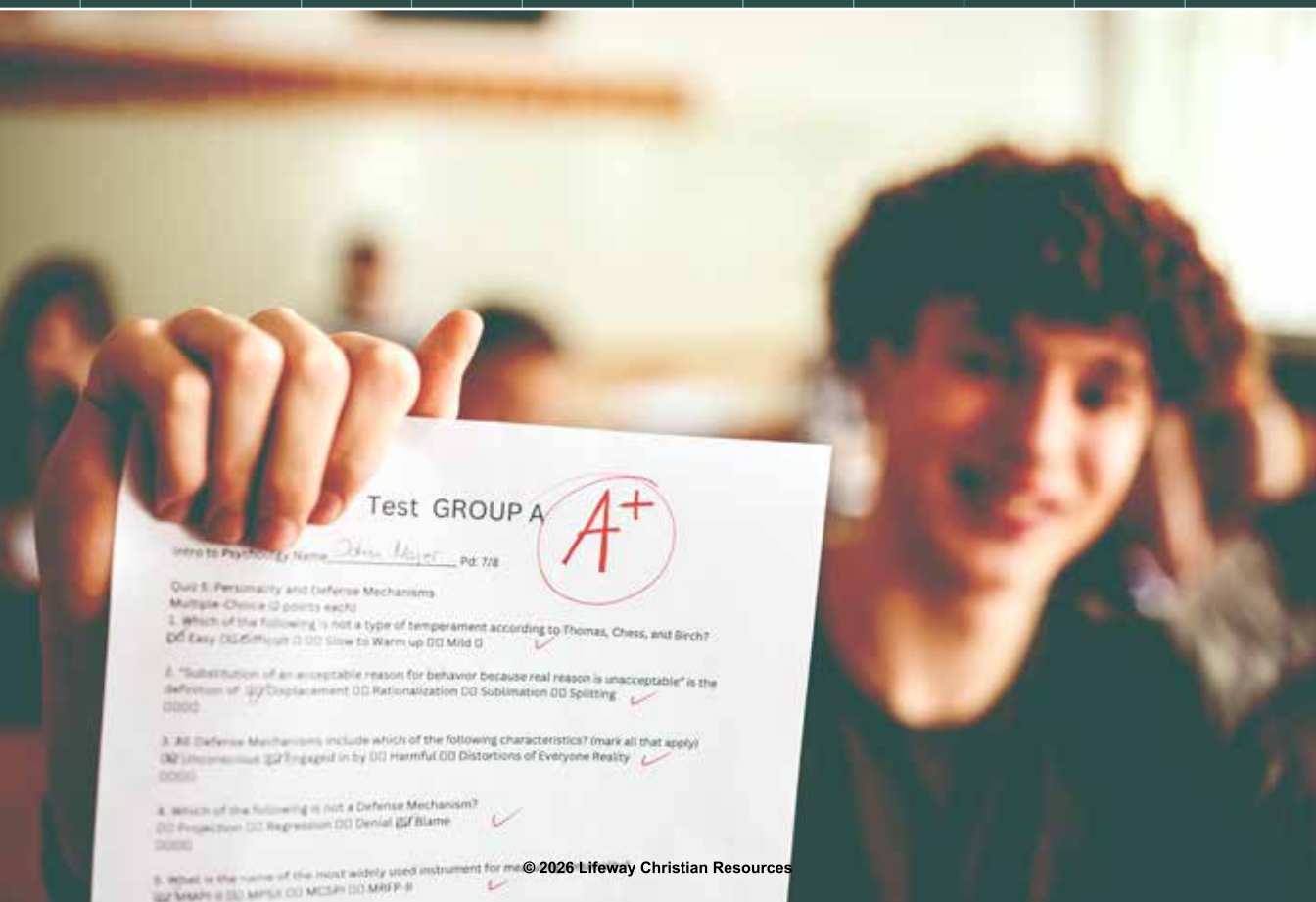
- Review the questions and comments in Talk It Out.
- Look for ways the memory verse relates to the main point of the lesson.
- Include time to pray for each other.

SESSION 1

True Power

ROMANS 1:13-25

THE GOSPEL ALONE HAS THE POWER TO REMOVE THE GUILT OF HUMANITY'S SIN.



Test GROUP A

A+

Intro to Psychology Name John Meyer Pd: 7/8

Quiz 5: Personality and Defense Mechanisms

Multiple-Choice (2 points each)

1. Which of the following is not a type of temperament according to Thomas, Chess, and Birch?
☐ Easy ☐ Difficult ☐ Slow to Warm up ☐ Mild ☒

2. "Substitution of an acceptable reason for behavior because real reason is unacceptable" is the definition of ☒ Displacement ☐ Rationalization ☐ Sublimation ☐ Splitting.
☐ ☐ ☐

3. All Defense Mechanisms include which of the following characteristics? (mark all that apply)
☒ Unconscious ☒ Engaged in by ☐ Harmful ☐ Distortions of Everyone's Reality ☒
☐ ☐ ☐

4. Which of the following is not a Defense Mechanism?
☐ Projection ☐ Regression ☐ Denial ☒ Blame
☐ ☐ ☐

5. What is the name of the most widely used instrument for measuring personality?
☒ MMPI-2 ☐ MMPI-1 ☐ MMPI-3 ☐ MMPI-4
☐ ☐ ☐

All of us have experienced the power of good news. Perhaps it was when you got the report that you passed an exam. Or when you were told that you got the job. Maybe you received the blood test results and learned that nothing's wrong. Good news has a powerful impact on us. It turns an ordinary day into an extraordinary event that we will always remember.

WHAT'S A MEMORABLE GOOD NEWS MOMENT YOU'VE HAD?
HOW DID IT AFFECT YOU?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Paul introduced himself to the church in Rome by way of the gospel. When anyone used the word “gospel” in those days, they meant that they had good news. For Paul, the gospel meant the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Paul served Jesus as a missionary to the Gentiles. He devoted himself to sharing the gospel with people who had never had a chance to hear it. For that reason, he told the believers in Rome that he would visit them soon. Paul's passion to share the gospel prompted him to make this visit. He wanted to encourage believers there, and he also wanted them to partner with him in proclaiming the gospel to others who had not heard it. He testified that telling others the good news of Jesus did not embarrass him. On the contrary, he shared the message with eagerness. He had an obligation to proclaim it everywhere. Paul knew that anyone who placed their faith in Christ would have their lives transformed.

A sincere burden for Gentiles compelled Paul to preach the gospel to them. Even though he didn't mention Gentiles specifically, he had them in mind as he wrote about the wrath of God. They lived in a world that God had created. By looking around them, they should have sensed His presence. But instead of turning to Him and worshipping Him, they ignored His presence and rejected His existence.

By turning a deaf ear to the truth about Jesus, they stumbled along in spiritual darkness. Sinful behavior directed their lives. Having rejected the Creator, they worshiped objects that He created. They also gave themselves to immorality and other pagan expressions of sexual degradation. Their sinful way of living had poisoned them spiritually. As a result, they sank deeper into sin and encouraged others to join them in their disgraceful conduct. Therefore, God would have the last word over their lives, and His judgment would affect them eternally. For that reason, they needed to hear the good news of Jesus.



13 Now I don't want you to be **unaware**, **A** brothers and sisters, that I often planned to come to you (but was prevented until now) in order that I might have a fruitful ministry among you, just as I have had among the rest of the Gentiles. **14** I am **obligated** **B** both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish. **15** So I am eager to preach the **gospel** **C** to you also who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. **17** For in it the **righteousness** **D** of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith. **18** For God's **wrath** **E** is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness **suppress** **F** the truth, **19** since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen **since the creation of the world**, **G** being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are **without excuse**. **H** **21** For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. **24** Therefore God **delivered them over** **I** in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. **25** They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

A. The Greek wording relates to understanding more than intellect, especially in terms of spiritual matters.

B. Paul felt a strong "debt" to all people, regardless of background. This came from his own encounter with God's grace and the universal need for salvation.

C. Greek, *evangelion*. The word means "good news" and refers to the message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

D. Brought back into a right relationship with God. This is not the result of human effort, but a gift granted by God based on faith in Jesus.

E. God's just and measured response to human sin. Through His judgment of sin, God maintains moral order in the world.

F. While truth does not change, sinful humans tend to ignore, reject, or restrain God's truth. This results in moral decay and collapse.

G. God reveals His existence through His creation. Theologians call this "general revelation."

H. God's revelation of Himself in nature ensures humans have no excuse for denying Him.

I. God allowed humans to follow their own path and to suffer the consequences of their choices.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. Gospel Power

(Rom. 1:13-17)

Believers seek opportunities to share the gospel's power with those who need it.

- **How does remembering that the gospel is “the power of God for salvation” change your confidence in sharing it?**

2. Divine Revelation

(Rom. 1:18-20)

We can point others toward God through what He has revealed in His creation.

- **What does creation teach us about God's attributes?**
- **How are God's invisible attributes displayed through creation? How should that influence the way we live each day?**

3. Worthless Thinking

(Rom. 1:21-25)

Rejecting God ultimately leads to devastating consequences.

- **How do people exchange truth for lies today—and how might you be tempted to do the same?**

Apply the Text

Focus on people in your life who do not know Jesus. Agree with your Bible study group to pray together for these people and to ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with them.

KEY DOCTRINE: Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. (See Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

BIBLE SKILL: Use a Bible dictionary to better understand a theological concept.

Paul emphasized that God reveals Himself through nature (“natural” or “general” revelation) as well as through His Word and through Jesus (“special” revelation). Read a Bible dictionary article on “Revelation” to learn more about these two forms of divine revelation. Record your thoughts about their similarities or differences.



Explore the Bible Prayer Guide

Scan here for a weekly prayer guide based on this quarter's Bible passages.

TALK IT OUT

Focus on Romans 1:16. What is something you were once unsure about but now you are confident in?

Paul affirmed that the gospel is how God saves people. It is powerful—it changes lives. It has no boundaries—it is for all people, no matter where they come from. Anyone who believes the gospel message can be saved. For these reasons, Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What stands out to you about the way Paul described the gospel?

Based on the way Paul described the gospel, believers can trust that the gospel works—it is the “power of God.” It is the gospel that saves, not our persuasiveness or cleverness in sharing it. Our role is simply to be faithful in sharing His message. We should never be embarrassed to talk about the gospel—it is the good news that people need, and the power that changes lives.

What does it look like in real life to be unashamed of the gospel? Who around you needs the hope of the gospel?

Agree to text Romans 1:16 to each other over the next week as a reminder to live unashamed of the gospel.

Prayer Requests / Notes

DAILY EXPLORATION



Day 1: Romans 1:13-15

Look for the reasons Paul was eager to visit Rome.

Paul was eager to visit the Christians in Rome. So far, his work prevented him from going there. He looked forward to being with them because he had many friends in the church (Rom. 16:3-16). But he also had another reason for wanting to be with them. The visit would strengthen their spiritual kinship for the sake of fruitful ministry. The Lord had called Paul to serve as a missionary to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). With the help of the church in Rome, he intended to expand his ministry to new areas where Christ was not known (see Rom. 15:23-24).

Paul passionately embraced his call to mission work. He considered himself obligated to people who had not heard the gospel. They needed to know about Jesus and the gift of salvation that is centered in Him. Some of them spoke the Greek language. Others, like the barbarians, spoke other languages. Likewise, they may have been known as wise, or they could have been categorized as foolish. All of them shared one need in common: to hear the good news about Christ. Jesus had changed Paul's life forever, and the need for others to know Him compelled the apostle to stretch himself as far as possible to take the gospel to them.

How can you nurture a desire to share the gospel with others?



Day 2: Romans 1:16-17

Highlight the words “not ashamed.”

Paul did not consider his obligation to share the gospel to be a heavy burden. Quite the opposite, he took hold of it with wholehearted enthusiasm. He looked forward to walking through the doors of opportunity God would open for him. At this time in His ministry, walking through the door meant going to Rome and deepening his relationship with the church there.

Paul's testimony reminds us that we should never be “ashamed of the gospel.” The good news about Jesus is the “power of God” that changes lives and brings salvation to everyone who believes. Paul's mention of both Jew and Greek reminds us that the gospel has no boundaries—it is good news for all people everywhere.

Receiving the gift of salvation through Christ changes everything. Most importantly, it makes us right with God. Trying to earn righteousness by our good deeds leads to nothing more than emptiness and frustration. A right relationship with God results from placing our faith in Christ to save us. When Jesus makes us right with God, He will then guide us toward maturity. The level of faith we exhibit in spiritual infancy gives way to a more mature level of faith as we follow Him. From one level of faith to another, we grow stronger and deeper in our walk with Him.

How does remembering the gospel as “the power of God for salvation” give you greater confidence in sharing it?



Day 3: Romans 1:18-20

Pay attention to the distinction between general revelation and special revelation.

Having affirmed the power of the gospel, Paul explained why people need to hear the gospel. He explained that “God’s wrath” is being “revealed . . . against all godlessness and unrighteousness.” Paul noted that God’s wrath was directed toward those who “by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” Paul was talking about people who closed their eyes to the obvious signs of God’s presence in their world.

The reality of God’s existence screams to us. Not only does the evidence exist all around us, but He has also gone to the trouble of making sure we see it. Therefore, no one can say they have never “known about God.” The most obvious evidence of God’s presence can be seen in His creation. Granted, nobody has seen His “invisible attributes.” We cannot see His “eternal power.” Neither can we behold His “divine nature.” However, anyone can clearly perceive His attributes in the world that He created for us. Nobody has an excuse for denying God’s reality and presence in the world.

Theologians have a name for the everyday evidence of God’s presence: general revelation. In the Bible, God shows Himself in a way that’s called special revelation. There we meet Jesus. God’s special revelation about Jesus in Scripture is necessary for salvation.

How would you help someone understand why there is no excuse for denying the reality of God?



Day 4: Romans 1:21-23

Underline the words “worthless,” “senseless,” and “fools.”

When people refuse to see God in His creation, they spiral downward spiritually. They begin to foster notions about themselves and their world that are “worthless.” They ignore the truth about God at every turn. With their minds closed to the certainty of His presence, their hearts turn cold toward Him. The chilling emptiness in their hearts redirects their passions in a destructive way. As they adore their own “senseless” ideas and misdirected passions, they consider themselves to be enlightened. In reality, they are stumbling along in spiritual darkness.

Paul pointed to the result of their deception. The people who reject the reality of God’s presence continue to mislead themselves. They lie to themselves about how their world works and how they work in their world. Instead of telling themselves the truth about God’s presence in their world, they choose to deceive themselves into thinking that He does not exist. They consider their self-deception to be wisdom. Actually, it has made “fools” of them.

They show their foolishness in the objects they choose to worship. They pay no attention to the “immortal God.” Instead of choosing wisely to worship the Lord, they decide to indulge in the practice of paying homage to “images.” They shape the images into pagan idols that they adore and worship.

How does pride contribute to exchanging the truth about God for distorted ideas?



Day 5: Romans 1:24-25

Circle the words “truth” and “lie.”

In response to unbelievers’ foolish choices (vv. 21-23), God reflects His eternal wisdom. He has the authority to destroy them completely or to wash His hands of them for good. But instead of choosing either option, He determined to hand them over to their pagan passions. Their hearts crave “sexual impurity.” He released them so they could follow their hearts in their attempts to find spiritual contentment in unbridled sexual encounters. In turn, they took a nosedive into an empty lifestyle of morally degrading behavior. In so doing, they continue to disgrace themselves as they sink deeper into spiritual darkness.

By choosing such a self-destructive path, they make an exchange. They replace “truth” with a “lie.” If they would take hold of truth, they would give themselves to worshiping and serving God. Unmistakable validations of His living presence surround them. But they turn their backs on the truth. Instead, they place their faith in a lie of the worst kind. Consequently, they devote themselves to a lifestyle that renders spiritual emptiness. They reject “the Creator” who could fill their lives with spiritual contentment. He alone deserves to be “praised forever.”

How do misplaced worship and misplaced identity reinforce one another?

APPLY THE TEXT

Look at your own determination to share the good news of Jesus. How do you exhibit your confidence in the power of the gospel? What will you do this week to demonstrate your eagerness for others to hear it? With whom will you start a gospel conversation?

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