



the book of  
**ROMANS**

The Power of the Gospel



**EVERY NATION**  
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# How to use this Devotional

Thank you for joining us on our journey through the book of Romans.  
It's a space to reflect, learn, and grow through the unfolding message of the letter.

Each week, one chapter of Romans will be explored. The study guide includes space and prompts designed to support deeper engagement with the text, encouraging growth in understanding and application. The material can be used gradually over several days or within a dedicated session each week, depending on preference and rhythm.

This devotional manual of the book of Romans uses a reading plan we call SOAPS.

S.O.A.P.S. is an acronym based reading plan to help you engage with God through scripture - it stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer and Share.

## **Scripture**

This devotional gives you a portion of scripture. The first step is to simply read the scripture through. You may explore reading it in different versions.

## **Observation**

What do you think God is saying to you through the given scripture and why? What words stand out to you?

## **Application**

Personalise what you have read by asking yourself how the scripture and observation apply to your life.

## **Prayer**

After identifying a personal application of the scripture, take time to pray. Use this moment to pause, reflect, and engage in a two way conversation with God. Listen for what the Holy Spirit may want to reveal or add, and ask for strength, wisdom, and clarity to apply His word in daily life.

## **Share**

Sharing helps deepen understanding and retention, and God calls us to share His word. After praying, identify one person who does not yet know Jesus and another who might benefit from what you've just learned. Consider how you would share this with them, and make a plan to follow through.

After doing your own reflections we have included a few questions to help you with personal reflection and application.

Finally, for each chapter of Romans, there are questions designed for Connect Group discussion and shared growth. Each week's questions focus on the three F's of Discipleship: Fellowship, Follow Jesus, and Fish for men. Use this section to reflect together, encourage one another, and hold each other accountable in applying what has been learned. Growth happens best in a committed community.

Every Nation Ruinsig  
Discipleship

# ROMANS 1

Romans chapter 1 serves as both an introduction and a thematic foundation for the letter as a whole. Paul begins by identifying himself not through titles of authority or religious prestige, but as a bondservant of Christ — a term denoting lifelong servitude, often without reward, rooted in complete submission to another's will. This deliberate choice of language reflects Paul's deep humility and unwavering devotion, positioning himself as one who owes everything to Christ and holds nothing back. From the outset, he makes it clear that the central focus of his writing is the gospel; the good news that defines his mission, his message, and his very identity.

In this first chapter the Gospel is mentioned at least three times. In v1-6 Paul explains the nature of the gospel. In v9 Paul makes clear that his life's purpose is in service to preaching the gospel. Finally in v13-19 Paul speaks of the power of the gospel, the need for the gospel, and his desire to have more fruit because of preaching the gospel.

Read the chapter of Romans 1 and see what you can deduce about how Paul uses this chapter to lay the groundwork for the nature and power of the gospel, as well as the need for the gospel to be preached.

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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## Share

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. What stands out to you about how Paul introduces himself and his reason for writing this letter? How might that shape how the rest of the letter is read?
  2. Based on your reading of Romans 1, how would you describe the nature and power of the gospel?
  3. Paul calls himself a servant of the gospel and says he is not ashamed of it. Do you think this mindset was just for him, or is it something all Christians should have?
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## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

If God could do a miracle for you today what would it be? (Pray for each other)

### **Follow**

Read together: Romans 1:1-17

1. What does your missional life look like?
2. Paul gives us some examples below of intentionally living to make disciples:

Vs 9: I serve

Vs 9: I make mention of you in my prayers

Vs 11: I long to see you

Vs 11: that I may impart to you some spiritual gift so that you may be established

Vs 12: I may be encouraged together with you

Vs 13: I often planned to come to you

Vs 15: So as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel

Which practices will you intentionally incorporate into life?

### **Fish**

Are you ashamed of the gospel? Why or why not? Would the non-Christians in your life say the same about how you live and speak?

# ROMANS 3

One of the themes in Romans 2-3 is “Boasting”. What you boast in is what fundamentally defines you, what gives us our confidence and identity. According to Timothy Keller, “Paul shows that we can get our confidence out of racial pride, educational pride, religious/moral pride. But the gospel changes this completely so we only “boast” in the Lord’s grace toward us.” The Jews boasted about their status as a covenant people who have the law, but failed to keep it, and caused them to judge others.

If we put our identity in anything other than the gospel, it acts as a cover and shield for our own insecurities and failures and makes us judge others. But the gospel gives us security that God saves despite our sin, and we contributed nothing to it through our actions. This is such good news because it frees us from the judgement of the law, which we all fall short of, and fills us with love and gratitude towards God.

Read Romans 3 and see what you can observe and learn about the nature of humanity and the effect of the gospel on us.

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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## Share

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. What are some of the things that this chapter reveals about the human condition?
2. What does this chapter say about the role of God's law in a Christian's life?
3. What is the main point of this chapter?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

- Do you have a funny testimony to share?
- What prayers have you been praying recently?

### **Follow**

Read together: Romans 3:21-26

How would you engage with someone who shared the following views about sin with you?

- "You can't tell me how to live my life just because of your religion — what the Bible says doesn't matter to me."

How do the following words that describe what Jesus did on the cross impact your walk with God?

- All have sinned
- Justified
- Freely by Grace
- Redemption
- Atonement

### **Fish**

Often we feel that our job as Christians is to condemn people for their sinful lifestyles. Does confronting people with their sin play a role in evangelism?

With whom can you share the good news that in Jesus Christ we can be free from the power of sin?

# ROMANS 4

Many times as Christians we can get into the mindset that we need to somehow deserve or earn the love and salvation of God, much like someone earns their wages through the work they do for their employer. When we fail or sin badly we then heap condemnation upon ourselves thinking that God should surely reject us too. This is not the Gospel. In Romans 4 Paul illustrates this point with two heroes of the Israelite faith, Abraham and David. Israelites tended to view Abraham as a great man who deserved God's favor because of His righteousness, but if we read the story in Genesis it becomes clear that Abraham failed and sinned many times, and yet put his faith in God.

Abraham was justified by faith, not by works. Similarly David was a man after God's own heart and a great king, and yet as we read his story we see he committed many sins. David was also justified by faith, not works! We can never earn or deserve the righteousness God desires in us, we cannot make God owe us anything by working really hard for it.

All we can do, and all we need to do, is put our faith in a God who is able to raise the dead and justify us through His blood. Consider these truths as you study Romans 4.

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. What can we learn from the way Paul contrasts works vs faith in Romans 4:4-5.
2. Reading Romans 4:12-17 what is the significance of Abraham being called the father of our faith as non-Jews?
3. Reading Romans 4:18-22 what can we learn about the nature of faith that saves?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

- What is your favourite food? If it's not available what would you substitute it with?
- Which do you find works best for you: Android, Windows, or Apple, and why? Which system feels most natural or easy to use in your day to day life?
- If someone could give you anything, no limits, what would be the one thing you'd love to receive, and why does it matter to you?

### **Follow**

Read together: Romans 4:13-16

- What is your default "operating system" with God, earning or receiving?
- What promises from God would you just love to have right now? How does God want you to respond?
- Do you trust God with your deepest longings/ desires /needs? On a scale of 1-10, how easy is it to trust God and why or why not?
- What is "dead" in your life that you need God to revive? OR What have you done in the natural that you now in faith need God to do in the supernatural? Let's pray into these.

### **Fish**

- Are there any people you know who are facing "hopeless" situations?
- How can you share God's heart for them, while they are in this hopeless situation?

# ROMANS 8:1-17

We have now jumped over Romans 5-7 and find ourselves in Romans 8 where Paul succinctly summarizes the points he has made in Romans 5– 7 in just two verses: “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Rom. 8:3–4).

Chapter 5 demonstrated how sin came to everyone through one man Adam, and now through one man, Christ Jesus righteousness has come to all who believe. Romans 6 begins to answer how we should live in response to this gift of righteousness that does not depend on the law. Romans 7 then explains how the law was unable to overcome the sin in our hearts. Romans 7 culminates in a cry of anguish: “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Rom. 7:24). Paul then gives the answer to this question in Romans 8 by looking at what Christ did on the cross and how we can now live free from sin as adopted children of God!

As you read Romans 8:1-17 look for how Paul unpacks this powerful truth.

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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## Share

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. Read Romans 7:4-11 as well. What is the difference between the two laws in Romans 8:2? Why does one bring death and the other bring life?
2. What are the keys to walking free from sin that are presented in Romans 8:1-17?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

Tell us of a time when you felt close to God, what happened?

### **Follow**

- How has this passage impacted your walk with God? How do you see yourself in light of this passage?
- Do you feel like you're living under condemnation? Here are a few signs that might point to that struggle — how many of these do you relate to?
  - Feeling of strong disapproval from God
  - I don't know if God loves me or hates me
  - I feel that God is punishing me
  - I struggle with negative condemning thoughts about myself
  - I am unfit to be used by God
  - Even after repenting I carry guilt for the things that I have done
  - I think I'm not worthy to be called a Christian
  - I don't see why I should stop sinning if God hates me
- What is the difference between conviction of the Holy Spirit and condemnation of the law?
- Does God take sin seriously, or is He soft on it? According to Romans 8:13, what does this tell us about how true holiness is possible?

### **Fish**

Which 3 people are you going to intentionally spend time with so that you can share the new life offered by gospel with?

# ROMANS 8:17-39

What would you be willing to suffer so that someone else might encounter God's love and the gospel of Christ? If you are being conformed to the image of Christ, then you are called to lay down your very life in order to represent God's love for His creation, just as He did on the cross. In Romans 8:17-39 Paul explains how we as the church are God's answer to the groaning of this world which is suffering under the consequences of sin.

We do not escape the suffering of creation, but we enter into the dark spaces and bring God's life and light there. As we humble ourselves and bring the gospel to a broken world we conform to the image of Christ through our own suffering. However, even in the midst of that suffering we have the knowledge that God's love will never leave us, which will strengthen us.

Read Romans 8:17-39

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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## Share

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. Reading Romans 8:17 are there any conditions for sharing in God's Glory?
2. What are the main themes explored in Romans 8:17-38?
3. As you engage with this chapter, pay close attention to the work of God: What are the roles of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in this passage? And how are we invited to respond to their divine activity?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

Do you have a story of a difficult time in your life that has shaped your character for the better?

### **Follow**

- What role does suffering play in the Christian life?
- What is our attitude as Christians towards all creation in this life?
- What can we learn about preaching the gospel from this passage?
- Why does Paul end this chapter by focusing on God's love? How does that help us live out what he taught earlier in the passage?

### **Fish**

Ask God for a greater awareness of the groaning of the Spirit for the redemption of this world and intercede with the Spirit for this world. Ask God for opportunities to witness.

# ROMANS 11

In Romans 9-11 Paul answers the question of whether God has forgotten His promises to Israel and abandoned His people by choosing the gentiles to receive the gospel. Paul explains that in God's sovereignty He has organized all of history to bring all nations to salvation. Israel was supposed to be a blessing to all nations, but they failed at that task time and time again. Jesus fulfilled all that Israel was supposed to be, and brought the blessing of the gospel to all people.

No one ever deserved salvation, God did not choose Israel because they deserved it, but because of His sovereignty. Israel however turned away from God to the law as a means of salvation and became enemies of the cross. Paul still has hope for their salvation, and longs for it. We need to be humble in our salvation. If Israel could become hardened, with blind eyes and deaf ears, we can too.

Read Romans 11

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. According to Romans 11, what is the significance of the story of Israel's salvation to our lives?
2. What do we learn about the character of God from this chapter?
3. How are we asked to respond to this chapter practically in our lives?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

Everyone loves a good love story, what is your favourite love story?

### **Follow**

Read Together: Romans 11: 16-32 ESV

Discuss the following questions:

- Rejection is a theme we see in God's love story with Israel and the world. The question is who rejected who and why?
- Are there limits to God's mercy?
- How do you understand God's plan for Israel?
- Pray for peace in the Middle East.

### **Fish**

- Do you know someone who once followed Christ but has drifted away? God's gift and calling are never taken back. How and when will you remind them that He still loves them?
- Commit your plan to the Lord in prayer and trust for their hearts to soften towards God again.

# ROMANS 12

In our culture the word “love” has a very broad meaning so as to become meaningless. You can love the weather, pizza, a dog, or an activity. When you speak of loving one-another we know it is not in the same way that we love our favorite food, but beyond mere feelings of affection. What is love according to the Bible? From Romans 12:1 - 15:13 Paul turns towards what it looks like to serve and love one another within the church as well as those who are outside the church.

Love is shown when we lay down our lives for one another by serving each other with our gifts, helping carry each other’s burdens, and being careful not to cause others to stumble. And toward those outside the faith, we are called to love even those who may hate us, showing them the same love God showed us when we were far from Him.

As you read Romans 12 think about what love looks like in your life.

## Observation

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. How do Romans 12:1–2 connect to the rest of the chapter? How should we understand these verses based on what comes after?
2. What is the importance of the actions Paul selected for the church to practice towards one another?
3. Why is it important to practice love towards those who hurt us?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

What is the best team that you have been a part of? What made it such a good team?

### **Follow**

Read Together: Romans 12:1-2, 9-21 ESV

Discuss the following questions:

- What does it mean to renew our minds in the context of the rest of the chapter?
- How can you demonstrate greater love to your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- We live in a “cancel culture”, in what ways does this passage help us to engage with those that we disagree with?
- Have you ever tried to love your enemies? What happened?
- Do you trust God to avenge on your behalf when you forgive? How do you think God takes vengeance?

### **Fish**

In what ways can you actively show the love of Christ to people that resent you? (Romans 12:21)

# ROMANS 16

Essential points about church life emerge from the greetings of Romans 16:1–23. The names suggest both high rank and enslavement. He praises both women and men. We see a church that found unity despite diversity in ethnicity, sex, social status, and native language. More foundationally, Jesus united the church. In Romans 16:3–13, Paul greets eleven people and the family of Narcissus, saying that they are “in Christ” or “in the Lord.” Paul sees the people he greets as family, as brothers and sisters and often calls them “beloved”.

Paul toiled and suffered alongside them deepening their bonds (16:3–9). Yet Paul warned us to beware of those who would lead us astray from the truth with endurance. We are encouraged that God is able to make us strong through the gospel Paul preached, now revealed to us, and that Jesus will soon crush Satan under our feet.

Read Romans 16

## Observation

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## Application

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## Prayer

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## Share

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# Personal Reflection Questions

1. Phoebe, Prisca, Mary, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, Persis, Junia, and Rufus' mother are some of the women mentioned in this chapter. How does the way Paul speaks of the women in his greeting teach us about their role in the work of ministry?
2. What is the contrast between Paul's description of himself in Romans 1 and the false teachers described in Romans 16:18? Why is this contrast significant?
3. What can we learn about the nature of the gospel from Romans 16:25-27?

## Connect Group Outline

### **Fellowship**

How has sharing difficult tasks with others affected your relationships with those involved?

### **Follow**

- Paul mentions that those within this church played different roles in his life as friends, mothers, fellow workers who suffered with him in the work of the gospel. How can we support one another in the work of the gospel?
- In Romans 16:16 we are told to greet one another with a holy kiss, which was a sign of mutual affection. How can we greet and relate to one another to practice this principle in our context?
- Given all the praise Paul has for this church, why does Paul issue the warning in v17-20? What can we learn from this for our context?

### **Fish**

- How does v 25-27 encourage you to share the gospel?
- How can you maintain living a life established in the preaching of the gospel?



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