

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

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TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.

GROUP GUIDE
WEEK 5

SEASON 4
PEOPLE OF THE GOSPEL

ROMANS

CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Describe one memorable (good) experience with a childhood friend.
- What's the tastiest meal you've had in the past week?
- Have you ever had a friend come to your defense? Describe what that was like.

TRUTH

*UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

We've come to the final chapter in Romans. As Paul wraps up this great letter about the greatest story ever told, he displays his care for his fellow believers in Rome. He also leaves them with a sense of true north for their faith. His message to them is a burning message for us today—that spiritual family strives faithfully for believing obedience and enjoyment of the glory of God.

The Make-Up of Spiritual Family

READ: Romans 16:1-16 (All the unfamiliar names should make this fun.)

DISCUSS: Why do you think it's significant that Paul can identify many of the Roman Christians by name?

At first glance, this long list of unfamiliar names doesn't feel exciting. But there are some important things to pay attention to. First, notice Paul's choice of the words "brother," "sister," and "mother" numerous times. He may be the great church-planting apostle, but he knows he could never do it alone. He needs spiritual family, and so do we. Next, we see that there's major diversity of gender and

nationality. And all these people are dear fellow servants of Paul. If there's ever a thought that you can't fit in with spiritual family, it's a lie. God's family is diverse, dearly loved, and on mission together.

What Spiritual Family Strives For

READ: Romans 16:17–23

DISCUSS: What does Paul tell his spiritual family to be on guard against?

Spiritual family can only thrive when believers strive together. You can think about it like defense and offense. There are things we must strive to defend against. Whatever causes division, whatever undermines good doctrine, people who warp the gospel with smooth talk—we must strive to defend our spiritual family against these threats. The offense is what Jesus is doing and will do to God's enemy, Satan, when he crushes him. Peace isn't a mushy, muddied, gray middle. It's

the victory of King Jesus over God's
great enemy.

GRACE

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

Where It's All Headed

READ: Romans 16:25-27

DISCUSS: What stands out to you from these verses and why?

Paul ends where he began—his desire and intention to bring about believing obedience throughout the nations. Yet we also glimpse the “forevermore” to which believing obedience leads. God’s glory is his collective excellencies, and his glory is so immense, that we’ll enjoy him forever. Believing obedience to Jesus Christ opens the door for his people to experience and enjoy God’s glory forever. Praise be to God through Jesus Christ!

CHANGE

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- Is your experience of church one of spiritual family? How can you prioritize relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ?
- Can you say that you have embraced believing obedience to Jesus? What does it look like for you to embrace it for yourself and help others to do it too?
- In what ways does the thought of enjoying God's glory forever impact you?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray for the defense and offense of our church to remain strong.
- Pray for a revelation of what it means to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're engaging with the gospel?



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