

# HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

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## 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.

WEEK 1

SEASON 1  
THE GOSPEL. OUR NEED.

# ROMANS

GROUP GUIDE



# CONNECT

*BREAK THE ICE AND  
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What are some fall-specific activities that you enjoy?
- What are a couple highs and lows you experienced during the past week or two?
- Growing up, what were some areas of your life where your parents were very strict? In what areas were they lenient?

# TRUTH

***UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS  
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING***

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God... (Romans 1:1)*

Romans is Paul's masterpiece. Yet if you think about Romans as a painting, what makes it masterful is how Paul brings out the subject with such vividness. His subject is the gospel. The depth and beauty of the book are drawn from the depth and beauty of the gospel itself. You don't have to get very far into the first chapter to understand why the gospel is worth painting with such mastery, and why it's worth devoting our lives to.

# Believing Obedience

**READ:** Romans 1:1–7

**DISCUSS:** What are some really important parts of the gospel that you can learn about from Paul's greeting?

This greeting tells us a good deal about Paul. What's striking right from the first verse is his absolute devotion to Jesus. It's as if Jesus could ask anything of him and he'd obey immediately. We learn, however, that Paul's mission is to bring about this same kind of obedience in the whole world. He calls it "the obedience of faith." It's an obedience that flows from believing that Jesus is the Son of God. Why believe that? Because he rose from the dead. If Jesus is who the gospel says he is, obeying him makes all the sense in the world.

# Power of God

**READ:** Romans 1:8-15

**DISCUSS:** What are Paul's reasons for wanting to visit Rome? Why do you think these reasons are important?

Paul describes the gospel as "the power of God," and he gives us a picture of that power in action. He knows that if he gets to Rome, the disciples there will be strengthened, they'll all be encouraged, and God will work through them to make more disciples. Those who embrace a believing obedience get to experience God's power at work in these same ways today – strength, encouragement, and fruitfulness.



# GRACE

*SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

## New Life

**READ:** Romans 1:16-17

**DISCUSS:** What do you think the words “salvation” and “righteousness” mean? (Even if you’re not 100% sure, still give it a shot.)

In these two verses, Paul sums up the power of the beauty of the gospel. The gospel is the good news that everyone who believes is saved. It also reveals God’s righteousness. Paul will unpack these ideas in the pages that follow, but here’s the idea: God created the world and he’s bringing new life to it. God created you and me and he’s offered new life to

anyone who believes the good news. We know that he can do it, because the power of this new life raised Jesus from the dead.

# CHANGE

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

- Do you feel like you can call yourself a servant of Christ Jesus at this point in your life? Why or why not?
- Do you believe the story that Paul tells about Jesus? Why or why not?
- In what areas of your life right now do you need to experience the power of God that Paul described?

# PRAYER

*RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Paul said he thanked God for all the disciples in Rome because of their faith. Spend some time thanking God for the work he's done in bringing those in the group to faith.
- Pray for the power of God to work mightily in your group to strengthen, encourage, and bring more people to faith in Jesus.

## **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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