

# ROMANS SEASON 3 WHAT WAS GOD THINKING?

---

## CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- When's the last time you got really frustrated at technology that didn't work like it was supposed to?
  - What's the most complicated subject you've ever studied? Did you enjoy the experience?
  - What's a song that gets stuck in your head lately?
- 

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

We've looked at some mind-bending topics over the past two weeks. Paul is giving us a peak into the mind of God. In the rest of chapter ten, however, he's going to show us that that the inner workings of God's mind may be complicated, but his plan his simple. The gospel is simple, and it has a simple message, a simple method, and it calls for a simple response.

### Simple Message

**READ:** Romans 10:5-13

**DISCUSS:** Based on these verses, how would you sum up the simple message of the gospel?

The gospel isn't for super humans. That's Paul's point in the two questions, "Who will ascend into heaven?" and "Who will descend into the abyss?" Here's the simple message: Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead. You don't have to climb a mountain of enlightenment or plumb the depths of complex philosophy to get the picture. Believing this message and confessing it—a word that means shaping your life and actions around it—is how a person is saved. Simple.

### Simple Method

**READ:** Romans 10:14-15

**DISCUSS:** We saw in the earlier verses how simple the gospel is. How does the gospel's simplicity affect the way you feel about telling it to others?

What do campaign slogans and repetitive song hooks have in common? They're simple because they're designed to spread like wildfire. So is the gospel. For people to believe and confess the gospel, they first need to hear it, which means someone needs to say it to them. Jesus gave his followers the mission of making disciples of all nations, and that begins with telling the simple story of the gospel. Preaching—which means "proclaiming" or "announcing"—isn't just for pastors or evangelists; it's the tool given to every believer to spread the good news that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead.

## Simple Response

**READ:** Romans 10:16-21

**DISCUSS:** What do you think it means for a person to “obey the gospel”?

Paul includes five references to Old Testament passages in these verses. Why? He wants to make it clear that those who reject the gospel can't claim ignorance. Their unwillingness to call on Jesus isn't ignorance; it's disobedience. If Jesus is Lord over everything, then there's only two possible responses to him: obedience and disobedience. Simple as that.

---

## GRACE SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

### The Open Hands of God

There's good reason to believe and obey. When Paul says in verse 21 that God has “held out [his] hands to a disobedient and contrary people,” we know it to be true because of Jesus Christ. He willingly let Roman soldiers hammer nails through his open hands, and he hung on the cross on behalf of disobedient sinners. Those living, nail-scarred hands now offer all the riches of righteousness to everyone who believes. Simple.

---

## CHANGE APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS

- How can you see the simplicity of the gospel impacting your day-to-day life?
  - Do you truly believe that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead? Why or why not?
  - What stands in the way of you telling the story of the gospel to others? How can this passage help you overcome those hurdles?
- 

## PRAYER RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Pray for opportunities and boldness this week to tell others the simple story of the gospel.
- Pray for continued faithfulness to Jesus as Lord, to trust and obey him with a whole heart.

### Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?