📖 GUIDED BIBLE STUDY · 8 SESSIONS

Romans: The Gospel Explained

Romans lays out the good news from start to finish: why everyone needs it, how God makes us right with Himself, and how to live by the Spirit. Eight sessions for groups or personal study.

1

Not ashamed of the gospel

Romans 1:1-17

Paul introduces himself and the message he lives for. The gospel is about God's Son, it is God's power to save, and it reveals a righteousness that comes by faith.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What do verses 1-4 tell us the gospel is about?
2. Why might someone be ashamed of the gospel? Why wasn't Paul (verse 16)?
3. What does it mean that the gospel is "the power of God"?
4. Verse 17 says "the just shall live by faith." What does living by faith look like day to day?

LIVE IT

Pray for one person by name who needs to hear the gospel, and look for a chance to share it.

PRAY

Ask God to make you unashamed of the good news and bold to share it.

2 Everyone needs it

Romans 3:9-26

Paul has shown that both the outwardly wicked and the outwardly religious stand guilty before God. Then comes the turning point of the letter: "But now" God has provided a righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. How many people are "righteous" according to verses 10-12? Why is that hard to accept?
2. What is the purpose of the law (verses 19-20)?
3. Verses 21-24 say we are justified freely by His grace. What does "justified" mean?
4. How does the cross show that God is both just and the one who justifies (verses 25-26)?

LIVE IT

Memorize Romans 3:23-24 this week.

PRAY

Thank God that though all have sinned, He offers to make us right with Him freely through Jesus.

3 Faith like Abraham

Romans 4:1-8; Romans 4:16-25

Paul points to Abraham to show that God has always counted people righteous by faith, not by works or religious rituals. Abraham believed God's promise even when it looked impossible.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. How was Abraham made right with God (verse 3)?
2. What is the difference between wages and a gift (verses 4-5)?
3. What did Abraham's faith look like when the promise seemed impossible (verses 18-21)?
4. What promise of God do you need to trust Him with right now?

LIVE IT

Write down one of God's promises and thank Him for it every morning this week.

PRAY

Ask God to strengthen your faith like Abraham's, fully convinced that He will do what He has promised.

4 Peace with God

Romans 5:1-11

Because we have been justified by faith, everything changes: we have peace with God, access to His grace, hope, and even a new way to see suffering. And it all comes from a love that reached us while we were still sinners.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. List the blessings in verses 1-2 that belong to everyone justified by faith.
2. How can we rejoice in suffering (verses 3-5)?
3. Verse 8 says God showed His love "while we were still sinners." Why does the timing matter?
4. How would knowing you have peace with God change how you face a hard week?

LIVE IT

When trouble comes this week, read verses 3-5 and thank God for what He is building in you.

PRAY

Thank God for His love that reached you before you ever loved Him.

5 Dead to sin, alive to God

Romans 6:1-14

If we're saved by grace, can we keep on sinning? "God forbid!" Paul says. Through faith and baptism we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection, so sin no longer has to be our master.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What wrong idea does Paul answer in verse 1?
2. How does baptism picture what happened to us (verses 3-5)?
3. What does it mean to "reckon" yourself dead to sin and alive to God (verse 11)?
4. Verse 13 talks about offering ourselves to God. What would that look like in your life this week?

LIVE IT

Name one habit you need to stop handing over to sin, and ask a trusted believer to pray with you about it.

PRAY

Thank God that you are alive in Christ, and offer Him every part of your life.

6 No condemnation

Romans 8:1-17

After describing the struggle with sin in chapter 7, Paul bursts out with some of the best news in the Bible: there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit gives life and makes us God's children.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does "no condemnation" mean for a believer who still struggles with sin?
2. Compare the mind set on the flesh with the mind set on the Spirit (verses 5-8).
3. What does it mean to cry "Abba, Father" (verse 15)?
4. How does being God's child and heir (verse 17) change the way you see yourself?

LIVE IT

Each morning this week, start your prayer with "Father" and thank Him that you are His child.

PRAY

Thank God that there is no condemnation in Christ, and ask the Spirit to lead you.

7 More than conquerors

Romans 8:28-39

Paul finishes chapter 8 with a series of unshakable promises. God works all things for good for those who love Him, and nothing in all creation can separate us from His love in Christ.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does Romans 8:28 promise, and what doesn't it promise?
2. Paul asks five questions in verses 31-35. Which answer means the most to you?
3. What does it mean to be "more than conquerors" (verse 37)?
4. Read verses 38-39 out loud. Is anything in your life making you doubt God's love?

LIVE IT

Share Romans 8:38-39 with someone who is going through a hard time.

PRAY

Thank God that nothing can separate you from His love in Christ Jesus.

8

A living sacrifice

Romans 12:1-21

After eleven chapters on what God has done, Paul turns to how we should live. In view of God's mercies, we give ourselves to Him, are changed by renewing our minds, serve with our gifts and love others sincerely.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Why does Paul say "by the mercies of God" before telling us what to do (verse 1)?
2. How does the world try to squeeze us into its mold? How is the mind renewed (verse 2)?
3. What gifts are listed in verses 6-8? Which ones do you see in yourself or your group?
4. Which command in verses 9-21 is hardest for you right now?

LIVE IT

Do one act of kindness this week for someone who has been difficult toward you (verses 20-21).

PRAY

Offer yourself to God as a living sacrifice, and ask Him to renew your mind.