



ROMANS

— be transformed.

A Devotional Guide for Individuals,
Families, and LifeGroups
to Accompany the Sermon Series

Fall 2017

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Dear Chapel Hill Family,

Thank you for starting this journey through Romans with us. We know this is a large undertaking so we composed this guide to help you wrestle through the text and gain insight both independently and corporately throughout this next year. You will see that this guide follows Chapel Hill's sermon calendar but adds a bit more because we will not be able to cover everything in our time together. As we continue to strive toward presenting everyone mature in Christ, we wanted to give you a practical guide for this next season.

What to expect:

There are five studies for each week: one grace/Scripture memorization day, one day for sermon notes, and a set of "Head, Heart, Hands" questions for you to do with a LifeGroup.

Each study is comprised of "four R's": Read, Research, Reflect, and Respond.

Read—The Scriptures listed with those from Romans are meant to bring you to greater understanding of Romans and the Bible at large and to enrich your knowledge and engagement of the text. Do not feel obligated to read all Scriptures listed (but we think they are all beneficial if you do) and take time to be in the Word.

Research—Some days have recommendations for things to research, others do not. The suggestions are simply that, suggestions; you may choose to dive in to something else or use your own guide if it suits you better.

(If a Greek or Hebrew word is suggested you can use an online resource like lumina.bible.org or biblestudytools.com/dictionary to dig deeper. You can also use the translated word and its reference in the Bible instead of the transliteration and similar results will appear.)

Reflect—This time is meant for you to connect to your heart what you have already taken in with your mind. Take time to listen to God and come to Him with what you have learned through this study. Once again, some days have suggestions that you may or may not choose to use.

Respond—This is the time to put what you have learned and felt into practice. Ask God to show you what He is asking you to start or stop as a result of your time studying. This may be a time you get an accountability partner, put something on a calendar, contact Chapel Hill, etc. Like the previous parts, our propositions are your choice to do or not do.

WEEK 1: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL (INTRODUCTION)

September 9 & 10, 2017

As you engage this first week of Romans, understand that Paul has set up a picture of who he is, who Christ is, and to whom this letter is written.

DAY 1

Read: Romans 1:1, Galatians 1:1, Isaiah 43:10, Joshua 1:1, 1 Corinthians 7:22-23

Research: Search the word “servant” in the New Testament (or to go deeper, research the Greek word “doulos” in the New Testament). What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

[For more information on who Paul is, read Acts 9.]

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 2

Read: Romans 1:2, Philippians 2:1-11, Colossians 1:15-20

Research: Study Christ as Lord. What does this mean culturally for Paul’s audience? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 3

Read: Romans 1:3-4, Acts 2:22-36, John 1:14

Research: Search the words “spirit” and “flesh” in the New Testament (or go deeper by looking up the Greek words “pneuma” [spirit] and “sarx” [flesh]). What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 4

Read: Romans 1:5-6, Romans 16:25-17, Acts 9:15

Research: Paul begins and ends this letter in similar fashion; what does this reveal about the totality of the letter? Do a study on “Gentiles/nations” or “obedience of faith” to help guide you. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God calling you to do in response to what you’ve learned? To whom might you be called in “obedience of faith for the sake of his name”? What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 5

Read: Romans 1:7, Ephesians 1:1-4, Philippians 1:1-6

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 6

GRACE DAY & SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Romans 3:23

DAY 7

SERMON NOTES



LIFEGROUP GUIDE

Week 1: The Gospel According to Paul (Introduction)

Romans 1:1-7

Head

What does this passage tell us about the person who wrote it and to whom he wrote it?

Who is God's Son and what do we learn about Him?

What is the purpose and goal of grace once a person has received it?

Heart

Paul expresses a strong sense of calling and purpose as a believer. How do you experience being "set apart for the gospel of God" in your daily life?

What motivation does this passage give for sharing faith "among all the nations"? How do you find this convicting or inspiring?

Paul talks about discipling both "the nations" and "you who are called to belong to Jesus". Are you more comfortable with one or the other? Where is Jesus stretching and growing you?

Hands

Paul succinctly describes the story of the gospel here in just a few verses. Do you have a ready response to articulate to yourself or others when needed? One idea to help you do this could be to learn the memory verse this week!

How can you bring about "the obedience of faith" in others this week for the glory of Jesus?

WEEK 2: HAVE I GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU! (GOSPEL)

September 16 & 17, 2017

DAY 1

Read: Romans 1:8-10, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Research: Consider studying “prayer” more deeply. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 2

Read: Romans 1:11-15, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 3

As you read through these next verses and others with a similar theme, you will see the word “gospel” appear a few times in this week’s passages. The good news that Christ brings is this gospel. How frequently do we regard this as “good” news and treat God’s work as breaking news that is pertinent to be known? Take time to engage this good news and its effect on your life and the potential of its effect on the world.

Read: These verses are considered the “thesis statement” of Romans. Keep this in mind as you engage and research verses 16 and 17 and other related passages over the next few days, and see how this is developed through the rest of the study.

Romans 1:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:1-28, Mark 16:15, 1 John 4:9-10, Ephesians 1:13-14

Research: Search the word “gospel” in the New Testament (or go deeper by looking up the Greek word *euangelion*). What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 4

Read: Romans 1:16-17, Mark 8:34-38, 2 Timothy 1:8-14, Habakkuk 2:4

Research: Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4 in verse 17; think about researching this connection and its significance for understanding this passage. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 5

Read: Deuteronomy 14:2, Romans 2:9-11, 3:1-20, 11:17-24, 28-29, 1 John 1:1- 2:6

Research: What does Paul’s usage of “from faith to faith” mean? Where does this come from? What is “righteousness”? What stands out to you? What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today’s study?

DAY 6

GRACE DAY & SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Romans 6:23

DAY 7

SERMON NOTES



LIFEGROUP GUIDE

Week 2: Have I Got Good News for You! (Gospel)

Romans 1:8-17

Head

What is Paul's intention for those in Rome? How does he show his love for them?

What is the gospel according to this passage?

Heart

How do you relate to Paul in this passage?

How have you felt the power of the good news in your life recently?

Have you ever experienced this same passion for sharing the gospel with others? How did you articulate the good news to a friend?

Hands

With whom are you "under obligation" to share the gospel?

What opportunities do you have to share your love for those people this week?

How are you going to be "unashamed of the gospel" this week?

WEEK 3: THE GOD WHO GAVE UP (IDOLATRY)
September 23 & 24, 2017

DAY 1

Read: Romans 1:18, Ephesians 5:6, Romans 5:6-11

Research: Consider going back to Romans 1:16-17 and observing the contrast between God's wrath and the righteousness of God. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 2

Read: Romans 1:19-21, Acts 17:24-27, Ephesians 4:17-18, Romans 3:10-12

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 3

Read: Romans 1:22-25, Hosea 4:17, Ephesians 4:17-19

Research: Pay attention to the language of "exchange" in these verses; research this topic. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 4

Read: Romans 1:26-27, 2 Timothy 3:1-9

Research: Think about researching total depravity of all humanity and its effect on different aspects of the world. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: How does my own depravity affect the world, my relationships, and my view of God? What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 5

Read: Romans 1:28-32, Ephesians 5:1-21, Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Research: Consider God's wrath and righteousness. Perhaps some research on God's redemption in light of this (as seen in 2 Corinthians 5:17) will give greater insight. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

LIFEGROUP GUIDE

Week 3: The God Who Gave Up (Idolatry)

Romans 1:18-32

Head

What can we learn about who God is from “the things that have been made”?

In what ways have humans “become fools”?

What are the consequences of sin according to this passage?

Heart

How does this passage remind you of your own personal need for Jesus?

How have you experienced God giving you up to your sin, and what were the consequences for you?

Hands

As you read or hear the list of sins in this passage, it is highly likely you are feeling convicted about one area in particular. Take a moment to quietly confess this to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. If members of your group are feeling extra-brave and you have established good trust with each other, confess to each other, too! This could be as simple as each person in the LifeGroup sharing the one word from the passage that was most convicting to them, or it could involve more detailed personal stories.

What is a practical next step for you to seek out support in changing sinful habits? Talk as a group about how to helpfully hold each other to account, and about other church resources such as Celebrate Recovery and Lay Counseling.

This week, read ahead in Romans and reassure your heart of the hope we have in Christ Jesus! One notable verse to read is Romans 3:23-24.

WEEK 4: HERE COMES THE JUDGE (JUDGMENT)

September 30 & October 1, 2017

DAY 1

Read: Romans 2:1-2, 2 Samuel 12:1-14

Research: Look at last week's study. How does the theme and insight from it shed light on this passage? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 2

Read: Romans 2:3-4, Isaiah 30:18, Ephesians 2:1-10

Research: Search the word "repentance/repent" (or go deeper by looking up the Greek metanoian (repentance) and/or the Hebrew shub/shuv [repent]). What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: How does God's judgment impact you? How does the extension of grace and opportunity for repentance change you and change the way you approach others? What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 3

Read: Romans 2:5-11, Proverbs 24:12, Matthew 16:24-27, James 2:1

Research: Think about God's justice, grace, and forgiveness; research how these characteristics of God enliven this passage. What does your search

prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: Are there any areas of your life you need to ask for God to be Lord or God is asking you to give to Him? Where has partiality influenced the way you have treated others or thought about yourself? What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 4

Read: Romans 2:12-13, 3:28, 5:1, Galatians 3:7-14

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 5

Read: Romans 2:14-16, Hebrews 4:12-13, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Research: Consider studying the phrase "by nature" (the Greek is phusin/ physis) and God's creation of humankind in Genesis 1:27. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: Is there anything "secret" in your life God is prompting you to bring to the light? How do these passages shape your consideration and approach to

LIFEGROUP GUIDE

Week 4: Here Comes The Judge (Judgment)

Romans 2:1-16

Head

What is God's standard of right behavior?

In what ways are both Jews and Gentiles held to account for their obedience or disobedience to the Law?

When will judgment occur and who is the judge?

Heart

Where is God convicting you of your judgment of another person's sin, and helping you to see your own?

How does the question "do you presume on the riches of his kindness...not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" challenge you personally and challenge the evangelical church as a whole?

How have you experienced your conscience giving you a sense of right and wrong, giving you an understanding of God's law even in areas you were never taught about? (verses 14-15)

Hands

Respond together in prayer with repentance and thankfulness for God's kindness, forbearance, and patience with us.

How can you take some time this week to talk to Jesus and share your secret thoughts with Him—to give up your judgmental perspectives on others and let God be the ultimate judge of someone's behavior, and to humbly confess your own sin and need of Jesus' help?

WEEK 5: THE BURDEN OF BEING CHOSEN (LAW)

October 7 & 8, 2017

DAY 1

Read: Romans 2:17-20, Matthew 23:1-28, John 9:39-41

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: Ask God to reveal where hypocrisy might be in your life; take time to listen. What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 2

Read: Romans 2:21-24, Psalm 50:16-21, Matthew 5:1-48, 15:1-9, Ecclesiastes 7:20

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 3

Read: Romans 2:25-29, 9:1-8, Genesis 17:9-14, Deuteronomy 10:12-16, Galatians 6:12-16, 2 Corinthians 10:18

Research: Consider researching God's covenants with His people. What does your search prompt you to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What does it look like for our hearts to be circumcised? How does this mark of God bear witness in our lives? What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 4

Read: Romans 3:1-4, Psalm 51:1-4 (Paul quotes this in verse 4), 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: With what has God entrusted and called you to be faithful? What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 5

Read: Romans 3:5-8, 6:1-4, 9:19-26

Research: What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Reflect: What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Respond: What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

LIFEGROUP GUIDE

Week 5: The Burden of Being Chosen (Law)

Romans 2:17-3:8

Head

What is the advantage of the Jew according to this passage?

What is the connection between a person's heart and their outward actions?

How does an understanding of "circumcision as a matter of the heart, by the Spirit" help bring unity amongst Jews and Gentiles divided over the existence or non-existence of this physical, outward symbol?

How is God's character of faithfulness and righteousness proved through and despite the unfaithfulness and unrighteousness of man?

Heart

What parallels can you see between the advantages and common pitfalls of the Jews and those who grow up in church today?

Where are you being hypocritical about what you teach or think of others?

Where have you allowed outward appearance to become more important than a true inner devotion to Christ?

How has this affected your personal faith and relationships with others?

Hands

What relational work do you need to do to repair any damage caused by your hypocrisy, judgment or focus on appearance?

Pray for one another that we would be believers whose hearts and lives are truly being transformed from within by the work of the Holy Spirit. If there is anyone in your group who has never experienced what it means to have a faith that is about more than just outward appearance and wants to experience a "circumcision of the heart" pray for them in particular!



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