

# WEEK 1 | ROMANS 1:1-7

## ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

### PRAY.

Consider opening your group by praying. Here are a few prayer points to posture your heart for the semester ahead

- Praise God for his attributes, character, and plan.
- Confess your sin to God and ask him to restore a right spirit within you.
- Thank God for the ways he's demonstrated his love toward you: salvation, financial provision, friends, etc.
- Ask the Lord to answer your prayer requests. Do you need healing? Ask. Do you need wisdom? Ask.

### OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- Galatians 1:11-24 – this is Paul's grace story, detailing how God set him apart.
- Luke 24:13-35 (see vv. 25-27) - Jesus explains how the OT is about him.
- Ephesians 1:3-10 – this passage details the lavishness of God's grace in salvation.

### THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”<sup>1</sup>

1. The gospel is *God's*. He is its originator and source. The message of “God's concern for his people and his will to save them”<sup>2</sup> was not invented by Paul and the other apostles; “it was revealed and entrusted to them.”<sup>3</sup> (Rom. 1:1; Mark 1:14; 1 Thess. 2:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:17)
2. The gospel is the fulfillment of the promises found in the Old Testament Scriptures. (Rom. 1:1-3; Ps. 89:3-4, 20-29; Luke 24:13-35; 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
3. The gospel is for all the nations. (Rom. 1:5-6; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13:44-52; Col. 3:11)

### QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Paul regularly begins his letters as he does in Rom. 1:1 by identifying himself as “a servant of Christ Jesus.” It is a term that “conveys the idea of complete and utter devotion,”<sup>4</sup> to Jesus. What are some habits, activities, or sacrifices in your life that display his claim on your life?
2. Romans 1:2-3 says that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Jesus made this same claim about himself in Luke 24:44-47. Can you think of some Old Testament promises that find their answer in Jesus?

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<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.

<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 40.

<sup>3</sup> Stott, *The Message of Romans*, 48.

<sup>4</sup> Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, 36-37.

Hint: Consider Genesis 3:15, Psalm 72, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

3. What might Paul mean by “the obedience of faith”?<sup>5</sup> How does this impact your intimacy with God?
4. Read Romans 1:7. What is God’s disposition toward his children? How does that encourage/comfort you?  
Hint: You may also want to read Deuteronomy 7:7-8, Ephesians 2:4-5, and 1 John 4:19.
5. How have you experienced the grace and peace of God in your life recently? Share with the group.
6. The gospel is for the nations, and it is for your neighbors. Who are you praying for?

**PRAY TO CLOSE.**

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<sup>5</sup> Jared C. Wilson, *Knowing the Bible: Romans*, The Gospel Coalition., Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-romans/#week-2-the-gospel-as-the-revelation-of-the-righteousness-of-god-rom-11-17>.