

FOR US

ROMANS 1-8

ROCKYPC SERIES COMPANION
2020

FOR US

ROMANS 1-8

The letter to the church in Rome has been instrumental in shaping and changing the lives of followers of Jesus since it was first written. That is because ROMANS is about the gospel, the good news about Jesus, and the gospel is God's power for salvation of everyone who believes.

As we study this letter together, we'll be praying that the good news about Jesus will transform us because Jesus has done everything necessary for us to be saved and presented before God as righteous people. We'll also be praying that we'd be excited to share what we learn with each other and with our city because the gospel has come to us, showing us that God is for us (and not against us), but it's a message that is for us to share.

HERE'S SOME KEY THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE LETTER & THE CHURCH IN ROME:

- The letter was written by the Apostle Paul around AD57 when he was on his third missionary journey, possibly while he was in Corinth, Greece.
- Paul was writing to a church that he didn't start and to people he'd never met, although he hoped to visit them soon so that they all might be mutually encouraged.
- The church in Rome was mainly made up of Gentile Christians, but there were still Jewish Christians in the congregation.
- Paul was writing because of tension between these two groups of Christians and he wanted them to know that it's the same gospel that brings salvation to all who believe, and their unity together was for the glory of Jesus.
- Through it all Paul knows that what these Christians need to hear over and over again is the gospel — a message about the perfection and holiness of God, seen in the life and death of Jesus Christ, and that perfection and holiness is now offered to us as a free gift to be enjoyed throughout our lives and into eternity.

THE PLAN FROM AUGUST-NOVEMBER

ROMANS

On Sundays, we'll be working our way through Romans 1-8 and our weekly GROWTH GROUPS will follow after each sermon. For those who are unable to attend services due to sickness or being in a high-risk category, a recording of each Sunday service will be online (on [facebook](#), [youtube](#), [rockypc.org.au](#)) as early as possible afterwards, usually by 10am.

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

After three weeks, there will be a three week break in the ROMANS SERIES while we run CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER. During CTM, we will hold Friday night meetings for you to invite your friends and family to share their stories and their thoughts about the big questions in life. Who can you invite to come along?

We do need them to register for our COVID SAFETY PLAN, so please go to [rockypc.org.au/CTM](#) and fill in the form.

GROWTH GROUPS will continue to meet during CTM and will have their own CTM Series Companion to work through.

Week Starting	Passage for Bible Talk (click link to go to page)	Growth Group Study (following Bible Talks)
Sunday 9th August	Romans 1v1-17	What We Need!
Sunday 16th August	Romans 1v18-32	Claiming To Be Wise
Sunday 23rd August	Romans 2v1-3v20	No One & Everyone
Friday 28th August	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER #1 — WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?	
Sunday 30th August	Mark 12v28-31	CTM #1
Friday 4th September	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER #2 — WHY IS THERE EVIL & SUFFERING?	
Sunday 6th September	Acts 2	CTM #2
Friday 11th September	CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER #3 — IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?	
Sunday 13th September	1 Corinthians 15v1-8	CTM #3
Sunday 20th September	Romans 3v21-31	Righteousness Revealed
Sunday 27th September	Romans 4	By Faith
Sunday 4th October	Romans 5v1-11	Peace With God
Sunday 11th October	Romans 5v12-21	Through One Man
Sunday 18th October	Romans 6	United With Jesus
Saturday 24th October	Central Queensland Mens Convention — Gary Millar — 2 Timothy	
Sunday 25th October	Guest Speaker — Gary Millar	
Sunday 1st November	Romans 7	The Battle Within
Sunday 8th November	Romans 8v1-17	The Spirit Gives Life
Sunday 15th November	VISION SUNDAY — THINKING ABOUT 2021 AND BEYOND	
	Romans 8v18-39	For Us!

WEEK 1 — WHAT WE NEED!

ROMANS 1v1-17

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 1 — WHAT WE NEED!

ROMANS 1v1-17

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

Have you ever embarrassed yourself when meeting someone for the first time? What did you do/say?

Have you ever found yourself feeling ashamed of the way some Christians behave/speak in public? What was it that made you feel this way?

In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul introduces himself before he visits so that they know what he is on about but also so that they might all be united together in the gospel when he arrives. The opening verses show us the importance Paul places on understanding *the gospel of God*.

READ ROMANS 1v1-6

1. Paul says that he was set apart for the gospel of God. What are the key things he says about the gospel? (Who is it about and why is he at the centre of the gospel?)
2. Why is it significant that Jesus was a descendant of David? What do we learn about David from other Bible passages like 2 Samuel 7 & Ezekiel 34?
3. Why does Jesus' resurrection prove that he is both Lord and Christ (King)?
4. In v5-6, what does Paul say he is going to do with his gospel?

The gospel is at its heart a declaration about what God has done for us in the Lord Jesus Christ and the rest of this letter spells it out in detail, but we see at the start of the letter that the declaration is supposed to lead somewhere. It leads to the obedience that comes from faith. As we read through Romans, we should be prepared to have our hearts shaped and our lives changed as God's Spirit brings this word to life.

READ ROMANS 1v7-13

5. What effect has the gospel already had in Rome?

6. How are Paul's prayers an example of the gospel at work in his own life?

READ ROMANS 1v14-17

7. Where has Paul placed all his confidence and why has he placed it there?

8. Paul quotes here from Habakkuk 2v4 which is a short book of the Old Testament where Habakkuk is lamenting that righteous people are being oppressed and he's wanting God to change his situation. What do you think Paul means when he says that a righteousness is revealed that is *by faith from first to last*?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE Have you been called to belong to Jesus Christ? — How are you then demonstrating the obedience that comes from faith in your day to day life?
ATTITUDE BEFORE ACTION
DENY YOURSELF How would you feel if your faith was broadcast all over the world? Would you be ashamed?
SEEK GOD
CONFESS/REPENT

SERVE Reflect on 1v9-12. Are your prayers for yourself and others an example of the gospel at work in your life?
HUMILITY BEFORE HONOUR
SERVE GOD Paul sees that in the Romans he can encourage and be encouraged. How might Paul's attitude to them help us think about what it means to turn up at church and the role we can play in each other's lives?
SERVE OTHERS
SHARE & EXALT JESUS

SPEAK Review the key gospel points that Paul makes — Are there any you're not sure about? Are you as eager to share the gospel as Paul was?
TO GOD ABOUT PEOPLE
TO PEOPLE ABOUT GOD Which parts of the gospel are you ashamed of? Which parts do you think are most offensive? — How can you grow in your confidence that the gospel is the power of God for salvation?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 1v1-17:

- *We'll praise God that he has revealed his righteousness to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and we'll give thanks that his gospel is powerfully at work among us.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to live by faith in Jesus, so that we wouldn't be ashamed of him, or ashamed of our own behaviour.*
- *Because we know that the gospel is God's power to save everyone who believes, we'll keep praying that the good news about Jesus would be proclaimed in our region and that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would know and proclaim the great power of the gospel as he speaks boldly about Jesus in his country.*

WEEK 2 — CLAIMING TO BE WISE

ROMANS 1:18-32

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 2 — CLAIMING TO BE WISE

ROMANS 1v18-32

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

Why do you think the idea of an angry God is so unpopular in our culture today?

READ ROMANS 1v18-23

1. Why does Paul say *'the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven'*?
2. In what ways can God's eternal power and divine nature be seen in the world?
3. Do the people you know who can't plainly see God's invisible qualities think they have an excuse before God for how they live? What excuses have you heard people give for their godlessness and wickedness?
4. These verses take us back to the creation of the world. **Compare Romans 1v20-23 with Genesis 3v1-6.** What links can you see between what Paul is saying to the Roman Church and the origins of sin in the world?

As we read on, we see that God's anger at sin and humanity's rejection of him has immediate consequences. God handed them (and us) over to their (and our) foolishness. There is a danger, however, that as we read the following verses, we'll only see and concentrate on other people's sexual desires and therefore excuse ourselves. Instead, you need to consider how these verses paint a picture of you!

READ ROMANS 1v24-32

5. According to 1v24-25 & v28, what leads us into wickedness and sin?
6. Review the list of behaviours in 1v28-32. Is there any way that you might be excused from that list?

7. Over the coming weeks, we're going to see how our situation before God is changed by what he has done for us. For now, quickly jump ahead — **READ ROMANS 3v21-26, 8v1-6 & 12v1-2** — How has the plight of godless and wicked people been changed by God?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Do you claim to be wise but instead suppress the truth and follow the sinful desires of your heart/mind? — What do you need to confess to God? Ask God to transform your heart and mind.

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

The idea of an angry God is unpopular and no one likes to challenge other people's sin but, within **rockypc**, how can we help each other to glorify God and give thanks to him, rather than accepting our idolatry?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Is there anyone excused from the picture of sinfulness in this passage? — Brainstorm some ways you might **graciously** share this with someone who is investigating Jesus, **without ignoring the challenges** this passage presents.

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 1v18-32:

- We'll praise God because he has made himself known in creation so that we might glorify him. We'll confess that we suppress the truth and rather than glorifying him we often chase after the sinful desires of our hearts.
- We'll give thanks that, through Jesus, God has dealt with our sin completely, and we'll ask for His Spirit to transform our hearts and minds so that we might offer our lives to Jesus every day.
- We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus and we'll ask for God's wisdom to graciously speak about sin, judgment and God's righteousness, which is given to us freely in Jesus.
- We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that despite the idols people chase after, that he would have numerous opportunities to point to the God who created this world and that people's hearts and minds would be changed to accept Jesus as Lord.

WEEK 3 — NO ONE & EVERYONE

ROMANS 2v1-3v20

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 3 — NO ONE & EVERYONE

ROMANS 2v1-3v20

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

We all compare ourselves to other people, sometimes helpfully, sometimes unhelpfully, sometimes out of envy, sometimes out of pride. What types of things do you tend to compare with other people? What makes you think that way and what are the results (emotional or otherwise) of that kind of thinking?

Paul has made the case that we're all guilty of suppressing the truth about God, and therefore, we're all facing his righteous anger at our sin. In this passage, Paul tackles the possible objections that say 'I do my best' and 'I'm better than them'.

READ ROMANS 2v1-16

1. These verses are building on chapter 1. How would you put Paul's point from v1-4 into your own words?
2. Does God actually want sinners to face his anger at their sin?
3. In 2v5-11, Paul says there are only two ways to live. What are they and what is the end result for each choice?
4. When will God's righteous judgment on sinners be revealed and what will actually be judged at that time?

READ ROMANS 2v17-3v8

5. Paul seems to be addressing a Jewish objection that they already have the righteousness of God revealed in the law, so they are excused from God's judgment. How does Paul answer this objection?

READ ROMANS 3v9-20

6. Using a bunch of Old Testament references Paul summarises his point from 1v18-3v20. How do these references show that there is no one who can claim to be righteous before God and everyone is in the same situation before him?

READ ROMANS 3v21-24

Thankfully God has revealed a way to be righteous apart from keeping the law (which we'll dig into next time). But for now we need to consider our own standing before God.

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

Do you think you will escape God's judgment? — How does your attitude towards other people and their behaviour show your own misunderstanding of God's righteous requirements on your life?

DENY YOURSELF

Have you realised that God's kindness, forbearance and patience are intended to bring you to repentance? — As you become conscious of your sin, what is your usual response? Are you convicted

SEEK GOD

or do you just get angry and defensive?

CONFESS/REPENT

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

How should what is revealed in these verses challenge the way we compare ourselves with and pass judgment on other people?

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

Once again we see that there is no one who is excused from the picture of sinfulness revealed by God's word. — Brainstorm some ways you might **graciously** share this with someone who is investigating Jesus, **without ignoring the challenges** this passage presents.

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Acts 2v1-3v20:

- *We'll praise God because he doesn't want anyone to perish but wants everyone to come to repentance and to find salvation. We'll give thanks for his kindness, patience and forbearance for not judging our sin immediately and we'll ask him to grow our love for Jesus and his righteousness.*
- *We'll ask for God's Spirit to lead us to repentance and we'll ask him to change the way we live to glorify Jesus.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that God would give his wisdom to show that, no matter who we are, we all need the righteousness that God offers through Jesus.*

WEEK 4 — RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

ROMANS 3v21-31

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 4 — RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

ROMANS 3v21-31



IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

What is the best gift you have ever received? What made it so good?

READ ROMANS 3v19-22

1. What is the relationship between righteousness and the Old Testament law? How is this counterintuitive for everyday Australians?

READ ROMANS 3v22-25

2. Given the Old Testament context for the big theological words Paul uses in these verses, come up with a definition for each in your own words.

BIG THEOLOGICAL WORDS	OT CONTEXT / IMAGE	DEFINITION
JUSTIFIED	ROMAN LAW COURT	ACQUITTED
REDEMPTION	SALVATION HISTORY EXODUS 6v6-8	
SACRIFICE OF ATONEMENT	TEMPLE LEVITICUS 16v15-22	

3. How do these 3 images work together as God gives the gift of his righteousness? What do you find beautiful or captivating about what God has done?

READ ROMANS 3v25-26

4. Compare this with Exodus 23v6-7 — Is God contradicting himself? Some accuse God of being a 'cosmic child abuser' to sacrifice Jesus for our sin. How does God show his justice at the cross?

READ ROMANS 3v27-31

5. How does the cross show God's attitude to both Jews and Gentiles? (See also v22-23)

6. Describe in your own words what today's passage reveals about God's character.

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE Why is God's righteousness, displayed at the cross, good news for you if you feel you're too sinful for
ATTITUDE BEFORE God?
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF How does it humble you if you're tempted to be proud about your goodness and morality?

SEEK GOD What does it mean for you to have faith in Jesus' sacrifice?

CONFESS/REPENT

SERVE Have you ever misrepresented Jesus as though he is pleased with rule-keepers? How does this
HUMILITY BEFORE passage keep Jesus' free gift to us in focus?
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

SPEAK In groups of 2-3, practice explaining this passage in 2-3 sentences with a specific non-believer in
TO GOD ABOUT mind.
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT Do they need to understand God's justice? Or that righteousness is a free gift? Or that Jesus' sacrifice is
GOD all we need? Or something else from this passage?

Pray for that friend together and ask for an opportunity to share this good news with them.

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 3:

- *We'll praise God that he shows his justice at the cross as Jesus' sacrifice redeems and justifies sinners like us. We'll thank him that his righteousness is a free gift of his grace.*
- *We'll ask God to grant us faith to accept this gift. We'll confess that we are often secretly proud or loudly boastful of how good we are. We'll pray that we'd be humbled and realise that we aren't acquitted by God by working hard to keep rules and we'll pray that we'd believe the good news that Jesus has done all that we need to be justified before God.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 people to Jesus in Gracemere and Rockhampton, for a start because faith in Jesus' sacrifice is the only way their sin can be atoned for. We'll keep asking for opportunities to share of the free gift of righteousness with our neighbours, friends and family.*
- *We'll pray for Cam as he shares this message with his community, that Jesus would be received by faith by many there too and that the good news would resound from person to person and family to family.*

WEEK 5 — BY FAITH

ROMANS 4:1-25

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 5 — BY FAITH

ROMANS 4v1-25

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

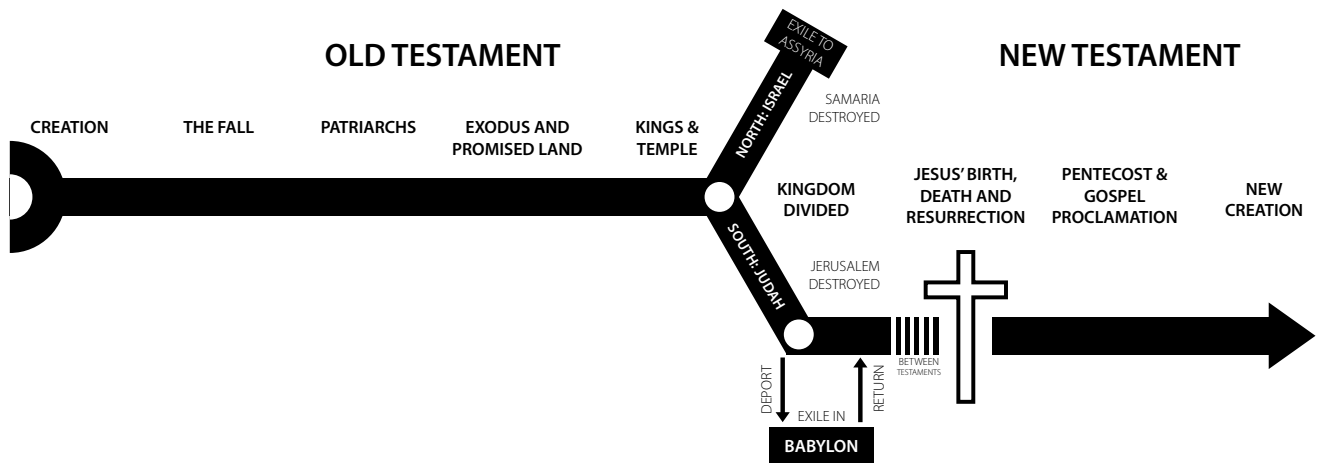
GETTING STARTED

Have you ever received something valuable for free only to realise later that there was a catch/condition that come along with the “free” gift?

In the previous study we saw the free gift of the gospel is a righteousness that doesn't come to us because of something we've done. It is received because of what Jesus has done for us. This is the amazing truth of the gospel and yet it still leaves some people thinking there is more to be done to be saved. In this study we'll see that faith in Jesus is all we ever need.

READ ROMANS 4v1-8

1. Read Genesis 12v1-7, 15v1-6 & 17v1-11— Consider the diagram below and discuss when these events with Abraham happened in relation to each other and in relation to the law, King David and Jesus.



2. In v7-8, Paul quotes Psalm 32, where King David is talking about forgiveness. What is the link between Abraham believing God and David confessing his sin?

3. What did Abraham and David actually do in order to be forgiven?

READ ROMANS 4v9-17

4. Why is it significant that Abraham was credited as righteous before receiving the sign of circumcision?

5. The law came after the promise and after circumcision. Does this mean God has pulled a bait and switch on Abraham's descendants? Is obedience to the law a catch/condition by which the promise is received?

READ ROMANS 4v18-25

6. Was Abraham a man of "perfect" faith?

7. What advantage to we have over Abraham?

8. Paul says these words were "for us". Does that mean we must have "perfect" faith that never wavers?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE
ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION
DENY YOURSELF
SEEK GOD
CONFESS/REPENT

What causes your faith to waver? Do you believe faith is really enough? What do you have to do to be righteous?

Faith is all that's needed for salvation, but Abraham and David both show that faith leads us somewhere—repentance, obedience, believing God's word. Is your faith leading you to repentance and obedience to Jesus? What do you need to confess to him right now?

SERVE
HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR
SERVE GOD
SERVE OTHERS
**SHARE & EXALT
JESUS**

Abraham never wavered, but more importantly, Jesus never wavered and he calls us to deny ourselves and follow him by considering and serving others. Using what you've discussed in this series so far, how might you help someone whose faith is wavering and weakening?

SPEAK
TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE
**TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD**

When people are struggling to keep going as Jesus' disciples, many Christians have said "You've just got to have more faith." What might be a more helpful (and possibly, more biblical) thing to say?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 4:

- We'll praise Jesus because he died for our sins and was raised to life for our justification, so we know God's promises are true. We'll give thanks that Jesus' righteousness is received as a free gift with no catches or conditions other than faith in him.
- We'll ask for God's help to believe his promises and for His Spirit to keep our faith from wavering and weakening. We'll also ask for God's Spirit to transform our hearts so that faith might lead to repentance and so that we would live to praise Jesus every day.
- We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.
- We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would have the great joy of seeing new people coming to faith in Jesus and that they would be fully persuaded that God has done and will do everything he has promised.

WEEK 6 — PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1-11

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 6 — PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5v1-11

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

Who would you be willing to die for? Who would you not give up your life for?

READ ROMANS 5v1-5

1. What is the relationship between faith, justification, grace and hope? Try to demonstrate the relationship in a diagram in the space below.
2. What is the 'hope of the glory of God'? (see also, how Paul has been talking about this earlier in the book - 1v21-23; 3v23-24). Why shouldn't we be ashamed of this hope?
3. Should we be ashamed of suffering for having faith in Jesus? Does this kind of suffering mean God doesn't love us?
4. How does God use our suffering? How should hope shape our understanding of suffering?
5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit during suffering and in our hoping?

READ ROMANS 5v6-11

6. What does Paul mean when he says "we were powerless"?
7. How can Jesus' death be a demonstration of God's love?

8. What confidence does Jesus' death give those who believe in him?

9. Is reconciliation and salvation something that makes a difference now or for the future? What difference does it make?

growing disciples

At **rockypc** we want to be growing disciples **who sacrifice, serve and speak for the sake of others**, so we want to consider how this part of God's word helps us grow.

SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

What circumstances have made you doubt God's love for you? Suffering? Tragedy? Sinfulness?

How can the cross give you confidence in God's love? How can you remind yourself of this in hard times?

Describe a time when suffering has produced perseverance, character and hope for you.

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

Do you boast in your hope of the glory of God? In your reconciliation with God? In your suffering?

How is this different from other kinds of boasting (see also 2v17-24). How can you boast about God in a way that helps others?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Who do you know who needs to hear this message of God's love for sinners?—Pray that you would have an opportunity to share it with them this week, that they might know peace with God.

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 5v1-11:

- We'll praise Jesus because he demonstrates his love for us, even though we don't deserve it, and we'll praise him for rescuing us from God's wrath, bringing peace to our lives.
- We'll ask for God's help to boast in him and all he's done for us. We'll ask for His Spirit to strengthen us to persevere, producing character and hope.
- We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus so that people in our region might have the same peace with God that we enjoy.
- We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would delight in his salvation and proclaim the great love of God demonstrated in Jesus' death for sinners. We'll pray that many people in his community would be reconciled to God.

WEEK 7 — THROUGH ONE MAN

ROMANS 5:12-21

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 7 — THROUGH ONE MAN

ROMANS 5v12-21



IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

Are you a miser? What's the cheapest, most miserly thing you've ever done?

READ ROMANS 5v12-14

1. Read Genesis 3v1-6; 17-24. Compare this with how Adam's sin and its consequences are described in Romans 5.
2. How do you think Adam passed on his sin to us? Are children innocent, morally blank slates?
3. Is ignorance a defence when we sin? Why/why not? (See also 2v12-16)

READ ROMANS 5v15-21

4. What gift of God's grace is Paul talking about? (See also 3v21-26)
5. Compare the gift with the trespass:

	GIFT	TRESPASS
THEIR ORIGINATOR		
THEIR RESULTS		
HOW THEY REIGN		

6. Describe the picture of God's grace that we see in these verses in your own words.

growing disciples

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SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Are you tempted to think God is a miser towards you? — How does this passage remind you of God's abundant provision? How can you express your thanks to Him?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

Do sin and death reign in your life? — If not, tell the group about the change it has made to your life to receive the provision of God's grace and the reign of righteousness.

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

How could you use this passage to talk to a friend who feels they're powerless in the grip of sin or death?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 5v12-21:

- *We'll pray that we might understand how dire our situation is without Jesus—ruled by sin and death, facing condemnation and judgement, but we'll also give God great praise for his grace that overflows to us as Jesus, the righteous one, gives us the gift of righteousness and justification.*
- *We'll pray for the people of Rockhampton and Gracemere, that God's abundant grace would overflow to many—that 8000 people would belong to Jesus in our region for a start and that they would receive the eternal life he offers freely.*
- *We'll ask that our mission partner, Cam, would keep sharing the same message with the people of his city, so that many would come to understand how our sin can be overcome by Jesus' righteousness and how death can become new life.*

WEEK 8 — UNITED WITH JESUS

ROMANS 6v1-23

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

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Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 8 — UNITED WITH JESUS

ROMANS 6v1-23

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

Freedom is the great Western ideal, from Braveheart to Aretha Franklin. What do you think we mean by “freedom”?

READ ROMANS 5v20-6v13

1. In 6v1, what objection is Paul expecting to arise from his teaching of a righteousness that comes to us apart from the Old Testament Law (see also 3v21-22)?
2. How is our relationship to Jesus described in these verses?
3. Baptism here doesn't seem to be talking about water. From this passage, how would you explain what it means?
4. In what way is Jesus' story our story?
5. How is this a motivation not to continue in sin?

READ ROMANS 6v14-23

6. What is the next objection that Paul is answering?
7. How do you feel hearing that you are either a slave to sin or a slave to God? Is this how you view yourself?

8. Is it a burden to be a slave to God/righteousness? Why/why not?

9. What are the end results of the two types of slavery?

growing disciples

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SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

Are you tempted to sin because you have received God's grace? — How do you need to change your thinking about yourself or about God's gift of life and righteousness?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

Does your obedience come from your heart? — How are your motivations and actions transformed by being united to Jesus?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Imagine your friend tells you that it's ok if they go out partying and getting drunk or cheat on their wife, as long as they get to mass or the mosque each week for confession and cleansing. How would you answer them?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 6:

- *We'll thank God that we've been united to Jesus in both his death and resurrection, so He has done away with our body of sin to set us free, and he gives us a glorious new life.*
- *We'll ask God to change the way we think of ourselves — as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus — and that we'll obey from the heart because Jesus has claimed our allegiance. We'll pray for God's Spirit to enable us to serve God as slaves of righteousness, growing in holiness.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, so that they might know the true gift of freedom from sin that leads to eternal life. We'll pray for opportunities every day to show the beauty of being slaves to God, to our family and friends.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam and his church family, that they would keep sharing the news of the risen Lord Jesus. And that many in his city would be transformed by the gift of God's grace.*

WEEK 9 — THE BATTLE WITHIN

ROMANS 7:1-25

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.) THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL TOO.

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 9 — THE BATTLE WITHIN

ROMANS 7v1-25

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

There is a general principle that says it takes 21 days to form a new habit, but only 3 days to break that habit. However, psychologists say it takes more than 90 days to beat an addiction. The COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and restrictions have been in place since March. What new habits have you picked up in the last 6-7 months? What changes in behaviour have you noticed?

When you want to change your life, whether it's to try something new or to quit something unhelpful, what steps do you normally take to make the change happen?

In Romans so far, we've seen that everyone is in desperate need of salvation from sin in order to be righteous before God, and we've seen that salvation comes from the gospel story of Jesus. In chapter 6v11-14 & 17-19, Paul says because of Jesus' death and resurrection, his people should now count themselves dead to sin and alive to God—therefore, offering themselves to righteousness. That raises the question: How should we demonstrate the life of righteousness?

For the Jew and Jewish Christian, they might think they had the simple answer—by keeping the Old Testament Law of God. Many Christians today also think this is the answer too. However, this answer isn't so simple. Paul's point in Romans 7 is that the law and law-keeping won't produce righteousness because it never has, so it's not the way to live for God if you are a Christian.

READ ROMANS 7v1-6

1. How is Paul using the analogy of marriage to explain the new relationship God's people have with the law?
2. In which "realm" does the law belong and what resulted from attempts at law-keeping?
3. Christians have died with Christ, so they belong to him. According to 7v4 & 6, what will this new allegiance lead to?

Paul's rejection of the law in these verses links with 6v14, but it raises the question of whether there was a problem with the law that meant it couldn't produce the righteousness God desires. Paul answers that question by talking about his own experience with the law. As he does, he's talking as a representative of each and every Jew since the law was first given at Mt Sinai (see Exodus 19-20).

READ ROMANS 7v7-13

4. What was the good purpose for which the law was given?

5. In these verses, sin is personified as a powerful force that uses law to bring about death. How does sin distort the good purposes of the law?

6. What does v13 mean?

The Law shows sinfulness and stimulates sin. It's no wonder that it can't produce righteousness. In the following verses, Paul expresses his own struggle with the law, prior to his conversion to Jesus (but from a Christian point of view, which means he doesn't end up completely hopeless and despairing.)

READ ROMANS 7v14-25

7. How do these verses show the powerlessness of the law to bring about righteousness in the person who tries to keep the law?

Even though many Christians feel that Paul is expressing their present struggle with sin, it's important to realise that he's talking about life before the Spirit of God has set him free. But now he belongs to Jesus. So he has to remember **whose** he is (7v4) and **who** he is now because of Christ (6v5-7, 11-14 & 22). He also has to remember who he is being made to be.

READ ROMANS 8v1-4, 12v1-2, 12v9-21, 13v8-10

8. So many of our problems when it comes to righteousness stem from a mind that is turned away from God (cf. 1v18-32). What has God done to transform our minds? How does a transformed mind lead to righteousness?

EXCURSUS: IS ROMANS 7v14-25 ABOUT PAUL'S PRE-CHRISTIAN, JEWISH EXPERIENCE OR ABOUT HIS CHRISTIAN STRUGGLE WITH SIN?

When it comes to Romans 7 these are the two main positions that theologians wrestle with—is Paul talking about a pre-Christian experience or the Christian struggle with sin?

There are many points to consider and there isn't space to give all the arguments for each side. Below are a couple of points.

For the Christian struggle with sin side:

- The present tense is used in these verses and since Paul is writing as a Christian, it is concluded that Paul is talking about his current, ongoing struggle with sin.
- Many Christians know the experience that Paul is talking about—they feel trapped in sin even though they know the good they should do.
- Also, they look at verses like Romans 7v22 and say it is impossible for a non-Christian to truly delight in God's law in their inner being, so he must be talking about his present experience as a Christian. (However, see Psalm 19, 23, 31, 35, 42, 103, 119v20, 28, 81 and 2 Kings 23v25 for similar expressions to 7v22).

For the Pre-Christian, Jewish Experience side:

- In Romans 6v18-22 and 8v2, Paul has said Christians are not under sin, and free from the law of sin and death, whereas 7v14 says he is sold as a slave under sin. Therefore, 7v14-25 cannot refer to the "normal" Christian life, (or an "immature" Christian, nor a Christian who is mistakenly living under the law) because ch 6&8 must still be true, so he must be talking about life before Christ.
- In Romans 7v4-6, Paul talks about being released from the law by death to something new, which isn't representative of the language used in 7v14-25.
- Also there is no mention of the work of the Spirit at all in 7v14-25, which is present in 7v6 and which he is moving onto in ch 8.

Many faithful Christian theologians disagree about which view is correct. I find that the Pre-Christian, Jewish Experience view has more explanatory power for the flow from chapter 6 to 8.

This is not to say that Christians don't experience a struggle with sin, because we are still prone to obey past masters and we are still prone to offer our bodies to sinful desires because they seem good—they are our past loves and addictions.

But Romans 7 is not describing that struggle. Paul is describing his pre-Christian Jewish experience of knowing God's law but finding himself unable to do what it says. So, his point is that the law and law-keeping can't bring about righteousness because they can't change your heart or mind.

growing disciples

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SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How has knowledge of God's good law made you more aware of the sin in your life? Has it also aroused and provoked it?—Rather than looking for a list of rules to follow, how might remembering that you belong to Jesus (7v4) and that you are set free from sin (6v11-14) help you to live a life of righteousness?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

We belong to Jesus so that we can bear fruit for God and serve in the new way of the Spirit with minds that have been transformed to love God and love others.

How has belonging to Jesus transformed your mind?

Are you bearing fruit for God and serving in the new way of the Spirit? How is this evident in your life?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

Often the first thing we say to not-yet-Christians who are turning to Jesus is that they "must ...", or that they "must not ...". From Romans 7, 8 and 12, is there a better approach that might help them to count themselves as dead to sin and alive to God?

What can you pray for the members of your group and also for the not-yet-Christians in your friendship circles as a result of what you've seen in Romans 7?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 7:

- *We'll praise Jesus because he has set us free from the curse of the law that condemns us and leads us into sin. We'll praise him because we now belong to him and because he has given us his Spirit so that we can live righteous lives.*
- *We'll ask for God's help to remember who we belong to and to remember who he is making us to be so that we would count ourselves as dead to sin and alive in Christ. We'll ask for God's Spirit not to make us legalistic law-keepers, but to transform our minds so that we can love God and everyone around us.*
- *We'll keep praying that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start, because Jesus is worthy of praise and because he offers his salvation to everyone. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus and we'll pray that God's Spirit would set people free from the law of sin and death, so that they can delight in Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would proclaim Jesus' victory over sin and death clearly so that lives would be changed and so that Jesus would be glorified.*

WEEK 10 — THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

ROMANS 8v1-17

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Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My Prayer In Response To God's Word:

WEEK 10 — THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE

ROMANS 8v1-17

GROWTH
GROUP
STUDY

IN THE SPACES BELOW YOU CAN RECORD YOUR ANSWERS. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

GETTING STARTED

How would you describe your relationship with God? Give your current relationship with him a score out of ten and then explain why you've given that rating.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What do you think it would take to change/improve your relationship with him?

READ ROMANS 8v1-4

1. What does it mean to be condemned and what has God done about it?

2. What is the outcome for those who are in Christ Jesus?

READ ROMANS 8v5-8

3. Compare what we learn about life according to the flesh with life according to the Spirit. What differences stand out to you?

4. Why do you think Paul is so focused on our minds/mindset? cf Romans 1v18-32 & 12v1-3.

READ ROMANS 8v9-13

5. If our minds have been transformed by the Spirit. What will happen to the rest of our life?

6. Is it possible to have the Spirit and not be changed by the Spirit?

READ ROMANS 8v14-17

7. How is our relationship with God changed? What does that practically look like?

8. How does having the Spirit give us hope both now and for the future?

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SACRIFICE

ATTITUDE BEFORE
ACTION

DENY YOURSELF

SEEK GOD

CONFESS/REPENT

How does a bigger picture of what Jesus has done for you and the work of His Spirit encourage you to "put to death the misdeeds of your body"? What specific sins do you need to confess?

SERVE

HUMILITY BEFORE
HONOUR

SERVE GOD

SERVE OTHERS

SHARE & EXALT
JESUS

Who are you serving with your life when you follow fleshly desires? — How is the Spirit changing your desires so you can serve God and others?

SPEAK

TO GOD ABOUT
PEOPLE

TO PEOPLE ABOUT
GOD

The Spirit gives access to a loving Father in heaven, but we often feel like He's absent or distant. What steps can you take to deepen your relationship with God?

Here are a few things we'll be praying about as we consider Romans 8v1-17:

- *We'll praise God because He did not abandon us to the law of sin and death. Instead, He sent Jesus to do everything necessary so that we may be set free from all condemnation. We'll thank God because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are no longer hostile towards God, but made alive by His Spirit to live at peace with him.*
- *We'll ask God that we would continue trusting in Jesus, in accordance with the Spirit and putting to death the desires of the flesh as we look forward to the day we will be raised to life and share in Jesus' glory forever.*
- *Because we know its only through Jesus sacrifice that people can be set free from sin and death, we'll keep praying that the good news about Jesus would be proclaimed in our region and that God would give 8000 new people to Jesus in our generation in Rockhampton & Gracemere for a start. We'll pray for opportunities every day, every where we go, to speak to every one about Jesus.*
- *We'll pray for our mission partner, Cam, that he would know the assurance of life in Christ, that as he faces suffering for the sake of Jesus, he will also share in Jesus' glory.*