

# Week 1 Study Sheet

## The Problem We Face

### Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read Romans 1-2. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

### Consider

There is a problem that every human being faces called sin. It is more prevalent and more dangerous than we think, and it leads to consequences that are bigger than we realize. Try as we might, we can't solve this problem on our own. Thankfully, God has a solution, and he desires to deal with our sin. In a complete reversal of our human expectations, and in contrast to all the world's religions, the gospel declares that we are saved not from presenting our righteousness to God, but in receiving a righteousness from God!

#### Discover

## Read Romans 1:16-23

- What releases the power of the gospel in our lives?
- The gospel reveals a righteousness from God, how is this gift of righteousness different from the gift of forgiveness?
- What can we know about God from things that are plainly seen?
- Why does Paul say that those who do evil, deny the truth of God, and choose not to honor him are "without excuse?" (v. 20-21)

## Read Romans 1:24-32

- What does mankind do that causes God to "give us over" to our sin? (v. 25, 28, 32)
- In what ways do we worship and serve created things rather than the Creator?
- How does God show his wrath and judgement for mankind in this passage? (v. 24, 26, 28)

## Read Romans 2:1-8

- What are the consequences of condemning and judging others?
- What do these verses teach us about the patience of God?
- What actions reveal that our heart is right with God or not? (v. 7-8)

## Pray

Thank God that sin does not have the final word, but that his grace is greater than all our sins. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways you have had a judgmental attitude and pray for eyes to see others the way God does.

## **Practice**

Commit yourself to a thoughtful and systematic reading of the Book of Romans over the next six weeks. Reserve time in your schedule each day to encounter God through his Word. As you read, ask yourself: What does this passage reveal to me about who God is and what he has done? What does this passage reveal to me about who I am and what I should do?

## **Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read <u>Romans 3-5</u> and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



## Week 2 Study Sheet

## The Gift We've Been Offered

## Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read Romans 3-5. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

### Consider

The God of heaven offers us the greatest gift imaginable: himself. God solved our sin problem by offering the gift of his own life. He sentenced himself for our sins and paid a price we never could. God's holiness is honored. Our sin is punished. And we are offered redemption. This gift is of infinite worth but is freely given. Apart from salvation in Christ, what is the greatest gift you've ever received, and what made it so special?

#### **Discover**

## Read Romans 3:21-26

- How did God make people right with himself? (v. 22)
- What does Paul say is the barrier between us and God? (v. 23)
- What is the difference between a righteousness from God and a righteousness from religious observance? (v. 22)
- What are some of the rules and behaviors Christians follow that can become a source of spiritual pride?
- How is Jesus' sacrifice a demonstration of both God's justice and God's mercy? (v. 25-26)

## Read Romans 5:1-11

- What three benefits do we experience from our justification by faith? (v. 1-2)
- What do we learn about the love of God from this passage? (v. 5-8)
- Have you personally rejoiced in suffering and how did God use those circumstances to lovingly produce endurance, character, and hope in your life?

### **Pray**

Thank God for the great love he demonstrated in sending Jesus to be the provision of righteousness you needed. Acknowledge your sinful condition and desperate need for God. Repent from your own attempts at a righteousness apart from God.

## **Practice**

Demonstrate love to someone who cannot repay you. Ask God to show you a person who is helpless or without hope. Share God's authentic love and radical generosity by paying for someone's medical bill, helping them repair their car, mowing their yard, or simply buying them a meal.

## **Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read Romans 6-8 and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



# Week 3 Study Sheet

## The Battle We Fight

### Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read Romans 6-8. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

## Consider

We are in a battle. Old patterns of life still entice us, and the enemy of our souls still lies, steals, and seeks to destroy us. We know that God has won the war against sin, yet we wander back into the muck and mire of our old ways and sinful patterns. In sending his son God provides us with a full and complete righteousness. In Jesus, we are made children of God and we are more than conquerors! What old sinful patterns continue to be an ongoing struggle for you?

### Discover

## Read Romans 7:7-25

- How does Paul describe the function of the law of God? (v. 7-13)
- What feelings and emotions does Paul express in this passage? (v. 14-15)
- Can you relate to Paul's struggle with his flesh?
- What prevents us from living the way our redeemed hearts long to? (v. 18)
- Describe Paul's tone at the end of the passage? (v. 24-25)
- What emotion does Paul's conclusion stir in you?

## Read Romans 8:9-17

- What does it mean to be led by the Spirit? (v. 14)
- What differences result when we live according to the flesh or according to the Spirit? (v. 12-13)
- Is everyone a child of God? Why or why not? (v. 14-15)
- How does the Spirit aid our understanding and acceptance of our position as a child of God? (v. 15-17)
- What differences are evident between one who is a slave to the law and one who is a child of God? (v. 15-17)

## Pray

Thank the Holy Spirit for his guidance and help to follow Jesus moment by moment. Ask God to reveal any unidentified sin in your life. Ask God to empower you through the Holy Spirit to live a life that reflects his grace in your life.

## **Practice**

Spend time in intercessory prayer. Use Romans 8:18-28 to reflect on the sufferings of your family, your friends, or others. After praying, think about God's future glory. Pause and envision the Holy Spirit with you as you breathe in and out. Have peace knowing that God causes everything to work for the good of those who love him.

## **Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read <u>Romans 9-11</u> and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



# Week 4 Study Sheet

## The Story We've Joined

Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read Romans 9-11. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

Consider

The 66 books of our Bible tell a powerful, honest, and shocking story of God's work through ordinary and broken people. God is still writing his story, and every person who comes to the father through faith in Jesus is part of this great drama that is unfolding. What unfolded in your story to lead you to faith in Christ?

**Discover** 

## Read Romans 10:1-7

- What heart's desire does Paul express in this passage?
- How does Paul's desire compare to God's desire expressed in 1 Timothy 2:3-4?
- What were the Jews doing instead of putting their faith in Christ? (v. 2-3)
- Why was Israel not submitting to the righteousness of God? (v. 3)

## Read Romans 10:8-13

- What two actions and body parts does Paul connect with the act of salvation? (v. 9)
- What is the relationship between believing and professing? (v. 10)
- What three promises are made to those who call upon the Lord? (v. 11-13)

## Read Romans 11:28-36

- What good result has been produced by the disobedience and unbelief of the Jews? (v. 30)
- How did the mercy shown to the Gentiles help the Jews to receive mercy from God? (v. 31)
- For what reason has God allowed all people to be disobedient? (v. 32)
- Why is it important for us to remember the truths in Paul's doxology after reflecting on the topic of God's plans of salvation? (v. 33-36)

**Pray** 

Rejoice in God's preeminence! Worship him as the ruler over all things. Voice the questions that you have as you read through these chapters. Confess your lack of understanding and seek his wisdom. Worship him as the source of all wisdom, power, and glory.

**Practice** 

Share the hope of Jesus with someone. Meditate on Romans 10:14-15 and ask God for the opportunity to bring the good news of Jesus to someone this week. Move through your week with anticipation as you look for God to create open doors for spiritual conversations with the people you encounter.

**Engage** 

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read <u>Romans 12-13</u> and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



## Week 5 Study Sheet

## The Path We Follow

### Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read Romans 12-13. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

### Consider

To walk in the footsteps of Jesus is to walk in love. To become more like Jesus is to love others more freely. When we receive the agape love of God, it overflows to every person we encounter. As a part of God's family, you are gifted to love each other and serve one another. How can you use the gifts God has given you to help others?

## **Discover**

## Read Romans 12:1-2

- What does it look like to offer our bodies as "living sacrifices" in a spiritual act of worship?
- How can God transform areas of your life that were previously conformed to worldly patterns?
- What does a renewed mind look like and what does it enable us to do?

#### Read Romans 12:3-8

- What does God's grace install in our lives? (v. 3)
- What image does Paul use to describe the function of the church? (v. 4-5)
- Do you know and use your spiritual gifts? (v. 6-8)

## Read Romans 12:9-21

- What are the characteristics of love? (v. 9-13)
- How are we encouraged to love one another? (v. 14-18)
- · What can you do to love your enemies?

## **Pray**

Thank God for the gifts he has given you. Seek him for a greater understanding of how you can utilize your gifts to build up the church. Ask God to give you a deeper understanding of his love for you.

### **Practice**

Take a spiritual gifts test and start using your gifts. Read 1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-31 to learn what the Bible teaches about spiritual gifts. Take the spiritual gifts assessment at oakhillschurch.com/studytools/GGG to help determine or affirm your understanding of the gifts God has given you. Consider partnering with Oak Hills Church Outreach to use your gifts to serve others in our community. Find opportunities to use your gifts to serve others within your local body at Oak Hills Church (oakhillschurch.com/serve).

## **Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read <u>Romans 14-15</u> and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



# Week 6 Study Sheet

## The Fellowship We Find

## Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read Romans 14-15. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

### Consider

When it comes to creating health, stability, and unity in an institution, it can take years, huge amounts of effort, and intentional sacrifice on the part of its members to reach that state. Division can take just moments. With one bad decision, harsh words, and thoughtless action, division can erupt. The church often suffers from these divisive moments. Have you encountered this in your experience at a church? The first century church wasn't exempt from division. Paul uses the next couple of chapters to encourage the church to grow in humility and immerse themselves in grace.

## **Discover**

## Read Romans 14:1-8

- · What attitude is Paul addressing?
- What parallels can be found between the observances on dietary restrictions of Paul's day, and our modern-day divisions? (v. 1-4)
- How can these verses guide our interactions with those who hold differing views?

## Read Romans 14:9-18

- What behavior fuels dispute? (v. 10)
- What stumbling blocks from your past have you placed on others?
- How can we pursue peaceful relationships with others? (v. 15-18)

## Read Romans 15:1-7

- · How can we help our neighbor?
- How are we to approach God's instructions, what does he give us, and what do we gain? (v. 4-6)
- How do you help someone who is weak in their faith? How is someone helping you with your weaknesses?

### Pray

Thank God for equipping you with endurance and encouragement. Ask God to give you words that encourage others. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you can courageously engage culture with the hope of Jesus. Pray for God to lead you to such profound unity with other believers that the world would look on and see that God is near, caring, and at work for all.

## **Practice**

Seek to resolve disputes and restore broken relationships. Recall conversations that did not end well. Examine your motives and words to determine if they were mutually edifying (Ephesians 4:29). Reengage the conversation in hopes of reconciling the relationship. Use Paul's example in Romans 14 as a guide.

## **Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. In preparation for next week read <u>Romans 16</u> and reflect:

- What does this passage reveal to me about who God is, and what he is has done?
- What does this passage reveal to me about who I am, and what I should do?



# Week 7 Study Sheet

## **God's Great Grace**

## Read

Before you begin this study, we encourage you to read ahead to gain better context and understanding during your study. This week read <u>Romans 16</u>. What words, phrases, or ideas did the Holy Spirit focus your attention on as you read?

### Consider

The impact of Paul's epistle to the Romans is incalculable. Paul unpacks the rich doctrines of grace and justification. He shows how the truth of the gospel changes everything. Saint Augustine's life was transformed after reading the letter to the Roman church. Martin Luther's study of Romans led him to the Protestant Reformation. John Wesley was inspired to start the Methodist movement after having his heart "strangely warmed" from his reading of Romans. How has your understanding of grace been impacted by this study of Romans?

## **Discover**

## Read Romans 16:1-26

- Who does Paul commend in his personal greetings, and for what reason? (v. 1-2)
- How would you describe the relationships Paul had with the nine individuals mentioned? (v. 3-9)
- What final warning does Paul give to the Romans? (v. 17-19)
- · How should the church act toward a person who causes divisions? (v. 17)
- What encouragement did Paul give the people in their struggle with evil in the world? (v. 19-20)
- What truths about the gospel are affirmed in Paul's closing? (v. 25-26)

## Read Romans 5:12-21

- How does Paul define God's grace? (v. 15-17)
- How has God's grace changed your life?
- What is the impact of Jesus' obedience? (v. 18-21)

## Pray

Thank God for moments of transformation. Ask him to bring to your remembrance important lesson you have learned from studying Romans. Seek him to reveal how studying Romans led to transformational moments in your life.

## **Practice**

Review and record what you've learned through your study of Romans. Write out a summary of the book or of the key truths you've learned. What were the themes and ideas Paul focused on? How does Paul describe Jesus? How does he define grace? What questions do you still have? Conclude your notes by answering the question: How is God calling me to live differently as a result of what I've learned?

## **Engage**

Reading the Bible each day leads us to encounter God and helps us learn to follow Jesus moment by moment. Read <u>Galatians 1-6</u>, another one of Paul's epistles, and look for similarities between it and the message of Romans.