

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

STUDY TIME SUGGESTIONS

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW

| | | |
|----------|---|----------------------|
| Lesson 1 | Getting Started - | Romans 1: 1 -17 |
| Lesson 2 | Qualifying for the Journey - | Romans 1: 18 - 2: 16 |
| Lesson 3 | Embarking on the Journey - | Romans 2: 17 - 3: 31 |
| Lesson 4 | Learning About Faith - | Chapter 4 |
| Lesson 5 | Experiencing Peace and Joy- | Chapter 5 |
| Lesson 6 | You Have Been Set Free - | Chapter 6 |
| Lesson 7 | Struggling with Sin - | Chapter 7 |
| Lesson 8 | Traveling with the Holy Spirit - | Chapter 8 |
| Lesson 9 | Other people and places (Israel & the Jews) - | Chapter 9 - 11 |

WHAT YOU MUST DO

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Lesson 10 | Experiencing the Transformed Life | Chapter 12 |
| Lesson 11 | Doing the Right Thing | Chapter 13 |
| Lesson 12 | Watching Your Attitude | Chapter 14 |
| Lesson 13 | Overflowing with Hope | Chapter 15 |
| Lesson 14 | Giving God the Glory | Chapter 16 and Summary |

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

STUDY TIME SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS SERIES

These lessons are designed for you to use in the way that best fits your own schedule and preferences. Whether you schedule a regular and predictable hour each week as your study time or you prefer to have shorter and more spontaneous times to do the lesson is entirely up to you. The important goal is that week by week you find the time to focus and concentrate on God's Word and your relationship with The One Who loves you and longs for you to spend time with Him through the study of the Bible. If at all possible, find a quiet and uninterrupted time and place to meet with JESUS. All you need is your Bible and a pen or pencil. Leave your commentaries and other tools on the shelf until you have completed the whole lesson on your own. Let the Holy Spirit be your teacher and you will find that the Lord's voice will speak to both your mind and your heart, your intellect, imagination and your emotions if you will listen attentively.

GETTING READY - As you begin your study time, take a few slow and deep breaths, allowing yourself to focus on God. Acknowledge His presence and His character. Give thanks to Him for a few specific ways in which He is real to you. Confess your weaknesses and the concerns that are on your mind and diverting your attention. What is it that you want Him to do as you come into His presence. Talk over your needs and your desires with your Heavenly Father.,.

READ - Focusing on the written Word of God

Take your time as you read God's Word. Read the passage through several times and in various translations. The Holy Spirit will begin to teach you as you simply take time to meditate - to absorb - to contemplate the truths that are presented. Make a note of some of the words, phrases, ideas which you might want to remember or consider more carefully during the reflection time.

Note: If you do not have time to do the "Reflection" questions, skip to the final section. Do not miss it!

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

The questions in this section are designed to help you think about the important ideas and vocabulary in this section in Romans. What is Paul trying to explain to the new believers (and to us) as he writes this letter? What does he want them to learn, to think about, to believe, or to remember? Is there something that he wants them to do or a decision to make or an act of obedience that they need to grasp? What is pertinent to your "journey of faith" today? It is often challenging to simply ponder, to meditate, to think with an open mind and to "wait on the Lord". Use the questions that are helpful to you and ask yourself other questions as you focus on phrases and ideas that attract your attention.

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

Set aside this time to let go of your own agenda and your own intellectual/informational approach to hearing from God. Open up your senses, your imagination, your feelings and be willing to sit in silence as you go through the 4 parts in this section. They are based on the very ancient and traditional way of praying Scripture called *Lectio Divina*, which means "divine reading". If this is new to you, I would encourage you to follow the steps expectantly week by week during this study of Romans. You will find that God will meet you in surprising and very personal and meaningful ways.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 1 - GETTING STARTED

“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last . . .”.
Romans 1: 17

If you were to receive an anonymous letter, what would be the best thing to do with it? If you receive a letter that is filled with advice or instructions from someone that you do not know at all, how should you respond to it? In order for a letter to have meaning you must know the credentials and experience of the person who has written it to you. That is exactly where Paul begins his letter to the Romans. They would know him by reputation. Now they, as well as you and I, will know him through his letter.

READ - Romans 1: 1 - 17 - Absorbing God’s Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately
Read it several times and in at least 2 or 3 different translations or paraphrases of the New Testament.

REFLECT - Getting to know the author of this letter to the Romans

1. Why did Paul want to write this letter to the Romans who belonged to Jesus Christ?
2. How does he describe his relationship to the people to whom he is writing?
3. What do you learn about Paul’s call, motivation, and passion?

Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

1. Paul described himself as “an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God”. Discover everything that he says about the “Good News” in this introduction.
2. Write some definitions for the following words that Paul uses. (As these themes are developed in this letter, your definition will change and improve).
Faith -

Righteousness -

Salvation -
3. Romans 1: 17 is a quotation from Habakkuk 2: 4. In this verse there is an interesting contrast between “the proud” and “the just”. What do you think both the prophet and Paul was trying to communicate.
4. Some scholars have said that Romans 1: 16 - 17 is the best summary of the Good News in the entire Bible. these Try to write them in your own words. How could this help you explain your faith to someone who does not yet believe?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase that God seems to be drawing your mind and heart to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to your mind.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either “do” or “be” in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this into your thinking and your behavior?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 2 - QUALIFYING FOR THE JOURNEY

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them. . .

Romans 1:18

There is some very basic and critical information that the Romans must understand immediately about the condition of mankind and his choices and the righteousness of God. It's not a pretty, "feel-good" picture, is it? In fact, if Paul were preaching in our churches today and he started out his sermon like he begins this letter, there might not be many people who would return the next Sunday. Until we grasp the condition of humanity, including you and me, we can not fully grasp the gospel message. So, read on and absorb these essentials.

READ - Romans 1: 28 - 2: 16 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 1:18 - 31

1. How has God revealed Himself to mankind?
2. Describe the various ways that people choose to respond to this revelation.
3. How do you explain "God's wrath" and reaction to these responses?
4. There seems to be a gradual decline in the behavior of the ungodly and unrighteous. What are your observations about this decline?

Romans 2: 1 - 16

1. There is another category of people who do not fit into the description of chapter 1, but rather they "pass judgment" on those sinners, seeing themselves as superior. What do these verses indicate about the guilt of everyone?
2. Verses 7 and 13 make it sound as if eternal life can be gained by doing good. While it is always wise to do good, it is never the means of justification, because no one can be good enough, both in actions and in attitudes, to earn God's favor and forgiveness. So what is Paul indicating in these verses?
3. The written law of Moses was familiar to the Jews; the unwritten law in the heart of every person is equally real. Does this have any implications for you and me?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 3 - EMBARKING ON THE JOURNEY

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Romans 3: 22

READ - Romans 2: 17 - 3: 31 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 2: 17 - 29 - The Jews Are as Guilty As the Gentiles

1. The Jews were certainly privileged people. They were God's chosen people, but what does the Scripture teach you about their guilt?

2. What was the point of circumcision? - Genesis 17

Romans 3: 1 - 20 - The Law Makes Us Conscious of Our Sin

What do you think is the point of these verses? What's your conclusion?

Romans 3: 21 - 31 - Here's Great News for the Guilty

1. Explain the following words. These concepts are very basic for the "journey of faith". Remember - these Romans were new to the faith and did not have the rest of the New Testament, so there's enough information here to get you started!

Righteousness

Justification

Redemption

Atonement or Propitiation

2. Notice the repeated use of the word "faith". What is it? Where does it come from? Is there any difference between "having faith" and "believing"?

In the Gospels - Matt. 8:10; 9:22, 29; 15: 28; Luke 7: 50; 8:48

In John - 1:12; 3: 15 - 18; 36; 11:25; 20: 30-31

In Hebrews - 10: 32 - 29; 11: 1, 6,

3. Can you summarize these 10 verses and personalize them - add "my, me, and I".

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase that God seems to be drawing your mind and heart to consider more carefully?

2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to your mind.

3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this into your thinking and your behavior?

4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

LESSON 4 - LEARNING ABOUT FAITH

The words “it was credited to him” were written not for Abraham alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness - for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Romans 4: 24

READ - Romans 4 - Absorbing God’s Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 4: 1 - 15 - Abraham’s faith (Genesis 12: 1 - 9, 15 - 18:19, 21: 1 - 7)

1. What can you learn about Abraham’s faith from these passages?
2. What does the phrase “credited or accounted to him as righteousness” mean?
3. Why is it so important to understand that justification is a gift from God?

Galatians 2: 15 - 21

Ephesians 2: 8 - 9

Romans 4: 16 - 25 - Therefore - it is by grace for everyone

1. What were Abraham’s obstacles to faith and how did he respond to them?
2. Abraham believed certain unchangeable facts about God. What were some of them?
3. Abraham’s faith is tested again when his son is a young man - Genesis 22. How do you think his earlier experiences in life prepared him for this challenge?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase that God seems to be drawing your mind and heart to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to your mind.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either “do” or “be” in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this into your thinking and your behavior?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 5 - EXPERIENCING PEACE and JOY

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . .
and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5: 1a - 2b

READ - Chapter 5 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary -

Romans 5: 1 - 11 - Because of everything that has been explained in the first 4 chapters of this letter, Paul can now go on to explain the benefits of being "justified by faith".

1. What are the benefits described in the first 5 verses?
2. "At just the right time" - what comes to your mind as you consider this? - v. 6
3. We do everything that we can to avoid suffering, don't we? How does our view differ from what is described in verses 2 - 5?
4. Why did God want to provide a way for mankind to be saved from His wrath?
There are 2 aspects to this salvation - verse 10. Try to explain what is meant by this verse?

Romans 5: 12 - 21 - By One Man - Contrasting Adam and Jesus Christ

"We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners". J. Phillips

1. What did we inherit as Adam's children? What do we receive in Jesus Christ?
2. Did Adam have a real choice? Was this unfair or unkind of God?
3. Underscore the phrase "how much more" or "there's no comparison". What does this do for you in helping you to grasp God's love and grace for those who will receive it?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase that God seems to be drawing your mind and heart to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to your mind.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this into your thinking and your behavior?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 6 - YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE

**But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God,
the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.**

Romans 6: 22

READ - Chapter 6 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 6: 1 - 14

Question #1 - Shall we keep on sinning so that God's grace may increase?

There was a view at that time called "Antinomianism, which declared that God's law was no longer important or valid. God's forgiveness allowed man to live any way he pleased. Do people still use this idea today? Paul absolutely confronts it in Romans 6: 1 - 14.

1. What realities does the ceremony of baptism represent?

Acts 2: 37 - 38

Acts 19: 1 - 5

Acts 8: 9 - 17

Colossians 2: 9 - 15

2. What do you think that Paul has in mind when he says to offer "parts of your body" or "members" to God as instruments of righteousness? Verse 13

Romans 6: 15 - 23

Question #2 - If we're not under the law, but grace, why not keep on sinning?

Slavery was often voluntary at this time in history. It provided security and stability for the slave and his family. John Stott says that "obedience is the essence of slavery."

1. We love the idea of freedom, but is anyone really free or is that a fantasy rather than reality? What does Romans 6: 15 - 23 teach you about slavery and freedom?
2. Explain the contrast of being a "slave to sin" vs. a "slave to righteousness"?
3. Now how would you respond to the idea that "As long as God keeps on forgiving, we can keep on sinning"?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase that God seems to be drawing your mind and heart to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to your mind.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this into your thinking and your behavior?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 7 - STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7: 24b - 25

READ - Chapter 7 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

As you study chapter 7, keep in mind what you have already learned about sin, the law, and our need for Jesus Christ. No one can attain God's approval or salvation through good works, nor can anyone succeed in living a holy life through self-effort or good intentions.

Romans 7: 1 - 6 - Released from the law through Christ's death

If the law is no longer my master, what is the new guideline for living?

Galatians 2: 19

II Corinthians 5: 21

Romans 7: 7 - 13 - Does the law have value?

For the Jews, the Mosaic Law was held in extremely high esteem. Is that still true?

1. What was the purpose of the law? Is the law responsible for causing sin?
2. Can you think of examples where knowing the law actually entices people to break it?
3. Does not knowing the law give someone an excuse from obeying it?

Romans 7: 14 - 25 - Why do we, as believers, still struggle with sin?

1. Do you think the struggle that Paul is describing was before he met Christ, before he had enough information, or a struggle that he faced throughout his life?
2. How would you describe the internal struggle that is being described here?
What words are used to describe the battle between good and evil?
3. Why do you think "the mind" is emphasized? Verses 23 and 25?
4. Victory - there seems to be only one solution to the problem. What is it?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 8 - TRAVELING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

And if the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8: 11

"In Chapter 8 Paul shows us that while we are still in this life the body remains unredeemed, but the fact that the spirit has been justified and the soul is being sanctified is a guarantee that God will one day redeem (glorify) the body as well. When we enter at last into the presence of Christ, we shall stand--body, soul, and spirit--perfect before Him." Ray Stedman

READ - Chapter 8 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 8: 1 - 17 - Alive Through the Spirit

1. NO condemnation - what does that mean? This is a great opportunity to summarize the Gospel as it has been explained in the first 7 chapters of Romans.
2. Make 2 lists that contrast life according to the sinful nature and life according to the Spirit.
3. Consider the idea of adoption - God has made those who are in Christ to be His children. What does this mean? What difference does this make to you?

Romans 8: 18 - 27 - Troubles Now, But It Is Temporary

1. All of creation is waiting for that day of redemption. Read Revelation 21 and 22 and make a list of some things that you can anticipate for yourself and all creation.
2. How could the information in verses 26 - 27 help you when you pray?

Romans 8: 28 - 39 - You Can't Get Lost and You Will Win

1. Write some definitions for the following words:

Foreknew

Predestined

Justified

Glorified

2. Romans 8: 28 is probably one of the most quoted verses by Christians in all of Scripture. What do you think the verse means phrase by phrase?
3. Verses 37 - 39 are also favorite verses because of their deep reassurance to believers. Put these ideas into your own words.

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 9 - OTHER PEOPLE and PLACES (Israel and the Jews) - Chapter 9 - 11

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, & it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Romans 10: 9 - 10

The questions surrounding God's chosen people, the Jews, were evidently being asked by both the Jews and the Gentiles. Is God's rejection of His people temporary? Is it fair? Will God really keep the promises that He made to Abraham concerning this nation? Wasn't their zeal and sincerity enough to please God? Those questions, and many more, are still being asked by people today. Some of the questions have answers; while other issues will remain unanswered in this life. Can you accept that reality?

READ - Chapters 9 - 11 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Chapter 9 - God's purpose in election - His sovereignty

1. What advantages did the people of Israel have?
2. What do you learn about God's mercy and His sovereignty in this chapter?
3. In what ways did the Israelites fail to understand what God wanted?

Chapter 10 - The Israelites rejected the "Good News"

1. How does Paul feel about his own people?
2. Contrast righteousness that is by the law and the righteousness that is by faith.

Chapter 11 - God's Plans for Israel Will Be Realized

1. How does Paul explain God's mercy toward the Gentiles? What is his warning?
2. When you have done your best to understand these mysteries, it is always wise to remind yourself and others of God's limitless wisdom and give Him glory. Rewrite this doxology of praise in your own words. (Romans 11:33 - 36)

Bonus - Paul uses quotations from 10 different Old Testament books in these 3 chapters. Can you identify them? He really had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures!

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 10 - EXPERIENCING THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12: 1

A travel guide would not be complete if it only contained the things that you need to KNOW about your journey and the places that you will visit. It must also describe for you the things you must see, the experiences you will not want to miss, and the various activities that you will want to do. Our travel guide for the "Journey of Faith", the book of Romans, also has 2 sections. With Chapter 12 we begin part 2 - "What You Must Do". Are you ready to embark on the adventure of "living by faith"?

READ - Chapter 12 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 12: 1 - 2 - Changing the way you think -

1. What do you think Paul means by "offer your bodies as living sacrifices"? How do you see this as being worship?
2. There are 2 options in verse 2 - conforming or being transformed. One is natural and one is supernatural. What part does the "renewal of your mind" have in the process of transformation? Can you think of examples of what transformation is?
3. "Finding God's will" is something which everyone would like to know more clearly. What does verse 2 teach you about it?

Romans 12: 3 - 8 - You're not alone as you travel -

1. What is Paul's counsel to you about how to view yourself? Why is this advice so important to consider? Does it impact the way you feel about who you are?
2. When we look at "the body of Christ" - worldwide - how does it impact your journey?
3. Make a list of the gifts mentioned in verses 6 - 8. Notice the descriptive words that are added to some of the challenges. Where do you see yourself as "gifted"?

Romans 12: 9 - 21 - Finding your way -

When you need to find your way to a new location, do you like clear instructions? Does it help you to know what to expect as you travel? It's all very clear in this travel guide. Make your own list - sentence by sentence, using your own words if you can, of the clear and concise instructions that are given to you about what YOU MUST DO.

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

5. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
6. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
7. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
8. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 11 - DOING THE RIGHT THING

**“Clothe yourselves with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
And don’t let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.”**

Romans 13: 14 - NLB

Wasn't one chapter enough? No, it wasn't. There's more to experience and more to see and do on this journey of faith if you want to experience it fully. Besides, you really don't know how much longer you'll have to travel, so why not make the most of it?

READ - CHAPTER 13 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 13: 1 - 5 - Submitting to authority

1. When Paul was writing, Nero was the emperor. How do you make sense of these guidelines when there is an evil government?
2. What are the clear instructions in this paragraph for everyone?
3. Do you have questions that you will need to ponder and ask?

Romans 13: 6 -14 - Loving and living

1. How would understanding that “love is the fulfillment of the law” help the new Jewish believers especially to integrate their past and the present? Does it motivate you?
2. What does salvation (vs.11) mean in this context?
What does the reference to night and day mean?
3. Do you think that the warning in verse 11 to “wake up” is relevant to our faith journey?
Consider this imperative both for yourself personally and the church today.
4. How can dissension and jealousy be equated to the other sins of verse 13?
5. This isn't the first time that you have heard about our sinful nature. Take some time to Review Romans 7: 14 - 25 and 8: 1 - 11. What is your conclusion?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

9. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
10. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
11. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either “do” or “be” in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
12. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 12 - WATCHING YOUR ATTITUDE

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace . . . Romans 14: 19

There are things that are worth defending. They are the primary issues that deal with the central doctrine of the Christian faith - Romans 1 - 8. Then there are all the secondary issues, which are based on tradition, temperament, culture, and personal opinion. When you feel critical of someone else, what is the criteria by which you decide how you will handle the situation?

READ - Chapter 14 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary -

Romans 14: 1 - 13 - Taking a non-judgmental stance wherever you are -

1. In this context do you think the one who is "weak in the faith" is an immature believer or one who is still holding on to legalistic traditions?
2. What are the issues that are dividing the people in Rome?
If Paul were writing to Santa Cruz, what would the arguments be today?
3. Are personal convictions a good thing? What guidelines are given so that judgment and dissension can be avoided?
4. Find all the verbs (dispute, etc.) which are used to describe the problem that is being addressed. What would be the opposite or positive approach to take when there is disagreement?
5. How would believing the truths of verses 12 and 13 release us from a critical spirit?

Romans 14: 14 - 23 - Pursuing peace and encouragement wherever you go -

1. There is a description of the Kingdom of God in verse 17. Think about it and rewrite it in some words that would help you explain it to someone.
2. Being willing to give up something you enjoy for the sake of another's spiritual stability is not easy. Can you think of an example of when someone has done this for you or you have done it because you have loved someone else that much?
3. Is it all about following your convictions and your conscience? About not doing anything that is questionable? Is that what Paul means in verse 23 or is there more?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

13. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
14. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
15. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
16. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 13 - OVERFLOWING WITH HOPE

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the god and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15: 5 - 6

When a teacher gives the final instructions for a project or test, they are always some of the most important ones to grasp. As Paul nears the end of his letter to the Romans, you can almost hear the passion in his voice as he writes about unity and his earnest desire to go to Rome. It is touching to realize that he expects that his visit to Rome will be refreshing to the people there, but that it will also be restorative to him. When people come to visit you, what do they anticipate?

READ - Chapter 15 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and vocabulary

Romans 15: 1 - 6 - Can you live in harmony?

1. Why do you think that unity is so important as we follow Jesus Christ? What would it take to make it a reality? Is it possible?
2. What part do the Scriptures have in helping us to be able to glorify God together?

Romans 15: 7- 21 - Are you "full of goodness"?

1. How does Paul encourage the people to whom he is writing?
2. There are 2 kinds of people in the world - Jews and all others - Gentiles. What motivated Paul to take the gospel of God to the Gentiles?
3. Sometimes it is good to stop and think about the time when all nations and peoples will stand before the throne of God - Revelation 7: 9 - 17. Do you need this encouragement from the Scriptures today? How does it help your patience and endurance?

Romans 15: 22 - 33 - Will you pray?

1. A giving church - what can you learn from them?
2. A prayer request - what can you learn from it?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

17. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
18. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
19. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
20. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Lesson 14 - GIVING GOD THE GLORY

I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

Romans 16: 19

It is such an encouragement to people when they are recognized and appreciated. Of course, the glory goes to God, but acknowledging the hard work and faithfulness of people motivates them to continue to persevere. Paul, no doubt, had met these individuals in many of the other cities to which he had traveled. Somehow, he has kept track of them and knows that they are now in Rome. What does this tell you about how Paul valued people?

READ - Chapter 16 - Absorbing God's Truth into your mind - slowly and deliberately

REFLECT - Considering the important ideas and **vocabulary**

Romans 16: 1 - 16 - Give them my greetings

1. For what does Paul commend the various people?
2. Why do you think he mentions some of his relatives?

Romans 16: 17 - 27 - Final instructions

1. Make a list of Paul's final reminders to the people. Are any of these new or has he mentioned them before in this letter?
2. How would verse 20 give hope to the people in Rome for whom life was very difficult?
3. One final doxology which once again shows the heart of Paul. Rewrite to make it your own expression of praise.

THE BOOK of ROMANS

1. How would you summarize this letter in a short speech? Why should all followers of Jesus Christ study it periodically? Why is it called the most important explanation of the doctrines of the Christian faith?
2. What impressed you the most deeply from the first section - "What You Must Know"?
3. What impressed you the most deeply from the second section- "What You Must Do"?

RESPOND - Listening to the still, small voice of God with your heart and soul

1. As you read these verses again, what is the word or phrase or idea that God seems to be drawing you to consider more carefully?
2. What feeling, picture, or image comes to your mind as you meditate on it? Write your ideas down as the Holy Spirit gently brings them to you.
3. As you sit in stillness with the Lord, is there something that He is calling you to either "do" or "be" in response to this word, phrase, or even verse? What is it? Do you have questions? Are you willing? What would it take for you to integrate this idea into your thinking and your behavior? How does it make you feel?
4. Thank God that He will give you the desire and the power to take this step of faith - today and tomorrow.

Essentials for Your Journey of Faith

A study of the Book of Romans

Bibliography

Bible Study Fellowship Notes on Romans –

Bickel, Bruce & Jantz, Stan, Romans -Understanding God's Grace and Power, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon, 2004

Keller, Timothy, Romans 1 – 7 and , The Good Book Company, 2015

Life Application Study Bible, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Eugene, Oregon, 1998

Nelson Study Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1997

Piper, John, Sermons on Romans as posted on www.desiringod.org/series/romans

Pritchard, Ray, Messages on Romans 12 – 16 as posted on www.keepbelieving.com

Stedman, Ray, The Message of Romans (Brief Introduction from [www. blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com))

Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Thomas Nelson Publishers, NY, 1985