

Romans Part 1

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

FREED FROM
SIN'S PENALTY
(CHAPTERS 1-5)

Romans Part 1 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

© 2009, 2011, 2013 Precept Ministries International

Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in Canada

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®

© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)

© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

3rd Edition (5/2013)

THE PURPOSE OF LEADER GUIDES

These leader guides are intended for you, the leader, to help plan your discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the theology of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from completing their homework. Leader Guides are not designed to do the homework for you! Please refer to them after you have completed your assignment as a student.

These guides can assist you in preparing the lesson plans to use for leading the discussions. This is not the only way to lead your discussion of the Scriptures, but it is one way you could approach the material in the lesson.

The Holy Spirit must be your guide as you plan to lead these discussions. He is the one who knows what your group needs. Be in prayer for them as they study and for yourself as you plan to lead the discussions.

Keep in mind learning is enhanced when your group is encouraged to verbalize what they've learned. Asking questions will help them to reason through the Scriptures they have studied. Ask the "5 Ws and an H" kinds of questions (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How). Asking these kinds of questions requires more than a yes or no answer.

Visual aids can be a tremendous asset in helping your group to reason through the Scriptures. These discussion guides will give you some ideas for visual aids, but please feel free to adapt, change, or even replace these with your own ideas.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV Precept Upon Precept courses. The ESV follows the NASB with a slash / or is set off with parentheses.

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans overview

ROMANS 1:1–17

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group how Romans begins.

Who wrote Romans, and how did he identify himself?

Paul

Bond–servant (ESV—servant) of Christ Jesus
Called as an apostle
Set apart for the gospel of God
Received grace and apostleship to bring about obedience of faith
among the Gentiles (ESV—all the nations)

Who did he write this letter to?

Believers in Rome

Called of Jesus Christ
Beloved of God in Rome
Called as saints
Gentiles / nations, verses 5–6, 13
Their faith was being proclaimed throughout the whole world

What historical information does Romans 1:9–15 give?

Paul had not been to Rome but longed to go. He was eager to preach the gospel to them in Rome. He wanted to use his spiritual gift for their benefit; he wanted mutual encouragement.

Relate this to Romans 15:14–33 and 16:17–27.

Paul wrote boldly on some points to remind the Roman believers.
He told them how he hoped to come to Rome.
He closed with warning against those who cause dissensions / divisions.

This tells why Paul wrote Romans.

Tertius wrote the words of this letter that Paul spoke to the Romans.

How does Romans 1:16–17 relate to the rest of Romans?

These statements seem to summarize what all of Romans is about.
They're the key verses.

The theme of Romans is: the righteous shall live by faith.

These verses also indicate that there were Jews among the saints in Rome.
There were two groups in the church at Rome, Jews and Gentiles.

At this point, ask your group about the main theme of each chapter.
Tell them to look at their At A Glance chart as a visual aid.

ROMANS 1:18–32

What is this about?

God's wrath revealed against men's unrighteousness

Men are without excuse when they face His wrath.

How might you summarize the theme of Romans 1?

God's righteousness in the gospel; His wrath against unrighteousness

ROMANS 2

What words are repeated in this chapter? What is it about?

Judgment and the Law are repeated.

Verse 9 mentions both Jew and Greek, just like 1:16.
The gospel is for the Jew first and also the Greek as is judgment.
There is no partiality with God.

Verses 17–29 are about Jews.

How can the theme of this chapter be stated?

God's judgment on all; Jews and the Law

ROMANS 3

How does this chapter begin?

Paul asked a question.

You might ask if your group noticed other questions in Romans.

This was one of Paul's ways of reasoning with the people he wrote.

What is this chapter about?

Both Jews and Greeks are all under sin.
There is none righteous.

Righteousness comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

God is just and justifier of one who has faith.

Ask what your group put on their At A Glance charts as the theme of this chapter.

All have sinned, none righteous; Justified by faith in Christ

How do the first three chapters relate? What's the flow of thought?

The gospel of God has power to save, reveal His righteousness.
All men are unrighteous and deserve God's judgment.
Righteousness comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 4

Who is this chapter about?

Abraham's example of justification by faith

Abraham believed God, and it was credited / counted as righteousness.

Righteousness by faith, not works of law

How can this chapter be summarized?

Abraham justified by faith, righteous

ROMANS 5

What and who is this chapter about?

The results of justification—peace with God, saved from His wrath.

There's a contrast between Adam and Christ.

All men were facing death because of sin, but Christ's death gives righteousness.

What's the theme?

Peace with God, many made righteous by Christ's death

Relate the main points of this chapter to the flow of thought from Romans 1.

Paul was eager to preach the gospel because it has the power of salvation for the Jew first and also the Greek. All men, Jews and Gentiles, are under sin and death, facing God's wrath and judgment.

Christ died so that those who believe in Him are made righteous and no longer face God's judgment but have peace with Him.

This is what Romans Part 1 is about.

The rest of Romans is in Parts 2–4 Precept Upon Precept and In & Out courses.

Encourage your group to study so they'll understand their own personal standing with God. They'll also understand the gospel to present to the unrighteous.

ROMANS 6

How does this chapter begin?

Another question

What are the answer and main points?

Believers died with Christ to walk in newness of life

Now free from sin, no longer slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness

Another free gift from God is eternal life in Christ.

How can this chapter be summarized?

Dead to sin and alive to God, slaves of righteousness

ROMANS 7

What's the key repeated word in this chapter? What does the chapter say about it?

The Law

Believers are dead to the Law. This is a good summary of this chapter.

ROMANS 8

What is the main theme in this chapter?

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Relate this to the content of Romans 6 and 7.

ROMANS 9

What is this chapter about?

Paul's grief for his people Israel
God's mercy

Israel pursued their own righteousness, not by faith

Theme, summary?

Paul's sorrow for Israel; God's mercy

ROMANS 10

How does this chapter continue about Israel?

Paul's desire for them was their salvation.

Christ is the end of the law
for righteousness
to everyone who believes

Righteousness is based on faith not law.

Ask what your group put on their At A Glance chart as the theme for this chapter.

Israel did not subject / submit to God's righteousness

ROMANS 11

What does this chapter say about Israel?

Their rejection means reconciliation for the world.
God has not rejected His people Israel.

This last statement is a good summary of Romans 11.

ROMANS 12

How does this chapter begin?

“Therefore...by the mercies of God...”
Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice.

As you discuss these last chapters, ask about the main instruction(s) in each and how it relates to Jews and Gentiles living together as brothers. Relate to the church now.

ROMANS 13

Be in subjection to the governing authorities

Paul turned to instructions, primarily about how to live with brothers.

Love one another, fulfill the law—might be a good summary statement.

ROMANS 14

Accept one weak in faith—don't judge brothers

ROMANS 15

Accept one another.

ROMANS 16

Greetings, warning, praise
Paul, a Jew, sent greetings to his Gentile brothers, a good example.
His desire was obedience of faith among all.

What is the main theme of Romans? Give time for your group to discuss relevant application.

The righteous shall live by faith
Romans tells why and how.

**ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans overview
- Segment divisions

REVIEW

You might begin your discussion by reviewing the following things.

Who wrote Romans and to whom?

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the believers at Rome.

Why did he write?

To tell them that he wanted to come to them

To explain that salvation is by faith

To warn them about those who cause dissensions / divisions and might hinder what he taught them

What is Romans about? What's the main theme?

The righteous shall live by faith.

ROMANS, MAIN SEGMENTS

To begin this part of your discussion, direct your group to their At a Glance charts.

Then ask them about the main segment division in Romans.

Romans 1–11 doctrinal; explains salvation, justification by faith, righteousness

Romans 12–16 practical; tells how to live out righteousness

Romans 12:1 says, "...by the mercies of God..."

Romans 1–11 explain the mercies of God to mankind.

The church at Rome was primarily made up of Gentile saints, but there were also some Jews. Paul explains this in Romans 1–11.

Romans 12–16 emphasizes how Christian brothers are to live righteously toward each other. He tells how Gentile believers are to behave toward Jewish believers.

You might ask how Romans begins and ends. What are those segments?

Romans 1:1–17 introduction

Romans 15:14–16:27 greeting and closing

These verses present the historical setting and Paul’s purpose for writing this letter.

ROMANS 1–11, SEGMENTS

At this point, you can discuss any other segment divisions in the first part of Romans.

Ask your group what they observed.

NOTE: The key words show not only the chapter themes, but also identify segments.

Romans 1–3 might be considered a segment by some.

The key words in this part of Romans have to do with *judgment* and *the Law*.

In this segment, Paul said that all are under sin; all deserve God’s righteous judgment, both Jews and Gentiles. The Law will be used to judge those who tried to keep it—the Jews.

All men are without excuse before Him.

What other key word is repeated in Romans 3? Does another segment begin?

Justified is repeated in this chapter.

Many commentators think a new segment is Romans 3:21 going through Romans 5.

You can ask your group if they agree with that or not and why.

Give time for discussion.

Remind them that these chapters are what they’ll study in this course, Romans Part 1. The other Precept Upon Precept courses on Romans follow the segments.

Romans 3 says that men are justified by faith, not works of the Law.

Righteousness comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 4 presents Abraham as an example of one justified by faith.

He was a righteous man who lived by faith.

Romans 5 tells the results of being justified by faith.

Peace with God, not facing His wrath or judgment

The free gift of life in Christ, His righteousness, not death

Next you might ask what other segments your group observed. Or you can ask what key words are used repeatedly in Romans 6–8.

Romans 6 Dead to sin, slaves of righteousness

Romans 7 Dead to the Law

Romans 8 Law of Spirit of life in Christ sets free from law of sin and death

Some commentators label this as the “sanctification” part of Romans.

Ask your group if they wrote a theme for this segment on their At A Glance chart, and if so what.

How do these chapters help us understand the main theme of Romans—the righteous shall live by faith?

All are under sin; none are righteous.

All need salvation and that is by faith in Jesus Christ.

In Christ a believer is dead to sin, a slave of righteousness, dead to the law; freed from the law of sin and death by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ.

These chapters are the content of the Romans Part 2 Precept Upon Precept and In & Out courses.

Who are Romans 9–11 about?

These chapters are about Israel and Paul’s heart toward his fellow Jews.

How does this segment fit into the theme of Romans?

Israel did not live by faith, but tried to be righteous by keeping the Law. Even so, God has not rejected His people Israel. There’s still hope for them.

Romans 9 Paul’s sorrow and grief over his brothers of Israel

Romans 10 Paul’s desire for their salvation

Romans 11 God has not rejected His people Israel, all will be saved

God's sovereignty is clearly seen in this segment of Romans.

Romans 11:33–36 are a fitting end to this segment.

These chapters are the content of the Romans Part 3 Precept Upon Precept and In & Out courses.

ROMANS 12–16

How did Paul end Romans? What's the message for now?

Therefore...by the mercies of God...

Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice.

We're one body in Christ, Jew and Gentile.

Love for brothers fulfills the Law.

Accept one another, weak and strong

Paul sent greetings from the brethren to those in Rome.

Then he warned them about ones trying to cause dissention, causing division in the body of Christ.

Again, he ended this main segment with praise for the eternal God who made Himself known to all nations. Relate this to Romans 1.

To review the main segments of Romans, you can ask for the main point of each.

Romans 1:1–17 is the introduction and states the theme.

Romans 1:18–3:20 establishes that all have sinned, Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 3:21–5:21 presents that all are justified by faith—saved.

Romans 6–8 is about sanctification, freed from sin and the law by the Spirit

Romans 9–11 focuses on the Jews, God's sovereignty in choosing and saving them

Romans 12–16 is how to serve one another in the body of Christ, Jews and Gentiles

Give time at the end of your discussion for application.

**ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 1 observations

REVIEW

You might begin this discussion by asking your group what the key verses (theme) of Romans are.

1:16–17

What are the main segments in Romans?

1–11 the teaching part of Romans
God's power for salvation, His righteousness revealed

1–3:20 all have sinned, judgment
3:21–5 justified by faith
6–8 dead to sin and law by Spirit of life in Christ
9–11 God has not rejected Israel

12–16 the living out part of Romans
by His mercies, present your body a living sacrifice

ROMANS 1

Discuss the content leading up to the key verses. At the end of this guide is a sample visual aid you might use as your group discusses this chapter.

If you have an experienced group, you can ask what led up to verses 16–17, and then let your group discuss their observations of verses 1–15. If you have a newer group, then you might need to ask more specific questions like the following.

Verses 1–7

What are these verses about?

Paul
a bond-servant (ESV—servant) of Christ
called as an apostle
set apart for the gospel of God

The gospel

God promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures.
It concerns His Son, a descendant of David.

Jesus Christ our Lord

declared His Son by His resurrection from the dead
by the Spirit of holiness—the Holy Spirit

How do verses 5–7 flow from this?

Paul received grace and apostleship through Jesus his Lord.

To bring about obedience of faith, faith in Jesus

Among all the Gentiles / nations

Paul was an apostle to Gentiles, and the Romans were mainly Gentiles.

The word “called” is used three times in verses 1–7, once to refer to Paul and twice referring to the saints in Rome.

His letter is to all who are beloved of God in Rome.

Maybe this is a reference to Jews and Gentiles—all believers in Rome.

They received grace and peace, like Paul received grace and apostleship, from the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

All originated with God the Father, then through His Son people received grace.

You might ask how any of this relates to believers now.

Give a little time for your group to discuss any application.

Verses 8–15

What are these verses about?

Paul was thankful because their faith was being proclaimed throughout the whole world.
He also wanted the Roman saints, believers, to know he prayed for them.

He wanted to go to Rome to minister to them and be encouraged by them.
As the apostle to the Gentiles, he was obligated to them and desired fruit among them like other Gentile areas he'd visited. He wanted to teach them.

NOTE: The Greeks called anyone who was not Greek a barbarian. So it seems the term “Greek” came to mean the civilized people of societies.

What historical information do the first fifteen verses give for Romans?

The apostle Paul, apostle to the Gentiles
To the Romans, primarily Gentile saints

He longed to visit them, and he prayed for them.

This is what some refer to as the introduction to this letter.

Verses 16–17

What do these verses describe?

God's power to save through the gospel

Relate this to verses 2–4.

The gospel is about Jesus' death and resurrection.
That message contains God's power to save anyone who believes it.

It's for the Jew first, and also the Greek or Gentiles.

The gospel reveals God's righteousness and tells men to live righteously by faith.
That's the theme of Romans.

Verses 18–32

How do these verses contrast with the first seventeen?

Verses 1–17, God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel.
Verse 18 says that His wrath is revealed against unrighteousness.

What are these verses about?

Men suppress the truth.
They know about God because He made Himself evident to them.
Creation makes Him evident to them.

You might ask your group why modern men deny that God is the Creator.

If He created, then He exists and is over mankind.

What's known about Him? What truth do unrighteous men suppress?

His invisible attributes
eternal power
and divine nature
clearly seen / perceived and understood through what has been made, creation

Therefore, they are without excuse.

They knew God, but didn't honor Him as God or give thanks.

What else happens to men who suppress the truth?

Futile speculations / thinking—minds are affected.
Foolish and dark hearts—hearts are affected.

Professed to be wise, but were fools.

The solution for this is hearing the gospel and believing it.

How do the verses continue? What two statements are repeated?

Men exchanged...

God gave them over / up to...

What is exchanged? And what does God give men over / up to?

The glory of the incorruptible God for images
Even in modern societies this continues now.

Men choose foolish idolatry rather than worship God for who He is.

Men suppress the truth about Him.

He gave them over to impurity

The lusts of their hearts cause their bodies to be dishonored—bodies affected.

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

Men worship and serve the creature instead their Creator. Relate this to verse 20.

Since they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, He gave them over to degrading / dishonorable passions.

They exchange the natural for the unnatural, receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. This is a reference to homosexuality.

You might ask what they think about that statement. Does this happen now?

Continue discussing what your group learned about the ungodly in these last verses.

They did not even acknowledge God any longer.
So He gave them over to a depraved / debased mind.

A depraved / debased mind does things that are not proper (ESV—ought not to be done) and is filled with unrighteousness. God's wrath is against unrighteousness.

Verses 29–31 list those things.

What did they know, according to verse 32?

They knew the ordinance / righteous decree of God. This might be a reference to Jews.

That ordinance / decree is that those who practice such things are worthy of death.

Although the unrighteous know this, they still practice such things and give approval to others who practice the same.

They are evil and want evil company.

Look at the three mentions of *know* or *knew* in verses 19, 21, and 32. What does this say in regard to the unrighteous?

Or you might ask what these last verses teach about the unrighteous.

The wrath of God is revealed against them.
They have wrong thinking, wrong belief, wrong worship, wrong behavior.
A terrible downward spiral.
God's wrath is revealed in the fact that He gave them over to what they wanted.

Are these things still true today?

Visual Aid

God's righteousness revealed	God's wrath revealed
In the gospel Paul was not ashamed of it Power for salvation for those who believe	Against unrighteousness men who suppress the truth God made Himself evident Man is without excuse Men exchanged... God gave them over...

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 1:1–4
- The Gospel

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you might ask your group what they remember about the theme and main segments of Romans. Ask if they can recite these without looking at their At A Glance charts.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Romans 1–3, the gospel / God’s righteous wrath revealed against unrighteousness

Romans 3–5, justification by faith and reckoned righteous

Romans 6–8, dead to sin and the law and slaves of righteousness

Romans 9–11, Israel had no faith but God has not rejected them

Romans 12–16, one body in Christ and brotherly love fulfills the law

THE GOSPEL

At the end of this lesson’s guide, there is a short list which you can use as a visual aid.

Romans 1

What does Romans 1 say about the gospel?

Paul was set apart for the gospel of God to bring about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles / nations. He preached the “good news” of salvation to Gentiles / nations.

God promised the gospel beforehand through the prophets in the holy Scriptures. The “good news” of salvation is contained in the Old Testament.

Verse 3 says the gospel concerns God’s Son Jesus.

born of a descendant of David according to the flesh
declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead
Jesus Christ our Lord

Paul was eager to preach the gospel to those in Rome because in it is the power of God for salvation to anyone who believes it, Jew or Gentile.

In the gospel God’s righteousness is revealed from faith to faith.

What did Paul do with the gospel?

Verse 9 connects Paul's serving God with his preaching the gospel.

The power is in the gospel itself.

It is not in how it is presented or in the presenter.

The gospel does the work in a person's heart to bring him to salvation.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation.

It came to the Jew first, then the Gentiles.

When Paul preached the gospel concerning Jesus, what did he say?

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Discuss the two main points and supporting points of the gospel message.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

He was buried—proof that He was dead.

He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

He appeared to many—demonstrating His resurrection.

What's repeated in both of these main points? How does this relate to Romans 1:2?

According to the Scriptures

Both Jesus' death and resurrection were written in the Old Testament.

Romans says God promised this good news through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, which at the time Paul wrote Romans was the Old Testament.

Ask your group what they learned about Jesus' death and resurrection from the Old and New Testament passages in the lesson.

Jesus' death

The Passover of Exodus 12 was fulfilled in Christ's death.

He was the Lamb of God slain to take away the sins of the world, John 1:29.

Christ our Passover has been slain, 1 Corinthians 5:7.

The lamb's blood over the door caused the death to pass over that house.

Jesus' blood saves all who believe the gospel message and they pass from death into life.

When Jesus ate the last Passover with His disciples before leaving this earth, He told them that the bread was His body given for them and His blood was poured out for them. He was the sacrifice.

Compare the crucifixion accounts in the Gospels with Psalm 22:1–18 and Isaiah 53:1–12.

Matthew 27:27–53; Mark 15:13–39; Luke 23:33–49; John 19:17–37

The crowd mocked Jesus.

They put a crown of thorns on His head.

They divided His garments among themselves.

He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

The soldiers didn’t break His legs, because He was already dead.

They pierced His side.

They cast lots instead of tearing His garment
that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Isaiah 53:5 says that Jesus was pierced through for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. Jesus was crucified, died, pierced through for our sins.

Discuss the resurrection accounts.

Acts 2:22–36; Psalm 16:8–11

Several times in Acts, Peter reminds the Jews that they put Jesus to death. But it was God, by His predetermined plan and foreknowledge, who delivered Jesus over to be nailed to a cross.

Jesus would not stay in the grave. God raised Him up again—a bodily resurrection—putting an end to the agony of death. It was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Peter quoted the prophet David from Psalm 16:8–11.

John 2:18–21

Jesus, speaking of the temple of His body, prophesied His own resurrection. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Matthew 12:38–40; Jonah 1:17; 2:10

Jesus said Jonah was a sign. A sign points to something. Jesus spoke of His resurrection by referring to Jonah being in the fish three days and three nights and then being vomited up. Jesus was in the grave three days and nights, then resurrected.

Peter said God raised Jesus and they were witnesses.

Those alive then could ask the ones who saw Him after He was resurrected—proof. He invited the disciples (Luke 24) and then Thomas (John 20) to see and touch Him.

Discuss the importance of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:12–19.

If there is no resurrection, then even Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead.

If He was not raised, then our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins.

Relate these facts about the resurrection to Romans 1:4.

Jesus was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.

What did Peter say when he preached the gospel in the Acts passages?

They nailed Jesus to the cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.
God raised Him up.

David prophesied this.

The apostles witnessed.

They disowned the Holy and Righteous One, put to death the Prince of life.
God raised Him from the dead.

A fact to which the apostles were witnesses.

Jesus Christ's suffering was announced beforehand by all the prophets.
These things were fulfilled.

Jesus is the prophet Moses spoke of.
If one does not heed His Word, that one will be utterly destroyed.

God promised Abraham a seed and that promise is fulfilled in Jesus.

Each time he gave the main points of the gospel—Jesus died, and God raised Him. These things were prophesied in the Scriptures and fulfilled.

In Romans 1:9, Paul said he served God by preaching the gospel of His Son. You might ask if that should be true for all believers. You might also ask how important it is to remember where the power is according Romans 1:16.

All believers are responsible to speak the gospel, but it is the gospel that is the power for salvation. Salvation is God's responsibility.

What points about Jesus did Paul make in Romans 1:3–4?

According to the flesh He was born of a descendant of David—His humanity.
He was declared God's Son by His resurrection from the dead—His deity.

CHRIST'S DEITY

Ask what your group learned about his and how relevant it is to their lives, message.
Tell them to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

John 1:1, 14 The Word was God. The Word became flesh.

John 8:58–59; Exodus 3:14–15; John 8:24

Jesus said people will die in their sins unless they believe He is God. God had said of Himself that He is I Am. Therefore, Jesus was claiming to be God.

How important is it for people to believe that Jesus is God?

It is a matter of life and death. Jesus said unless you believe that He is God you will die in your sins. Those who say that Jesus is a god or just a good man or just a prophet are deceived.

John 10:30–33

Jesus said He and the Father are one. He was making Himself equal with God. Again the religious people clearly understood what Jesus was saying. They accused Him of blasphemy and tried to stone Him. (Leviticus 24:16 gives the law regarding blasphemy.)

Hebrews 1:3–4

Jesus is the exact representation of God's nature, the radiance of His glory, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

Jesus is/ was exactly like God because He is God. He is creator—He made the world. He is the outshining of God's glory. Again, these verses show their oneness.

After His death, He was seated with the Father on high.

Colossians 1:15–20; 2:9–12; John 20:27–29

He's the image of the invisible God and Creator.

Deity in bodily form

When Christ came to this earth, He was God here.

John 17:5; Isaiah 42:8

Jesus said He was with the Father before the world was.

He had glory with the Father before the world was.

In Isaiah, the Lord said He would give His glory to no one.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21–23; Isaiah 9:6

The promise in Isaiah 7:14 is fulfilled in the virgin birth of Jesus.

His name was to be Immanuel—God with us.

Isaiah 43:10–11; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4–7, 10–11; Isaiah 44:6

God said there is no savior besides Him.

Jesus was described as the Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

His birth took place in Bethlehem. Jesus was born in Bethlehem as Savior.

Isaiah 44:6; Revelation 1:7–8, 17–18

God said He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega. He is and was and is to come. He's the Almighty.

When John turned to the voice speaking to him, he fell as a dead man at Jesus' feet and heard Him say He is the first and the last.

You might end your time together by asking your group what they plan to do with all this wonderful information.

Remind them that it is our responsibility to present the gospel. We don't have to try to find a way to make it believable. We just need to present the truths in the gospel and remember that the power of God for salvation is in the gospel itself.

Visual Aid

The Gospel

Romans

the gospel of God
promised beforehand through prophets in holy Scriptures
concerning God's Son
the power of God for salvation
in it His righteousness is revealed

1 Corinthians

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures
was buried
Christ was raised on third day according to the Scriptures
appeared to many

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 1:16–18
- The righteous and the unrighteous

REVIEW

You might begin your discussion with a review of Romans.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Romans 1–11 doctrinal segment

All sinned, justified by faith, dead to sin and Law

Romans 12–16 how to live, especially with brothers (Jews and Gentiles)

What is Romans 1:1–16 about?

Paul, called as an apostle, was set apart for God’s gospel.

God promised the gospel through His prophets in the holy Scriptures.

It concerns His Son, a descendant of David (showing His humanity), declared God’s Son by His resurrection from the dead (showing His deity).

Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.

He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

From the Lord Jesus Christ Paul received grace and apostleship.

Paul’s purpose was obedience of faith in the gospel among the Gentiles / nations.

He presented grace and peace to the Roman saints, believers.

Then he told them how he wanted to see them and about his plans to come.

He was eager to preach the gospel to those in Rome.

Why was he eager to preach the gospel in Rome?

There’s a question in the opening comments of the lesson:

How does a person become righteous?

Discuss the answer as your group discusses what they learned from the word studies in this lesson. As a visual aid for this discussion, you can draw a stick figure, or series of stick figures, of an unrighteous man who believes and becomes righteous.

ROMANS 1:16

How does the definition of “power” help with understanding verse 16 better?

The definition of *dunamis* basically means ability or capability.¹

The gospel message contains within it God’s ability to save those who believe what the gospel says about Jesus.

Believers do not have to make the gospel believable or pleasant and do not have to be persuasive. It is the divine energy of the gospel itself that changes a person’s life. The message of the gospel produces results.

Give time for your group to discuss application of this.

What does “salvation” mean? How does the definition help with understanding verse 16 better?

This has a basic meaning like “power” does.

These were basic words used in everyday language when *koine* Greek was spoken in the days when the New Testament was written.

The spiritual significance comes from the context of Scripture.

Salvation, *sōtēria*, basically means “deliverance, preservation safety.”²

Salvation is a result of believing the gospel.

According to the context of Romans 1:16–18, salvation from what?

God’s wrath against unrighteousness—chapter 2 says that all men face His judgment.

Who is the gospel of salvation for?

The Jew first and also the Greek (Gentiles).

It is universal, for all people everywhere.

Why was Paul eager to preach the gospel, not ashamed of it?

It’s the good news about Jesus Christ and salvation.
It contains God’s ability to rescue people from judgment on their sin.

¹Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 121.

²H.G. Liddell, *A Lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott’s Greek-English Lexicon* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996). 789.

What is man's responsibility in salvation?

Simply to believe the gospel

Since "believe" and "faith" have the same Greek root word, ask what the definition is. Does it help to understand verse 16?

It basically means trust or confidence in something.³

It is more than just believing "something" in the mind.
This belief affects one's life.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application associated with verse 16.

Romans 1:17

Have the same kind of discussion for this verse as you did with verse 16. Ask about the definition, then discuss how it fits into the statement of the verse.

What's this verse about?

God's righteousness is also revealed in the gospel, good news.

"righteousness"

Dikaiosúnē is "what is right . . . justice."⁴

It's the word used in Romans for both:

- righteousness, righteous, right
- just, justify, justification

Romans is about God's ability to make people right with Him.

God is righteous, and He makes people righteous.

What does "revealed" mean, and how does the definition help understand verse 17?

Apokalúptō means "to uncover, reveal."⁵

God's righteousness is unveiled in the gospel.

³Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 314.

⁴Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 46.

⁵Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G601.

He's righteous toward man who is unrighteous.

You might ask your group, "How?" Give time for discussion.

Unrighteous man is without hope before God, facing His wrath.
The gospel concerns Jesus' death and resurrection.
It contains God's ability for salvation to those who put their trust in it.
They then become right with Him.

Ask also what they learned in relation to God's righteousness being revealed from faith to faith.

It seems from the text that Paul quoted Habakkuk, an Old Testament prophet, as explanation of this.

Habakkuk 2:4 contrasts the proud, whose soul is not right, with the righteous who lives by faith. He trusts his life to what God said.
God promised the gospel beforehand through His prophets.

The gospel is received by faith, believing and trusting God that it is true, and then continues by faith.

All faith, no works
Justified by faith, sanctified by faith every moment of life
Men hear and believe the gospel, then continue living in faith, believing what God says about their salvation.

ROMANS 1:18

What else is revealed? How does the definition of "wrath" help to understand this verse?

God's wrath is revealed from heaven against men's ungodliness and unrighteousness, because they have opportunity to believe the gospel and be made righteous.

Orge is a settled, abiding anger, not a sudden outburst of emotion.⁶ It's God's righteous anger against sin.
It's what sin deserves.
It is ongoing and not hidden.

His hatred for sin exists now, not just in the future.

What does "ungodliness" mean?

asebeia—"irreverence"⁷; a defiance toward God,⁸ wickedness.⁹

⁶W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). 2:26.

How is God’s wrath revealed against ungodliness and unrighteousness in Romans 1:18–32?

Men suppress the truth about God in unrighteousness...

And God gave them over / up to...
Verses 24, 26, and 28

What’s the definition of “depraved / debased”? How does it help in understanding verse 28?

Adokimos is “not standing the test, rejected”¹⁰; “unapproved.”¹¹

Romans 1:28 says the depraved / debased mind does those things which are not proper / ought not to be done. They’re without approval because they chose not to acknowledge God.

You could ask your group if they think the people around them understand that doing the things that are not proper according to God’s Word is depravity.

This text lists the things that are not proper before God.

To end your discussion you might ask about the two questions at the beginning of the lesson.

- The righteous and the unrighteous—what are the differences?
- How does a person become righteous?

⁷Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament library (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000). 77.

⁸W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:651.

⁹James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996).G763.

¹⁰Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G96b.

¹¹James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G96.

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 1:18–32
- God’s character and salvation

REVIEW

As you begin this discussion, you can ask your group how this study of Romans has impacted their lives. Give a short time for sharing.

Then ask what they remember about Romans 1:1–17.

NOTE: One of your goals for this study should be for your group to remember the main points of Romans 1–5. You can help this by briefly reviewing these main points each week.

Paul wrote to the saints at Rome. He wanted to visit them, but had not been able to when he wrote this letter.

He began with the gospel.

It concerns God’s Son Jesus Christ.

It’s the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

In it God’s righteousness is revealed.

Verse 17 is the key verse of Romans and the theme.

The righteous shall live by faith.

SALVATION

To relate to this, ask what your group learned about salvation in Day Three of the lesson.

John 3:1–21, 36

Jesus told the religious leader Nicodemus that he must be born again, born of the Spirit, to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Salvation is a spiritual birth brought about by God’s Spirit.

Jesus also said that whoever believes in the Son of Man, another name for Jesus, has eternal life. He’s saved. Jesus came into the world, the first time, to save not judge.

1 John 5:11–12

Eternal life is in Jesus.
Salvation is eternal life.

John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8–10; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:21–22, 26

Salvation is believing in Jesus as God's Son.

Romans 10:9–10

This says that one must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead to be saved.
Relate this to the previous lesson on the gospel points.

Confession of that belief is part of salvation.

John 14:6 and Acts 4:12

Both of these passages state that it's only through Jesus that man is saved.
He's the way, the truth, and the life.

According to these passages, what's the result of salvation?

The saved then practice the truth, good deeds or works.

What about the person who is not saved? What are the results?

John 3:1–21, 36

Jesus told of the one who does not believe, obey.

That one is judged already, and God's wrath abides on him. He will not see life.
His deeds / works are evil, and he hates the light of the Lord Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 1:6–10; 2:8–13

Those who don't obey the gospel will receive retribution when Jesus comes the second time to earth. The penalty of unbelief is eternal destruction as opposed to eternal life with the Lord and the righteous.

NOTE: If your group wants to discuss "chosen" mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:13, you can tell them that you'll study that in detail in Romans Part 3.

ROMANS 1:18–25

To direct the discussion back to Romans 1, you can ask how this retribution relates to verses 18–32. As a visual aid you can make a short list of the main points in these verses.

Verse 18 says that God's wrath is revealed against ungodly men.

You might ask what your group remembers from Lesson Five about God's wrath.

It's God's emotion or attitude toward sin.
It's ongoing and not hidden.
His wrath is the result of His hatred for sin.

Why is His wrath revealed from heaven?

Ungodly and unrighteous men suppress the truth they know about God.

He has made Himself known to men by creation.
He has made Himself evident within them.

As you lead your group to discuss what they learned from the word studies in the lesson, be sure to fit the definitions into the text of these verses.

What does "suppress" mean? How does the definition help to in understanding verse 18 better?

It means to "hold back or restrain."¹ These evil men try to hide or conceal the open truth of God.

They know the truth, but deliberately suppress it in unrighteousness continuously.

The truth is God Almighty, the Creator of the universe, exists and deserves to be worshiped.

How do men know the truth about God?

What can be known about God is made known within them (ESV—is plain to them), because God made it evident within them (ESV—has shown it to them) by what He made.

God made the truth about Himself evident in creation.

All men are aware of the existence of God.

What is known about God? What has He made evident / shown about Himself?

His invisible attributes
His eternal power
Divine nature
Creator
Incorruptible God of glory

¹ Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 98.

Relate the cross-references of Day Three through Day Five in the lesson.

What did the other passages in this lesson say about God?

God is righteous and just.

Romans 3:26; Psalm 119:142; 89:14

God is love.

1 John 4:16; Jeremiah 31:3 and John 3:16

He's patient.

2 Peter 3:9–10; Romans 2:4

He's kind.

Romans 2:4

He's good.

Psalm 118:29

He's righteous.

Romans 1:16–17

He's merciful and gracious.

Hebrews 4:16

God is not partial.

Romans 2:11 and Acts 10:34

What are His ways like? How does He deal with people?

He's the Redeemer, Isaiah 47:4.

When men search for Him with all their hearts, He lets them find Him,
Jeremiah 29:13.

Men can draw near to His throne of grace to receive His mercy and grace,
Hebrews 4:16.

In Him are the depths of wisdom and knowledge, Romans 11:33–36.

Give some time for your group to relate these truths about God to their own lives.

Why do men suppress this kind of truth about God?

Because He's righteous, and they want to continue in their unrighteous living.

What's the conclusion in verse 20?

Man is without excuse. All mankind is aware that God exists.

And verse 32 adds that they know God's ordinance, that those who practice this unrighteousness are worthy of death.

Ask what your group learned from Romans 1:21–32.

Men became futile in mind and dark in heart as they chose not to honor God for who He is.

That's the biblical definition of a fool.

What three things did they exchange in their foolishness?

The glory of the incorruptible God for images

The truth of God for a lie

The natural function for the unnatural

These are all contrasts or opposites.

The unrighteous want to continue in unrighteousness and appear to be wise.
Their speculations are futile, worthless.

What did God do? What's repeated three times about Him?

God gave them over / up, surrendered² or handed over to.³

To the lusts of their hearts, which had become darkened

This led to dishonoring their bodies.

To degrading / dishonorable passions—unnatural instead of natural

This describes homosexuality.

To a depraved / debased mind

The mind affects all behavior.

²James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G3860.

³Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G3860.

NOTE: The definition for “depraved / debased” was in the last lesson. Some might remember that it means unapproved or disqualified, failed the test. In the Greek there is a play on words. Just as they did not approve God as worthy of knowing, God gave them over to an unapproved mind.

Give time for your group to discuss these things in verses 24–32.

What’s the result when men suppress the truth of God?

There is penalty, even some while still alive here on earth.
Verse 27 says that they receive the due penalty of their error.

Verse 32 says that they know they’re worthy of death.
Verse 18 says that God’s wrath is against them.

You can end by discussing the answers to the questions at the beginning of the lesson.

If a person has never heard the gospel, will he or she still go to hell?
Are the heathen really lost?

God made truth about Himself evident to all men.

If those men suppress that truth, then they face His wrath and hell.

If those men search for Him with their hearts, then He’ll let them find Him.

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson focus:

- Romans 2

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what your group remembers about Romans as a whole.

What it's about or what's the main theme?

Paul wrote to the saints in Rome, mainly Gentiles with some Jews.

Book Theme:

The righteous shall live by faith

What are the main segments?

Romans 1–11

This is the teaching part of the letter.

It teaches how God makes man righteous—by faith.

Romans 12–16

This is the “live it out” part of the letter.

It's based on Romans 1–11.

This tells how brothers are to live with each other,

Gentiles and Jews in one body.

What is Romans 1 about? How does this letter begin?

Paul started his letter with the gospel.

Then he wrote about wanting to visit the Romans.

In the middle of this chapter is a contrast between God's righteousness being revealed in the gospel and His wrath being revealed against unrighteous men.

He ends stating that these men who practice such things described in verses 18–32 know they're worthy of death.

They are without excuse.

ROMANS 2

How does this chapter begin? How does it continue from Romans 1?

Repeated is “no excuse” for those who “practice” those things of Romans 1.

Verses 1–11

What are these verses about?

Paul addressed those in verse 1 who judged others but did the same thing.

In judging others, they condemned themselves.

God’s judgment is righteous, as is His wrath. Relate this to Romans 1:18 to 2:2.

This is contrasted with men judging others for doing the same things they’re doing.

No one will escape God’s righteous judgment.

There is a sample visual aid at the end of this guide you can use as your group discusses what they observed in this chapter.

What are the contrasts in verses 4 and 5?

God is kind, tolerant / forbearing, and patient.
He also judges and has wrath.

His kindness leads to repentance.
But they had stubborn / hard and unrepentant / impenitent hearts.

These men are storing up God’s wrath for themselves instead of responding to His kindness and patience.

What do verses 5–6 tell about God’s wrath?

Men store it up for themselves by being unrepentant.

The day of His wrath will come in the future when His righteous judgment is revealed.
Relate this to Romans 1:18.

It’s based on a person’s deeds / works.

So how are these people storing up wrath for themselves?

By practicing the deeds / works described in Romans 1:18–2:5.

How do verses 6–10 describe this? What’s the contrast?

Eternal life, glory, honor, peace

for those who persevere in doing good (ESV—patience in well-doing),
seek glory and honor and immortality
does good

Jew first and also Greek

Wrath and indignation / fury, tribulation and distress

for those who are selfishly ambitious / self-seeking,
don’t obey the truth but obey unrighteousness,
do evil

Jew first and also Greek

Compare Romans 1:16 with these verses. How does 2:11 relate?

Salvation is for all who believe—Jew first and also Greek.

Those who don’t believe will be judged—Jew first and also Greek.

There is no partiality with God.

Verses 12–25

How does Paul continue to explain God’s judgment? What are the contrasts?

All who sinned without the Law—perish without the Law. (Gentiles)

All who sinned under the Law—judged by the Law. (Jews)

The hearers of the Law are not justified / righteous before God but the doers will be.

Verses 14–15 explain how Gentiles, who don’t know the Law, are doers of it.

It shows the Law written in their hearts, their conscience and thoughts.

People instinctively know right from wrong. God made man that way.

You might ask what verse 16 says about the gospel.

Paul refers to the gospel as “my gospel” and to that day of the judgment of God as being according to his gospel. God will judge the secrets of all men through Christ Jesus.

Who are verses 17–24 about?

Jews

What did Paul say about them here?

- Rely on the Law
- Boast in God
- Know His will
- Approve essential / excellent things from the law
- Instructed in the Law
- Confident of being a guide to the blind...

If you teach another, don't you teach yourself?

If you preach against stealing, adultery, and idolatry,
why do you do the same?

They dishonored God by teaching the Law, yet breaking it themselves.

The result was that the Gentiles blasphemed God's name.

Could the Jews described in this chapter be the ones who were judging others in verses 1–3?

Give time for your group to discuss this and relevant application for now.

Verses 25–29

What is Paul's reasoning in these verses?

Circumcision was only valuable if one practiced the law, a doer of it.

It was of no value if one transgressed the Law.

Gentiles who keep the Law, sometimes called the uncircumcised by Jews, judge / condemn the circumcised Jews who transgress it.

This chapter begins with the Jews judging the Gentiles and ends with the contrast.

God is interested in the heart. The ones who judged others had unrepentant hearts.

NOTE: You might need to tell your group that they'll study about circumcision and the Law later in this course. For now, just focus on what the text says.

The Spirit circumcises the heart.

And the one who has a circumcised heart is praised by God, not judged by Him.

To end your discussion, you can ask what your group learned from this chapter about God and how that relates to their lives.

Visual Aid

God's righteous judgment / wrath

falls on those who practice unrighteousness, none escape

unrepentant heart stores up wrath

according to deeds / works

without partiality, Jew and Gentile

**ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 2:1–16
- True salvation produces righteousness

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what this study has taught them. Give a little time for sharing.

Then you can ask about the overview of Romans, especially chapters 1–5.

Paul wrote the Roman saints about the righteous living by faith.

In the first segment, 1–3:20,
he showed that
the gospel is for all, Jew first and also Gentiles

all have sinned and face God’s judgment,
Jew first and also Gentiles.

Then the other segments are:

3:21–5:21 the righteous are justified by faith, not law

6–8 the righteous are dead to sin and death by the law of the Spirit of life

9–11 God has not rejected Israel

12–16 the righteous are to love brothers, fulfill the law

At this point, you might review the main points from Romans 1 and 2 before discussing the other passages in this lesson. There is an example of a visual aid at the end of this guide.

Romans 1

What does this chapter say about true salvation producing righteousness?

Paul presented the gospel to bring about obedience of faith among the Gentiles. That was his ministry as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

The Roman saints had a faith that was obvious as it was known throughout the world.

Paul was eager to preach the gospel so that others might believe. He wasn't ashamed of it, because in it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes—Jew first and also Greek.

His righteousness is also revealed in the gospel "from faith to / for faith."
The righteous live by faith.

Salvation is begun by faith and continues by faith.

What is the contrast in the last part of chapter 1?

The unrighteous suppress the truth about God; they willingly reject it.

Everything about them is unrighteous:
dark heart, dishonored body, depraved / debased mind.

They practice things worthy of death and approve of others who do the same.

Romans 2:1–16

What does this chapter add about the righteous or unrighteous?

Some who practice the same things, judge others for it.
These condemn themselves, and God's judgment will fall on them.

God's kindness leads men to repentance, but these have unrepentant / impenitent hearts.
They store up His wrath for themselves.

They obey unrighteousness.

According to verses 6–10, how are men to be judged by God? For what?

God will judge men according to their deeds / works.

Those who persevere / patience in doing good / well-doing
—glory, honor, immortality, eternal life

Those who don't obey the truth but obey unrighteousness and do evil
—wrath, indignation / fury, tribulation and distress

This applies to the Jew first and also the Greek. There is no partiality with God.

Did Paul teach here that one is saved by works?

All of Romans denies that.

Salvation is to everyone who believes, 1:16.

These deeds / works of Romans 2 come as a result of salvation.

What do verses 12–16 teach regarding God’s judgment and righteousness?

Unrighteous Gentiles will perish because of their sin.

Unrighteous Jews will be judged by the Law because they didn’t do it.

Doers of the Law will be justified, whether Jews or Gentiles. Gentiles are doers from the heart as they didn’t have the Law.

Ask your group if they noticed the repeated use of the words “practice” and “do” and what they understand about this.

You can give a brief time to discuss their answers to this or do it as you discuss the other passages in the lesson.

TRUE SALVATION PRODUCES RIGHTEOUSNESS

How do the other passages studied in this lesson help in understanding Romans 2 better?
Give time for application discussion at each reference.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is part of eternal life, part of salvation. These unrighteous are not saved.

Their deeds are evil.

But the believers had participated in the same before they were saved.

The result of salvation is being washed, sanctified, and justified in Jesus by the Spirit.

What’s the warning?

Don’t be deceived.

Encourage you group to make sure what they believe about salvation lines up with the Word of God. Studying the Bible helps prevent deception.

True salvation produces a change in the believer’s life.

Ask them if there has been a change in their lives.

Has the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ changed the way they think, live, behave toward others, the way they think about Him and what He requires?

How can they help others who might need to understand these things?

Galatians 5:19–21

How does this passage relate?

The deeds / works of the flesh are evident, they're obvious and visible.

Those who practice / do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Believers will sin. No one is perfect, but sin is not the habit of life. There will be acts of sin, but not a lifestyle of sin.

Give time for your group to discuss this list of the flesh's deeds / works.

Notice that outbursts of anger and jealousy are listed among things like idolatry and sorcery and drunkenness.

If one practices outbursts of anger and / or jealousy, that one is not saved.

Ephesians 5:5–10

What does this passage teach?

This contains repetition of the previous two.

Know with certainty (ESV—you may be sure of this)
—none of these persons has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

What's the warning?

Let no one deceive you with empty words.

How does verse 8 compare with 1 Corinthians 6:11?

Formerly the believers were darkness, but now after salvation they are light in the Lord.

Both verses tell of a changed life after being saved.

What are the instructions to believers in this passage?

Don't be partakers (ESV—take no part) with them; don't do what the unbelievers do.

Walk as children of light
in the fruit of light—goodness, righteousness, truth
This fruit comes from being children of light.

trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord
This allows for spiritual growth.

James 2:14–26

What's the repeated statement in these verses? Discuss the content.

Faith without works is dead.
That kind of faith is useless and does not save a person.

The doers of the law are justified, not those who only hear.

This passage is not about salvation by works, but rather true faith produces good works.

What good does it do to say, "Be warm," and then go your way if you don't hand that cold person a coat?

Even the demons believe in God and shudder.
Faith is not just intellectual, or just something one says; it has works, deeds.

Abraham and Rahab are examples of those who believed in God and proved their faith by their obedience.

How does James relate to Romans 2:1–16 and the other passages?

Those who practice evil are not saved and face God's judgment.

Those who practice good deeds / works are the ones who have been saved and have eternal life.

Deeds / works show who a person is:
saved or not,
righteous or unrighteous,
faithful or unfaithful.

Those who have been saved live differently from their former "practices."

1 John 3:1–12

How did John state similar teaching about those truly saved?

Children of God "practice" righteousness because they're born of God.
His seed, the Holy Spirit, is in them.

They don't practice sin, continue in a lifestyle of sin.

This is the same thing the other passages say.

The one who practices sin is of the devil.

The children of God and the children of the devil are obvious.

Jesus appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application of this.

The warning about not being deceived is in three of these passages, and one is called a warning.

This might bring up questions your group has about people they know who claim to be Christians.

Matthew 7:13–27

What did Jesus teach that’s relevant to this?

Warning: beware of false prophets.

They claim the name of the Lord, but don’t do the Father’s will.

Just because a person says Lord, Lord does not mean they will enter the kingdom of heaven. The text says everyone who hears Jesus’ words and acts on them is wise. Everyone who hears and does not act is foolish.

A person is known by his or her fruit.

True salvation is evidenced by how one lives.

If there is faith, there will be righteousness.

If there is faith, there will be obedience to God.

The righteous	The unrighteous
Saved by faith, believe gospel Jew 1 st and also Greek	Suppress truth about God
Persevere in doing good—eternal life	Unrepentant heart—wrath Do evil
Were unrighteous, but washed...	Jew 1 st and also Greek
Don’t be partakers with them	Not inherit God’s kingdom Practice deeds / works of flesh Sons of disobedience
Good works from faith	Practices sin, of the devil
Practices righteousness, born of God	
Does the Father’s will	

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 3
- The Law

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what the key statement of Romans is.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Then ask how Romans 1–2 explains this.

Romans 1:1–17

This tells that Paul preached the gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews.

The gospel reveals God’s righteousness in that it has His power to save all who believe it. That’s the beginning.

Romans 1:18–32

Unrighteous men suppress the truth they know about God in their minds and deeds. They refuse His righteousness, and are without excuse before Him.

His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness, against those who practice ungodliness.

Romans 2

This continues to explain that even Jews, who claim to be righteous, will not escape God’s righteous judgment. They’ll all, Jews and Gentiles, be judged by their deeds / works.

Then he begins a section about the Law and how it relates to God’s judgment.

The Jews who are under the Law will be judged by it.

Only the doers of the Law are just before Him.

It does the Jews no good to rely on the Law and not do it.

Circumcision is valuable only if one practices the Law.

If one transgresses the Law, then his circumcision becomes uncircumcision.

Circumcision is a matter of the heart, inward and by the Spirit, not by the letter of the law.

Beginning in Romans 2, Paul used questions to reason with the recipients of this letter. His questions were about the Jews and the Law.

ROMANS 3

Ask what this chapter is about, the main theme.

There is none righteous, all have sinned / justified by faith

Paul began this theme at Romans 1:18 and showed that both Gentiles and Jews are unrighteous before God and will be judged by Him.

But before that he stated that all who believe, Jew and Gentile, are saved by God's power in the gospel. They're made righteous by faith and live by faith.

Discuss this chapter paragraph by paragraph.

Verses 1–8

What are these verses about? How does Paul continue his questioning from Romans 2?

What advantage has the Jew?

What is the benefit of circumcision?

The Jews had a great advantage.

First, they were entrusted with the oracles of God, His Word, His Law.

The next question is:

If some did not believe / unfaithful, their unbelief / faithlessness will not nullify God's faithfulness, will it?

His answer is in verse 4. God will always do what He promised.
He is always true, whether man believes Him or not.

Paul then quotes from the Old Testament saying His words are right / just and He prevails when He judges. The Jews will be rightly judged by God for having His Word and not practicing it. They knew better, but practiced unrighteousness.

You might give some time for your group to discuss God's faithfulness to His Word and how that applies to them.

What are verses 5–8 about?

Man's unrighteousness demonstrates God's righteousness.
He's righteous when He inflicts wrath

Paul reasoned with them by speaking in human terms—or in terms that a lost person might use.

The answer is that God is not unrighteous but righteous in His judgment.
The Jews will be judged just like the Gentiles who sinned without the Law.

Verses 7–8 seem to ask from a sinner’s standpoint: if his lies make God look better, then why is he judged?

Their condemnation by God is just, it’s right.

Verses 9–20

What are these verses about?

Is one group better than the other?

No. All are under sin. There is none righteous.

In verses 10–18, Paul uses several quotes from the Psalms and one from Isaiah.
He wrote this to Jews who should have understood the Old Testament.

Verse 19 says all those in the world are accountable to God.

Verse 20 says no one is justified by keeping the Law

Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin—it tells what sin is.

At this point you might begin a visual aid list about the Law. Add to it as your group discusses the rest of Romans 4 and the other references about the Law. See the last page of this guide for a sample.

Ask how this might relate to what they learned about true salvation in the last lesson.

True salvation has fruit / works. Works do not save a person, but works show that a person is saved. The Law cannot save, but shows a person how sinful he is. No one can keep the whole law; therefore all are shown to be sinners, without hope.

Verses 21–26

What do verses 21–22 say about God’s righteousness?

His righteousness has been manifested apart from the Law. It is witnessed to in the Old Testament.

His righteousness has been manifested through faith in Jesus Christ.
All who believe see God’s righteousness in what Jesus did.

There is no distinction between Jew and Gentile, all have sinned.
This is the same point Paul began in verse 9.

He continues on with what he first stated in Romans 1:16–17.

All who believe are justified

- as a gift
- by His grace
- through redemption
- in Christ Jesus

NOTE: The next lesson focuses on justification, redemption, and propitiation. So, don't discuss too much about these words in this lesson.

What do these verses say about Jesus?

God publicly displayed (ESV—put forward) Him in His blood—on the cross

This demonstrated / showed God's righteousness.

How did the cross demonstrate / show His righteousness?

Sins in the past were passed over because of God's forbearance.

Jesus took care of sin from the time of Adam onward.

Sin had to be paid for; therefore, He became the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

God is righteous, and man is not. So, if man were to become righteous, God had to be the one to do it. His solution was to send Jesus, the propitiation for man's sins.

Verses 27–31

How did Paul continue his reasoning in these verses?

Paul's questions return.

Where is boasting?

There is none. Jews can't boast in the Law, 2:17.

What does this teach about the Law?

He repeated what he said in verse 20.

Works of the Law can't justify. Men, all men, are justified by faith.

God is the God of Jew and Gentile and will justify both through faith.

Though all men are unrighteous sinners, they can be justified before the righteous God by faith in Jesus Christ. This is what Paul taught from Romans 1:16 to here in the letter.

THE LAW

What does Romans 3:31 teach about the Law?

Do we then nullify / overthrow the Law through faith?

Faith does not nullify / overthrow the Law, but establishes / upholds it.
Faith brings about the result of what the Law didn't do—makes men righteous.

At this point, you might discuss the cross-references about the Law.

What else did Paul teach about the Law in Romans 7:7–14?

The Law is not sin, but it shows what sin is.

The commandment results in death if one sins, does not keep the commandment.

The Law is holy and spiritual.

The commandment is holy and righteous.

These verses illustrate that through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. Paul said he would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

NOTE: Don't get sidetracked here by discussing these verses. Remind your group that you'll study all of this later in Romans Part 2.

What did Paul teach about the Law in Galatians?

Galatians 2:15–16

Paul repeated what he said in Romans.

Not even Jews are justified by works of the Law.

Galatians 3:10–14

If one does not abide by all things written in the Law, then that one is under a curse, death. Relate to James 2:10.

Christ redeemed us from that curse.

The righteous live by faith, not the Law.

Galatians 3:19–25

The Law was given to show what transgression, sin, is.

But the Law was only in effect until the seed / offspring, Jesus, came.

The Law shuts up everyone under sin. Romans 3:19 says almost the same thing.

The Law is a tutor / guardian to lead to Christ.
The Law shows a person his complete inability to keep the commandments and his need for a Savior.

How does Matthew 5:17–20 relate to this study of the Law?

Jesus didn't come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it.
That's why faith in Him makes one righteous.

The Law stands. It's holy, righteous, and good. There is nothing wrong with the Law.
Man just didn't obey it.

The scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders of Jesus' time.
Their "righteousness" was merely external, not from the heart, not by faith.

To close your discussion you might ask how this study of the Law applies to life now.
Give time for your group to think and share.

Visual aid list

The Law

No one is justified by keeping the Law

It closes every mouth / all the world accountable to God

It gives knowledge of sin

The Law is holy and spiritual / The commandment is holy and righteous

It defines sin

A tutor to lead to Christ

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 10

Lesson emphasis:

- Justification
- Redemption
- Propitiation
- Imputation

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the summary or key verse is of Romans.

Romans 1:17
The righteous shall live by faith

Then ask for a brief review of the flow of thought from Romans 1 through 3.

Romans 1
Paul began addressing the believers or saints at Rome, mostly Gentiles.
He told them how much he wanted to come visit them.

In verses 1–17 he taught about the gospel and its power to save those who believe, whether Jews or Gentiles. God’s righteousness is revealed in the gospel.

Then in Romans 1:18 he began addressing God’s wrath / judgment for sin.
Men suppress the truth about Him in unrighteousness.

Romans 2
Even those who think that they live by the Law, the Jews, but have an unrepentant heart will face God’s judgment / wrath. His judgment is based on His righteousness and man’s deeds.

Romans 3
This chapter establishes that all, Jew and Gentile, have sinned and fall short. There is none righteous. God makes no distinction.

God is impartial:

Salvation is offered to all, Jew or Gentile (Romans 1:16)
Judgment is for all who don’t believe, Jew or Gentile (Romans 2:9–11)

All men, Jew or Gentile, are made righteous before Him by faith (Romans 3:21–24)

NOTE: This guide will follow the order of the text, beginning with “justification” since it is mentioned first in verse 24.

As you discuss these “doctrines,” help your group realize how personal each one is for every believer.

Give time to discuss what your group learned about each doctrine. But keep it in the context of Romans 1–3 primarily.

JUSTIFICATION

What is the transliteration (English letter equivalent of Greek word) and definition?

Dikaiosis and diakaioo.

Their basic meaning is to declare righteous.

Ask your group to look at the transliteration and definition of “righteous” in Lesson 5 of this course.

dikaioisune

It comes from the same root word as “justify” and “justification” and therefore, has the same meaning.

Now you might ask your group to quickly scan their Observation Worksheets of Romans to see how much these words are used in Romans.

Romans is about the “righteous” or “just” living by faith.

Read Romans 3:21 through 24 and insert the definition of “justified” when you come to it in verse 24. Then ask your group if this helps them understand this text better.

God is righteous, and all men have sinned.
They are only made righteous as a gift by His grace.

This goes back to Romans 1:16–17.

Verses 26–30 of Romans 3 say that not only is God “just” but the “justifier” of anyone who has faith in Christ Jesus. He makes men righteous because they can’t do it on their own. The Law doesn’t help one become righteous.

What does Romans 4:25 say about “justification?”

Jesus was put on the cross because of man’s transgressions or sins.
He was raised to make us righteous.

You might draw a cross on your visual aid and put under it “Man’s transgressions.” Then next to the cross put an arrow pointed up, indicating His resurrection. Label that with “Our justification.”

Remind your group that they studied the importance of Jesus’ resurrection in Lesson 4.

We are made righteous because He rose from the dead.

What else did Paul say about “justification” in Galatians?

He repeated what he said in Romans about not being justified by the Law but faith. Jews and Gentiles are justified the same way.

How does Romans 5 begin? What does it say about “justification?”

Romans 5:1
Therefore, having been justified by faith...
The result is peace with God.

He’s righteous and man can be righteous by faith.
Believers don’t face His wrath against unrighteous and ungodly men.

We aren’t unrighteous after being saved by believing in Christ Jesus.

Now you might ask your group how they can explain to another person the doctrine of justification. Give time for sharing or practice.

REDEMPTION

What is the definition for the word used in Romans 3:24? And how does it help to understand this verse?

Made righteous

- as a gift by His grace
- through the release by payment of ransom

That payment is in Christ Jesus.

Relate this to what the Judaizers were teaching—that one had to keep the law to be righteous.

It’s a direct contrast.

Who is redeemed and how? What was the price?

1 Peter 1:18–19

This text uses the same Greek root word as does Romans 3:24.

Believers were released by the payment of Christ's blood—His death at the cross, redeemed from the futile life before salvation.

Titus 2:14 uses the same Greek word as 1 Peter 1:18.

Jesus gave Himself to release us, by payment, from every lawless deed / works.
After that we're zealous for good deeds / works.

On the visual aid you might write "redemption" under the cross.
Ask your group what they learned from the other words and uses.

The *agora* was the market place in the Greek culture.
These words mean to buy in the market or out of it.

1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23

Paul says twice that believers were bought in the market place with a price. That price was Christ's blood. He paid with His life to buy us.

2 Peter 2:1

Jesus Christ, the Lord and Master paid the price.

This verse says that those who call themselves believers, but really are not, deny Him and bring destruction on themselves, not freedom and life.

This relates to the Judaizers who tried to lead the Romans astray with teaching about the Law and righteousness.

Revelation 5:9

Jesus purchased for God with His blood, men from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation—Gentiles as well as Jews.

Galatians

Believers are redeemed from the curse of the Law, death.

Because of that, all believers, Jews and Gentiles, receive adoption as sons.

What do the other passages on "redemption" add to this?

Men are in the slave market of sin.

Jesus the Son paid the price to buy them out of that market and set them free.

There is more to redemption in the future for believers.
Even our bodies will be redeemed.
But now we have the pledge of the Holy Spirit.

You might ask your group if they are eagerly waiting for that day.

PROPTIATION

What is the definition of this word?

It means satisfaction.

Insert this definition into the text of Romans 3:25. Compare this with Hebrews 2:17.

God publicly displayed / put forward Jesus in His blood as a payment of satisfaction.
Jesus' blood satisfied God's wrath against man's sin and transgressions.

What do the other New Testament passages teach about this?

1 John 2:2 and 4:10

He is the satisfaction for the sins of the whole world.
The price has been paid and accepted.

If this is true, then why isn't the whole world saved?

The answer is because salvation is by faith.

On your visual aid diagram, you can write "propitiation" under Jesus' resurrection. It shows that God was satisfied with the offering.

Give a brief time for your group to discuss what else they might have learned about "propitiation." Also ask how this applies to their lives.

IMPUTATION

NOTE: This English word is not used in Romans in either the NASB or the ESV. The Greek word is primarily translated as "credited" in the NASB and "counted" in the ESV. The Greek word is not used in Romans until chapter 4.

What does it mean?

It means to put to one's account. It's an accounting term, as in Philemon 17–18.

How is it used in Romans 4?

Abraham believed God and it was "credited / counted" to him as righteousness.

One's faith is "credited / counted" as righteousness.

Righteousness is credited / counted to believers by God, apart from works.
And He does not credit / count sin to their accounts, when they believe.

2 Corinthians 5:19 relates to this. God does not count trespasses against believers.

How does “imputation” relate to “redemption” and “justification”?

God bought (redeemed) man with the precious blood of His Lamb.
Therefore, He declared the one who believes righteous (justified).
God put His righteousness on the believer’s account (imputed) and the believer’s sin on Jesus.

At the end of Day Four in this lesson there is a definition for the word “finished” from John 19:30. How does that relate to imputation?

When Jesus died, the payment for sin was finished.
My sins were placed on Him, the debt paid in full.
My debt was written in His body.

These are precious truths that should move the hearts of your people. From time to time throughout the discussion, give time to discuss and praise the Father for what He has done and provided for each believer.

One purpose of this lesson is to help students of the Word be able to explain these doctrines simply. Give them time to briefly explain each one as a review.

You might also ask if knowing all of this doctrine causes them to want to worship God, thank Him, and appreciate Him more. You might spend time in prayer to close.

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 11

Lesson focus:

- Romans 4

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what the key statement of Romans is. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Then ask how Romans 1–3 explains this.

Romans 1:1–17

Paul preached the gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews.

The gospel reveals God's righteousness in that it has His power to save all who believe it.

Romans 1:18–32

Unrighteous men suppress, in their minds and deeds, the truth they know about God.

They refuse His righteousness, and are without excuse before Him.

His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness.

Romans 2

This continues to explain that even Jews, who claim to be righteous, will not escape God's righteous judgment. They'll all, Jews and Gentiles, be judged by their deeds.

Only the doers of the Law are just before Him.

Romans 3

God is the righteous judge.

No man is righteous; all have sinned.

Righteousness, justification, is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe, no partiality.

Jesus paid the price to redeem believers.

He's the propitiation for sin, lawlessness, unrighteousness.

There is a short list at the end of this lesson's guide which you can use as a visual aid for your discussion. Add to it as your group discusses each point.

ROMANS 4

What is this chapter about?

Abraham believed God, and it was credited / counted to him as righteousness.

Paul presented Abraham as an example of righteousness by faith.
The Jews knew very well about Abraham.

Verses 1–8

What are these verses about?

Abraham “our forefather according to the flesh.” Compare this with Romans 1:3.

The word “boast” is used again in verse 2. Compare this with Romans 2:17 and 3:27.
No one can boast before God, not the Jews, not even Abraham.
Nothing a man does is worth boasting before the righteous God.

Verses 3 and 9 quote from Genesis 15:6.
This is a similar quote to Romans 1:17 from Habakkuk.

NOTE: In the next lesson, your group will study about Abraham in Genesis. You can leave discussion of the quotes in this chapter until then.

Abraham believed God and God said he was considered righteous.

Who else did Paul quote? Why?

Still speaking of the one who is credited / counted righteous apart from works of the Law, Paul quoted David, Psalm 32:1–2, in verses 7–8.

The Jews highly respected David like they did Abraham.

David said that the man whose sin is forgiven is blessed.
This blessed man’s sin is not counted against him.

When was Abraham credited / counted righteous?

It was before he was circumcised.

Verses 9–12

What are these verses about? How does the flow of thought continue?

Paul’s next question is about the blessing on the forgiven.

Is it only for the Jews or for Gentiles also? He reasoned that it's for both.

Abraham received the sign of circumcision as a seal of righteousness by faith.
This faith was before he was circumcised.

He's the father of all who believe—Jew or Gentile—and are credited / counted righteous.

Give your group time to discuss any relevant application.

Verses 13–15

What word is repeated in these verses?

Paul goes back to the Law again, the contrast between it and righteousness by faith.

The Law brings wrath, not righteousness.
Only faith brings righteousness.

God made a promise to Abraham that he'd be heir of the world, based on faith not the Law.

Encourage your group that they'll understand these verses more as they do their study for the next lesson.

Verses 16–25

How does Paul continue his reasoning?

These verses continue to talk about the promise.

Abraham is the father of all, the Jews by Law and both Jew and Gentile who believe.
Verse 17 quotes the promise in Genesis 17:5.

Abraham believed God, he believed His promises.

He believed God

- gives life to the dead
- calls into being / existence what does not exist

He believed the promise of verse 18 quoted from Genesis 15:5.

These promises had to do with his descendants.

The Jews Paul wrote about were Abraham's descendants / offspring.
But so were the Gentiles who had faith.

What are verses 19–22 about?

These verses describe Abraham's faith.

NOTE: At this point in Abraham's life he still had not received his heir.

Although he was 100 years old and Sarah's womb was dead, Abraham still believed what God said about descendants / offspring. He did not waiver in unbelief but grew strong in faith.

He was fully assured / convinced that what God had promised him, He was able to do.

Ask your group what they are fully assured / convinced that God is able to do. What promises? Give some time for discussion of this.

Who do verses 23–25 tell about?

Paul used Abraham as an example for the people he wrote this letter for.

Righteousness is credited / counted to those who believe in God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus was delivered over for our transgressions.

He was raised for our justification.

As review, you might ask what justification means.
How does Romans 4:25 relate to the next verse in Romans 5:1?

“Therefore...”

Since we are justified (made righteous), we have peace with God.

Before being justified, made righteous, we were unrighteous and facing His wrath and judgment.

Jesus' resurrection brought about our justification.

To end this discussion, you might ask your group if they feel more equipped to share the gospel with the unrighteous?

Are they growing in their faith?

Are they learning how to live by faith, daily?

Abraham's example

Believed God and was credited / counted righteous

Father of all who believe

Believed God gives life to the dead

Grew strong in faith

Fully assured / convinced

God is able to do what He promised

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 12

Lesson focus:

- Romans 4
- Faith

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what the key statement of Romans is.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Then ask how Romans 1–3 explains this.

Romans 1:1–17

This tells that Paul preached the gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews.

The gospel reveals God's righteousness in that it has His power to save all who believe it.

Romans 1:18–32

Unrighteous men suppress, in their minds and deeds /works, the truth they know about God. They refuse His righteousness, and are without excuse before Him.

His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness.

Romans 2

This continues to explain that even Jews, who claim to be righteous, will not escape God's righteous judgment. They'll all, Jews and Gentiles, be judged by their deeds / works.

Only the doers of the Law are just before Him.

Romans 3

God is the righteous judge.

No man is righteous, all have sinned.

His righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe, no partiality.

Romans 4

Abraham believed God, and it was credited / counted to him as righteousness.

He's the example of a man becoming righteous by faith.

He's also the example of a righteous man living by faith.

How does Romans 4 begin? What do verses 1–3 say about Abraham?

Paul described him as a forefather according to the flesh.

A similar statement was made about Jesus in Romans 1:3.

The subject of Romans is still justification by faith, and Abraham is an example.

Verse 3 quotes from Genesis about how Abraham became a righteous man.

Ask what your group learned from the cross–references in Genesis.

There is a simple visual aid at the end of this guide which you can use.

GENESIS

What did the Lord say to Abram in Genesis 12:1–9? What did Abram do?

NOTE: His name did not become Abraham until Genesis 17.

Keep your discussion focused on the main points or you can lose your time.

The Lord told Abram to leave his country and relatives / kindred and go to a land He would show him.

Then the Lord continued with promises to Abram.

- Make you a great nation
- Bless you
- Make your name great
- You'll be a blessing
- Bless those who bless you
- Curse the one who curses / dishonors you
- In you all families of the earth will be blessed

Abram did what the Lord said.

He was 75 years old when he left Haran and came to the land of Canaan.

God appeared to Abram and promised to give his descendants / offspring the land of Canaan. Abram built two altars to the Lord, and he also called on the Lord's name at that time.

This is the beginning of Abram's life of faith. He followed the Lord.

What are the main points from Genesis 15–17 about Abraham and his life of faith?

Genesis 15

This is the setting for the quote in Romans 4:3, 9, and 22.

The Lord spoke another promise to Abram—about reward. Abram brought up the fact that he was childless. Then the Lord again promised him descendants / offspring. This time He added that they'd be as numerous as the stars.

Then Abram believed in the Lord, and He reckoned / counted it to him as righteousness. That's when he became a righteous man, although he'd followed the Lord for a number of years before that.

Then the Lord made a covenant with Abram that day, promising his descendants / offspring that land.

Genesis 16

Since Abram still had no children, Sarai his wife came up with a plan. Her Egyptian maid, Hagar, bore a son to Abram. Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born.

There was not much faith exhibited in this chapter.

Genesis 17

The Lord appeared again to Abram when he was 99 years old.

- He established His covenant between Himself and Abram and his descendants / offspring.
- He promised that Abram was to be a father of a multitude of nations.
- He changed his name to Abraham.
- He gave him the sign of the covenant, circumcision.
- He reiterated the promise of the land to him and his descendants / offspring

Abraham did what the Lord said. Ishmael and he were circumcised.

The Lord promised a son by Sarah at the same time the next year. His name was to be Isaac, and the Lord would establish His covenant with him and not Ishmael.

What are the main points of Genesis 18:10–15?

This tells about Sarah's astonishment at the Lord's promise of her having a child when she was old.

This shows the doubt she had at that point.

When Abraham was 100 years of age and Sarah 90, God gave them Isaac. God then restated that His covenant would be with Isaac and his descendants / offspring.

What happened in Genesis 21:1–7?

After waiting at least 25 years for the promise, Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90.

Both Abraham and Sarah knew the Lord does what He says.
Believing what He says is the way to live.

Abraham circumcised Isaac when he was 8 days old.

How did the Lord test Abraham in Genesis 22:1–19? What was the result?

The Lord told Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Abraham began preparations.
Verse 5 states that Abraham knew both he and Isaac were to return from the mountain.

Relate this to Hebrews 11:17–19.

Abraham knew that the Lord gives life out of death.
Even if he did offer Isaac, God would raise him because he was the promised son of covenant—the one through whom Abraham’s descendants / offspring were to come.

Abraham passed the test of his faith.
The Lord provided the sacrifice—as Paul also wrote about, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Abraham’s life was one of faith, a progression of faith.

ROMANS 4

At this point you might relate Romans 4 to the main points in Abraham’s life.

Verses 4–12

What are the main points in these verses?

The righteous man is blessed.
His faith is credited / counted as righteousness, not his works.

Abraham was credited / counted righteous before he was circumcised, before he did any works.

He’s the father of more than the circumcised, the Jews.
He’s the father of all who become righteous through faith, even Gentiles.
He’s the father of a multitude of nations.

Galatians 3:5–8, 16

The Lord preached the gospel to Abraham when He said all nations would be blessed through him. His seed / offspring, Christ Jesus, blesses all who believe in Him.

Verses 13–15

How do these verses relate to the events in Abraham’s life?

The promise to Abraham and his descendants / offspring was made before the Law was given. Abraham simply believed and it was credited / counted as righteousness.

He was a righteous man before the law was given.

Paul’s reasoning in verses 14–15 is that since the Law brings wrath, as in Romans 2, the heirs of righteousness don’t come from the Law. They come like Abraham: righteous through faith.

Relate this to Galatians 3:17.

The Law came 430 years after the promises of the Abrahamic covenant were established with Isaac’s son Jacob.

The Law did not invalidate the promise made long before. The Law was given to show what sin is, a tutor / guardian to lead to Christ.

Verses 16–22

How does Paul continue his line of reasoning?

All who believe are from Abraham.

Verse 17 quotes Genesis 17:5.
It also tells of God giving life to the dead.

Verse 18 tells of Abraham’s faith, believing what the Lord promised in Genesis 15:5.

Verses 19–21 state the result of Abraham’s faith growing strong all those years.

He became fully assured / convinced that what God promises He is able to perform / do.

He brought Isaac from “dead” bodies.

He delivered Isaac from the sacrifice.

You might ask your group if they truly believe that nothing is too difficult for God. Do they truly believe that He can call into existence that which does not exist? Have they been praying for salvation for someone who seems to have no hope, no sign of repentance? Is anything too difficult for the Lord?

How does Romans 4 end? What's the context for the last quote of Genesis 15:6 in this chapter?

These things were written about Abraham for our sake as well.

The same is true for believers today. Faith is credited / counted as righteousness. Those who believe in the Lord God who raised Jesus from the dead are justified, declared righteous.

James 2:14–24

To end this discussion, ask about the last quote of Genesis 15:6 in James 2:23.
How does this relate to Genesis, Romans 4, and Galatians 3?

This does not contradict the other passages where the statement is used.
It adds to it.

Again Abraham is used as an example of one who was justified.
James said that he was justified by works when he offered Isaac.
Then the explanation is that his faith worked with his works—the outcome, his faith was perfected when tested by the Lord.

True faith produces works.

Faith without works is useless or dead—not real faith.

Compare this with Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11–14; 3:8.

God prepared good works for believers to walk in or do.

Believers are redeemed from every lawless deed and are to be zealous for good deeds.
Those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds / works.

Close your time together by asking what lessons of faith they learned this week.

Abraham believed God.
He had faith that God could do anything.
He grew in his faith so that he trusted that God was even able to raise the dead.

Abraham's faith

Followed the Lord

Built altars

Called on His name

Believed in the Lord and was credited / counted righteous

Obeded in circumcision

Received the promise—Isaac

Obeded when tested

The Lord provided

ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 13

Lesson focus:

- Romans 5
- Contrast between Adam and Christ

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what the key statement of Romans is.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Then ask how Romans 1–3 explains this.

Romans 1:1–17

This tells that Paul preached the gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews.

The gospel reveals God's righteousness in that it has His power to save all who believe it.

Romans 1:18–32

Unrighteous men suppress the truth they know about God.

They refuse His righteousness, and are without excuse before Him.

His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness.

Romans 2

This continues to explain that even Jews, who claim to be righteous, will not escape God's righteous judgment. They'll all, Jews and Gentiles, be judged by their deeds / works.

Only the doers of the Law are just before Him.

Romans 3

God is the righteous judge.

No man is righteous; all have sinned.

Righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe, no partiality.

Romans 4

Abraham believed God, and it was credited / counted to him as righteousness.

He's the example of a man becoming righteous by faith.

He's also the example of a righteous man living by faith.

ROMANS 5

How does this chapter begin? What is the connection with Romans 1–4?

“Therefore, having (ESV—since we have) been justified by faith...”

This chapter tells the results of being justified.

It also tells more of how justification came about.

Verses 1–5

As your group discusses this chapter, tell them to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid.
What words are repeated in these verses? What are results of being justified by faith?

“Exult / rejoice” is used a couple of times in these verses.

Those, who by faith have been introduced into grace, “exult / rejoice” in things they didn’t before.

Hope of the glory of God

Tribulations / sufferings, because of what they bring about

Perseverance / endurance
Proven character
Hope

Hope does not disappoint.

God’s love poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.
The Holy Spirit is a result of justification by faith.
Knowing and understanding God’s love is a result.

Give time for your group to discuss application of this.

Being justified does not mean a life without tribulations.

You might ask how they respond when they are going through difficult times, tribulation.

Are they maturing in the faith?
How might knowing these truths help our reactions, responses?
Do they realize that the Holy Spirit is within them?
How does He help with perseverance / endurance?
How does knowing God’s love is poured out in us help with hope in tribulation / sufferings?

Verses 6–11

What is this about?

Christ died
Saved
Reconciled—having peace with God; not His enemies

He died for us

While we were still helpless, ungodly
While we were sinners
While we were enemies

Those justified are saved from God’s wrath.
Reconciled to God

God demonstrated / showed His love for us in Christ’s death for sinners.

Verse 11 also uses the word “exult / rejoice.”
In God through our Lord Jesus Christ
Because we’ve been reconciled to God

Ask how these verses describe those in Adam and what Christ did.

When man was still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Paul reasoned that it is unlikely someone would die for a righteous man or even a good man, but God demonstrated / showed His love toward us while we were sinners, not righteous or good.

How does Paul use the term “much more?”

Emphasis, confidence for the believer, shows abundance

It is like saying even more amazing.

Justified by His blood	much more	saved from His wrath
Reconciled through His death	much more	saved by His life

Verses 12–14

Who are these verses about? What does this establish?

Adam
Sin entered the world
Death through sin, reigned from Adam to Moses

Paul repeated in verse 12 that all have sinned, and he added that all die because of sin.

Sin was in the world and death reigned from Adam to Moses, but then the Law came.

When the Law came, sin was credited, counted to men.

Just as Abraham was justified by faith before the Law came, sin and death reigned in the world before the Law came.

Verse 14 says Adam was a type of Him who was to come, Christ.

Encourage your group that they'll study more to understand that better in the lesson to come.

Verses 15–17

What words are repeated in these verses?

Gift
Transgression / trespass
Grace
Much more

What are the contrasts and comparisons in these verses?

The free gift is not like the transgression / trespass.
Many died because of one's transgression / trespass. The one was Adam.
Much more, grace and gift of one abound to many. The one was Christ.

Gift not like what came from one who sinned
Judgment from one transgression / trespass resulted in condemnation
Free gift from many transgressions / trespasses resulted in justification

How is "much more" used the last time in this chapter?

Death reigned by transgression / trespass of one, Adam
Much more
Those who receive abundance of grace and gift of righteousness will reign in life

Ask your group what they've learned about justification by faith from this chapter.
Give time for them to share.

Justification by faith results in
Peace with God
Hope, perseverance / endurance in tribulation / sufferings, proven character
God's love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit
Saved from God's wrath by Christ's life
Reconciled to God
Grace and the free gift of righteousness to reign in life

Believers don't face death and wrath, condemnation and judgment.

Man receives a lot more in Christ than he lost in Adam.

By the deliberate transgression / trespass of one, Adam, death reigned.
Result—condemnation to all men
Because sin reigned, death reigned.

Verses 18–21

How does this chapter end?

The contrast is obedience and disobedience.

Grace abounded more than sin.

Justification is available for all men.
It's received by faith in Jesus Christ.
It results in life eternal.

You might end your discussion with the question from the lesson: what does chapter 5 have to do with justification?

Romans 5 presents the results of justification.

A person is either in Adam or in Christ.

**ROMANS PART 1
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 14**

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 5:1–11

Review

You might begin this last discussion of Romans Part 1 by asking your group what the main verse or summary is of Romans.

The righteous shall live by faith.

On Day Five of this lesson there is a list for the themes of Romans 1–5. Ask your group what they listed for each chapter, or you might get them to do this without looking at anything; do it from memory. Discuss what they share.

Romans 1:1–17

This tells that Paul preached the gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews.

The gospel reveals God's righteousness in that it has His power to save all who believe it.

Romans 1:18–32

Unrighteous men suppress the truth they know about God.

They refuse His righteousness, and are without excuse before Him.

His wrath is revealed against all unrighteousness.

Romans 2

This continues to explain that even Jews, who claim to be righteous, will not escape God's righteous judgment. They'll all, Jews and Gentiles, be judged by their deeds / works.

Only the doers of the Law are just before Him.

Romans 3

God is the righteous judge.

No man is righteous; all have sinned.

His righteousness is through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe, no partiality.

Romans 4

Abraham believed God, and it was credited / counted to him as righteousness.

He's the example of a man becoming righteous by faith.

He's also the example of a righteous man living by faith.

Romans 5

“Therefore, having (ESV—since we have) been justified by faith...”

This chapter tells the results of being justified.

It also tells more of how justification came about.

Romans 5:1–11

What is the first result of being justified by faith?

Peace, harmony with God, no longer facing His wrath

Peace because of what Jesus did on the cross. He took care of the sin that separated man from God. Before justification we were enemies, sinners, helpless, and without hope, but at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

And by Him believers have come into grace.

Because of that, what do believers do?

Exult / rejoice in hope of the glory of God
Exult / rejoice in our tribulations / sufferings
Exult / rejoice in God

What does “exult / rejoice” mean?

How does the definition help to understand verses 2–3 and 11?

The basic meaning of exult is to boast about or take pride in¹; to glory in.²

“To express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being exceptionally noteworthy—‘to boast.’”³

Read verse 2 and insert the definition for “exult / rejoice.” Then ask your group what this means for their lives.

Boasting in hope of God’s glory sounds good and reasonable.

“hope” basically means expectation, something to look forward to

¹Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 98.

²James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). DBLG 3016.

³Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996, c1989). 1:430.

Relate this to Romans 1:23 and 3:23.

The unrighteous exchange the glory of the incorruptible God for other things.
They suppress the truth they know about Him.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; therefore, deserve His wrath and judgment.

But when men are credited / counted righteous, justified, by faith in Jesus, then they can exult / rejoice because they have hope in the glory of God. Believers look forward to it.

To exult / rejoice in the glory of God is to boast or rejoice or take pride in the fact that one day you will be with Him, see Him as He is, see His glory. This is possible because of justification and reconciliation.

The righteous are saved by grace and live by faith.

How do verses 3–5 relate to this?

Read verse 3 and insert the definition of “exult / rejoice.”

Exult / rejoice in “tribulation / sufferings”

The Greek word translated “tribulation / sufferings” means pressure⁴; to crush or squeeze⁵

It’s usually translated with words like tribulation, affliction, trouble...

Why, according to this text, can one exult in tribulations / rejoice in sufferings?

It’s because of what the person knows—tribulation / sufferings brings about / produces...

This text lists the results of exulting in tribulation / rejoicing in sufferings.
Knowing the results helps believers to exult / rejoice when being pressed, afflicted.

One way the righteous live by faith is by knowledge, knowing the truth.

The unrighteous suppress the truth. The righteous are to live by it.

How does knowing the results help a believer to exult in tribulation / rejoice in sufferings?

Give your group time to share application of this.

⁴James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G2347.

⁵Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G2347.

What are the results in verses 3–5? Discuss the definitions.

“perseverance / endurance”

The Greek word means “remain under.”⁶

It results in proven character.

NOTE: The word “proven” is not used in the ESV. The Greek word dokimos translated in the NASB as “proven character” and in the ESV as “character” means approved, proof of genuineness. “Character” in modern English often is used to mean “good character.”

Proven character has been tried and shown to be genuine.⁷

Recall that your group studied “depraved / debased” from Romans 1:28 in Lesson 5 in this course, and that it is “not” proven character.

The contrast is between the unapproved, unrighteous of Romans 1, and those who are approved, those made righteous by faith.

You might ask your group how their character has been proven. Have others seen godly character produced in their lives because of perseverance / endurance in tribulation / sufferings?

What’s the result of proven character?

Hope, confident expectation, that does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

A believer can exult / rejoice in tribulation / sufferings because of the outcome and through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is poured out in the believer’s heart and causes us to understand that we are loved by God.

He provides abundantly for every need, every trial. Every trial is allowed in our lives by God. Eventually there will be an end to all trials and the final outcome is glory.

What else do believers, the righteous, exult / rejoice in?

God

through our Lord Jesus Christ

through whom we have now received the reconciliation

Those justified by faith no longer face God’s wrath, judgment.

⁶ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000, c1992, c1993). G 5281.

⁷ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996, c1989). 1:331.

Christ died for the helpless, ungodly, sinner. While we were His enemies, He demonstrated / showed His own love toward us. God reconciled us to Himself through the death of His Son. He removed our guilt, declared us righteous; therefore, we have peace with God.

At just the right time, Jesus died for us. By His blood we are placed in right standing with God; therefore, we are saved from the wrath of God through Him.

The “much mores” in this chapter help with understanding that if He went so far to save us, He will surely see us through to the end.

These are the most wonderful truths that believers have to exult in. No longer God’s enemy and He did it all! “While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through / by the death of His Son.”

This should cause great boasting. What a great God! We stand in His grace in this lifetime and we can look forward to being in His presence forever because He has reconciled us to Himself.

You might ask if they enjoy God. Do they go to Him in worship and adoration for who He is and what He has done for them? Do they have joy in their hearts simply because they know Him? Or do they go to Him only to ask for something or someone?

Is justification forever? Ask for the main teaching of verses 12–21.

These verses describe how man was separated from God and how man was reconciled to God.

Through one man, Adam, condemnation
Through one man, Christ, righteousness

By the one act of righteousness of one Man, Jesus Christ, many are justified, made righteous. Jesus undid everything Adam did in his one deliberate act of breaking God’s command.

Jesus accomplished much more than Adam. Verses 12–18 make this very clear.

Sin and death were passed on to mankind as seen in the last discussion, simply because all mankind was still in Adam when he sinned.

To end this last discussion you might ask your group what this course has taught them. Give a brief time for them to share what has ministered to their hearts the most from this study.

Encourage them to continue studying God’s Word so that they learn more and more about who they are in Him and what He has done for them.

Results of Justification by Faith

Peace with God

Grace

Exult / rejoice in hope and God

God's love poured out in heart, Holy Spirit

Saved from wrath

Reconciled