

Romans Part 3

Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD
AND THE FREE WILL OF MAN
(CHAPTERS 9–11)

Romans Part 3 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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ROMANS PART 3
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 / 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.

Since the Old-Timers' homework included how they would use the truths of chapters 1-8 to share the gospel, you might give time for this to be shared briefly as those chapters are discussed.

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, reveals 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 courses.

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

These chapters make up the Romans Part 2 Precept Upon Precept course.

Before you discuss the content of Romans 9–11, you might ask if any in your group noticed an emphasis in these three chapters. If so, briefly discuss. If not, then after discussing the themes of these chapters, go back to this question.

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

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.

Help your group to observe the connection of chapters 9–11; they're about Israel. These chapters are the content of the Romans Part 3 Precept Upon Precept course.

ROMANS 12

How does this chapter begin? How is it different from chapters 1–11?

“Therefore...by the mercies of God...”
Romans 1–11 describes 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 turns to instructions, primarily about loving one's neighbor.

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.

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

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

ROMANS PART 3 LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis:

- God's character and attributes

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you can ask what the main theme of Romans is and what the main segments are in Romans 1–8. Use the Romans at a Glance chart as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Romans 1:1-17 is the introduction and is about the gospel.
In the gospel is God's power for salvation to all who believe, have faith.
It's for Jews and Greeks.

Romans 1:18–3:20
There is none who is righteous. All have sinned.

Romans 3:21–5:21
Justified, made righteous, by faith not law

Romans 6–8
Believers, the righteous, died to sin and the Law; set free from slavery to sin.
This results in sanctification and eternal life.

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, who indwells all of God's children, sets free. The Law's requirements are fulfilled by living according to the Spirit.

The best way to lead a discussion of what your group learned in this lesson is to ask about each of the attributes. Give time for them to discuss what they learned about God and how they can apply that as they seek to live by faith. Tell them to look at the pages in the lesson as a visual aid.

OMNISCIENT

What does this mean? How can it relate to life?

God knows all. *Omni* means “all,” and *scient* means “knowing” and is related to the word “science.”

Deuteronomy 29:29; Job 37:16; Psalm 139:1-6
God is perfect in knowledge; He knows everything.

His knowledge is too wonderful for any person, too high for any human to attain.

The righteous accept the reality of these truths by faith.
Some truths about God are beyond man's comprehension.

How does knowing this about God relate to how believers can live?

OMNIPOTENT

What does this mean?

All-powerful
Sometimes God is called Almighty.

Job 38:4–40:2; 42:2; Psalm 33:6-9
Job lists some of what the Almighty God created.
He can do all things, and none of His purpose can be thwarted.
Therefore, He's to be feared and people should stand in awe of Him.

How does knowing this help the righteous live by faith on a daily basis?

OMNIPRESENT

What does this word mean?

Everywhere all the time

Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 23:23-24
The Lord's eyes are in every place; He sees all.
No one can escape His presence. He is everywhere in the heavens and the earth.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one. These attributes and character refer to the Trinity.

ETERNAL

Romans 5 and 6 mention eternal life. How does it come? From whom?

It's the result of justification by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
He gives the free gift of eternal life because He is eternal.

Deuteronomy 32:40; Revelation 1:8; Isaiah 57:15
God has no beginning and no end. This is a fact that must be accepted by faith.
He's Alpha and Omega, who is, was and is to come.

You can ask your group at relevant points how knowing these things about God helps them with life.

IMMUTABLE

What does this mean? How does it apply to living by faith?

Unchangeable, always the same
God is always who He is. He never changes.

Psalm 102:25-27; Isaiah 45:7; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8
The heavens will perish but God endures / remains forever—eternal.
He—Father, Son, and Spirit—is always the same.

Give time for your group to discuss how they can find comfort in this.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE

What does this mean? What do the references say about it?

Beyond understanding

NOTE: This will be important to remember when studying Romans 9–11.

Job 11:7; Romans 11:33
People can't discover God's depths or limits,
His wisdom and knowledge,
His judgments or ways,
unless He chooses to reveal Himself to them.

It's by His Spirit and His Word that His children can understand Who He is.

SELF-EXISTENT

What does this mean? How does it relate to believers?

John 1:1-3; Exodus 3:14; John 5:26
Jesus Christ, the Word was from the beginning.
God depends on nothing for His existence.

He's the source of life—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Man's existence came from God.

How much should the righteous depend on Him as they live by faith?

SELF-SUFFICIENT

How is this different from self-existent? What does it mean?

God is able.

He's able to work all things for good to those who love Him.

Psalm 50:7-12; Acts 17:24-25; Romans 11:36

The world is His and all it contains. He created it.

He is the giver of life and breath and all things.

Therefore, He does not need for man to do anything for Him.

INFINITE

How does this define God's nature?

God has no limits in time or matter/space or any other sphere.

Man is finite and sometimes has problems when trying to understand God.

1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 145:3

His greatness is unsearchable. The highest heaven cannot contain Him.

TRANSCENDENT

What does this mean?

Isaiah 43:10; 55:8-9

His ways and thoughts are higher than any other.

Compare this attribute with self-existent and incomprehensible.

SOVEREIGN

NOTE: If you are short on time, you can skip this as the next lesson is all about God's sovereignty.

What does this mean, and what should it mean to a believer's life?

Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:34-35; Isaiah 40:23; 46:8-11

He rules over all.

God does according to His will in heaven and on earth.

NOTE: While discussing the rest of these characteristics, help your group understand that they all apply to God all the time. He's not good sometimes and just sometimes, but both all the time.

HOLY

Ask your group what they learned about God being holy, and how it relates their lives.

Leviticus 19:2; Job 34:10; Isaiah 47:4; 57:15

God is totally pure in every respect.

Relate this to the Law He gave, Romans 7:12.

GRACIOUS

Exodus 34:6-7; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Luke 2:40; 2 Corinthians 12:9

God is gracious toward His people.

Jesus demonstrated grace.

Believers are to understand and live in grace.

RIGHTEOUS

Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 119:142

God defines righteousness by His character.

JUST

Psalm 89:14; Numbers 14:18; 23:19; Romans 9:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

God is not as men think of “fair,” but He is completely just in all His actions, judgments or rewards, life or death. There is no injustice with Him.

Give a little time for your group to discuss how all of this relates to what they’ve learned while studying Romans.

How does this relate to them?

MERCIFUL

Psalm 86:15; Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 145:8-9

God’s mercies are over all His works / all that He has made.

His compassions / mercies never fail / come to an end.

You might ask your group who needs God’s mercy. When?

Everyone all the time

How should the righteous behave toward others?

SLOW TO ANGER

Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; 2 Peter 3:9
God suffers long with people. He is slow to anger and patient.
He abounds with great lovingkindness / steadfast love.

How should the righteous behave toward others?

WISE

Where does true wisdom come from?

Isaiah 40:28; Daniel 2:20
God is the source of wisdom. He gives it to His children.

LOVING

Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:8; Ephesians 3:17-19; John 3:16
God is love.
He loves the world and showed His love through Christ.

The prayer in Ephesians 3 is a great one to pray for other believers.

How are the righteous to behave toward others?

GOOD

He's good all the time.
His law is good, Romans 7:12.

2 Chronicles 5:13; Psalm 106:1
People should give thanks because of God's goodness.

WRATHFUL

Romans 1:18; John 3:36; 2 Chronicles 19:2; Colossians 3:5-6; Revelation 15:7
This is how Romans began. His wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. Unbelievers, those who continually disobey are under His wrath and it will come on them in the future.

TRUTHFUL

1 John 5:6; 2:27; Numbers 23:19; John 17:17; Titus 1:2
The Spirit, God's anointing on believers, is the truth.
God does not lie.
Whatever He says is absolute truth. His word is truth.

Can one believe what God says in His Word? To what degree?

FAITHFUL

Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Timothy 2:13

Since He cannot lie, God is always faithful, trustworthy, and steadfast.

God keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness / steadfast love to a thousandth generation. He remains faithful even if people are faithless. He is faithful because He cannot deny Himself.

JEALOUS

Isaiah 48:11; Exodus 34:14; Isaiah 42:8

Most human beings can understand this attribute. No one wants another to take their place. God is unwilling to share what is rightfully and morally His with any other creature.

The Lord God says He is a jealous God.

He will not share His glory or praise with anything or anyone else.

Below are some questions you might use to close your discussion.

- How should knowing all these attributes affect your life?
- Are you living in the light of the reality of these truths?
- Do you accept these truths as a matter of faith?
- How does Daniel 11:32b relate to your life?
- How can you know God better?

ROMANS PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- God's sovereignty

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the main theme of Romans is and what the main segments are in Romans 1–8. Use the Romans at a Glance chart as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Romans 1:1-17 is the introduction and is about the gospel.
In the gospel is God's power for salvation to all who believe, have faith.
It's for Jews and Greeks.

Romans 1:18–3:20
There is none who is righteous. All have sinned.

Romans 3:21–5:21
Justified, made righteous, by faith not law

Romans 6–8
Believers, the righteous, died to sin and the Law; set free from slavery to sin.
This results in sanctification and eternal life.

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, who indwells all of God's children, sets free. The Law's requirements are fulfilled by living according to the Spirit.

Ask your group what they remember from the last discussion of God's character.
Give a brief time for discussion of how it relates to Romans 1–8.

It might help, as you discuss His sovereignty, to remind your group that God deals with man in His holiness, mercy, and righteousness. He is wise, loving, and just. He is faithful and truthful.

Knowing that God is sovereign can bring comfort when things don't seem to be happening as one thinks they should.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

What does this mean?

God is the supreme ruler.
He rules over all; nothing can happen without His permission.

No man, angel, or circumstance of nature can thwart God's desire or plan. God rules supremely over all. This is a definition from the lesson.

Understanding God's sovereignty builds one's faith. The righteous live by faith.

As a visual aid for this discussion, you might make a short list of some points. See the end of this guide for an example. Or you can draw a simple diagram of the Lord ruling over all.

According to the references studied in Days 1–3 in the lesson, what does God rule over?

Daniel 4:34-35

Because of his pride Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, temporarily lost his mind as God said he would. After his reason returned as God said it would, he declared God is the Most High and does according to His will in heaven and on earth. No one can ward off / stay His hand or question what He does.

Isaiah 14:24, 27

Like Daniel, Isaiah said that the Lord's plans will stand.
No one can frustrate His plans. He's the Lord of hosts.

Job 1:6-2:6; Luke 22:31

God is sovereign over Satan. The devil's power is limited by God.
He was only able to do to Job what the Lord said he could do.

Luke says that Satan demanded permission to sift Peter like wheat.

The devil cannot act without God's permission.

Satan is not omnipresent, omniscient, or omnipotent.

You might ask how this relates to Romans 8.

God says that the justified will be conformed into Jesus' image.
That's His plan, so it will happen. He's the Most High God.

He also says that nothing can separate the righteous from His love.
Even the devil can't separate. God is the Lord of hosts.

How else is His sovereignty demonstrated?

Isaiah 46:9-11

There is no one like God.
He declares the end from the beginning.
His purpose will be established and His will accomplished.
He controls birds of prey and uses man for His purpose.

He is sovereign over time and the events in history.

Daniel 4:17

The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind (ESV—the kingdom of men) and gives rule to whomever He wishes. God places rulers in their positions, and He removes them.

Daniel 2:20-23

This passage is Daniel's praise to God for answering his prayer.
God gave Daniel wisdom and power.

He is sovereign over time and ages.
He is the giver of wisdom and knowledge, reveals profound and hidden things.
He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.

You might ask how believing these truths about God relate to their lives.

Who and what else does He rule over?

Isaiah 5:1-7

God rules over Israel.
This is an important fact to remember for studying Romans 9–11.

He controls the rain.

Deuteronomy 32:39 and 1 Samuel 2:6-8

God says that He is and there is no god beside Him.
He controls death and life.
He wounds and heals. There is no one who can deliver from His hand.

He makes rich and poor.
He brings low and exalts.

The pillars of the earth are His. He set the earth on them.
He is the creator of all things, so He has the right to do as He pleases.

2 Samuel 16:5-11

King David didn't avenge himself against the man cursing him.
He didn't want to go against what the Lord might be doing.

Although, later it was proven that what the man said was not from the Lord; it wasn't true.

Isaiah 45:6-7

There is no one besides God, no other god. He is the Lord.
He forms light and creates darkness.
He creates well-being and calamity.

Some in your group may have questions about hurricanes, floods, earthquakes. The Lord rules over these things. That is why Lessons 2 and 3 are so valuable for building faith. God's character never changes. His sovereignty rules over all. Help them remember that God is all His attributes all the time.

John 19:10-11; Matthew 18:7

Jesus told Pilate he had no authority over Him except what was given to him from above.

He also told him that the one who delivered Him, Judas, had the greater sin.

This warning is also similar to the woe in Matthew 18:7.
God is completely sovereign, but man is completely responsible for his sin.

JOSEPH

While discussing the main points of Joseph's life, also discuss application relevant to your group. Also relate this to Romans where appropriate.

Genesis 37; 39-45; 50:15-21

Joseph's brothers were jealous and hated him because he was their father's favorite son. God revealed Himself to Joseph in dreams and showed that he would be a ruler. The brothers sold him into slavery.

He was taken to Egypt as a slave, but the Lord was with Joseph.
In Potiphar's house and in the prison Joseph learned how to be a leader/ruler.
Then he was raised to be 2nd in charge in Egypt.

Joseph demonstrated wisdom as he dealt with his brothers.
He told them God sent him before them to preserve life, a remnant.

God's divine plan was carried out through their evil.

Joseph knew God was in control of all that happened in his life, Romans 8:28.

The things Joseph's brothers meant for evil, God meant for good.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TRIALS

How do the passages from Day 5 relate to the rest of this lesson?

Romans 8:28-29

As in Joseph's life, God causes all things to work for good to those who love Him.
(ESV does not say God causes.)

He prepares believers to fulfill His plan for them.

1 Corinthians 10:13

As in Job's life, God will not allow believers to be tempted beyond what they're able to bear.

The righteous can endure temptation, trials, and testing because God is faithful.
He gives a way of escape.

James 1:2-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Trials are tests of a believer's faith.

They're designed by the sovereign God to produce endurance / steadfastness.
Relate this to Romans 5:1-5 and 8:31-39.

Endurance /steadfastness has results—it perfects and completes the believer.

Therefore, one is to give thanks in everything because it's God's will.

Ephesians 1:11

God works all things according to His will.

Even believers are predestined according to His purpose.

NOTE: Tell your group that they'll understand what the Bible says about predestination because it will be thoroughly studied in this course.

To end your discussion, you might ask your group how this study of God's character and sovereignty has helped them.

God Most High rules over

Host of heaven

Inhabitants of earth

Satan

Time

Realm of mankind, rulers

Israel

Rain

Life and death, wounds and healing, rich and poor, low and exalted

The world

ROMANS PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 8:28-39
- Called, foreknowledge, predestination, election.

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the main theme of Romans is and what the main segments are in Romans 1–8. Use the Romans at a Glance chart as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Romans 1:1-17 is the introduction and is about the gospel.
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Romans 1:18–3:20
There is none who is righteous. All have sinned.

Romans 3:21–5:21
Justified, made righteous, by faith not law

Romans 6–8
Believers, the righteous, died to sin and the Law; set free from slavery to sin.
This results in sanctification and eternal life.

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, who indwells all of God's children, sets free. The Law's requirements are fulfilled by living according to the Spirit.

Believers look forward to being glorified with Him.

How does Romans 8 begin? Contrast with Romans 1:18–3:20.

There is no condemnation to those in Christ.
God's wrath is against all unrighteous—those not justified, not in Christ.

How does Romans 8 end?

There is no separation from Christ's love for the righteous.

You might also give a brief time for your group to discuss what they remember about God's character and sovereignty from the last 2 lessons.

Romans 8:28-34

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

Verse 28

What does God do and for whom?

He causes all to work together for good (ESV does not say God causes, but all things work together for good.)

for those who love Him

those who are called according to His purpose

Relate this to His sovereignty, His omnipotence, and omniscience.

How secure should believers be if they know this truth?

Verses 29-30

How do these verses explain the statement in verse 28?

Those who love Him are the called

- Those He foreknew
- Those He predestined to be conformed to His Son's image
- Those He justified
- Those He glorified

Verses 31-39

What other terms are used in these verses for those justified by God?

- Us / we
- His elect

Relate this to Romans 5:1-5.

The justified have peace with God.
They exult / rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
They have His love in their hearts.

At this point, ask what your group learned about the words, doctrines they studied. Discuss the definition of the word, how it's used in Romans, and then the other references.

CALLED

What's the definition?

It means to call. It means the same as it's translated.
The context defines "call."

How is this word used in Romans?

It's interesting that Paul used this word first in Romans 1.

- Verse 1, Paul was called as an apostle
- Verse 6, those he wrote in Rome were primarily Gentiles called of Jesus
- Verse 7, they were beloved of God, called as saints

Romans 8:28, 30

It describes those who love God, believers, those who are justified.
They're called according to His purpose.

Romans 9:11, 24-26

This describes God as the one who calls, and again it's connected with His purpose.

He called people from among Jews and Gentiles also. Relate this to Romans 1:16.

The called are sons of the living God. Relate this to Romans 8:14-23.

Romans 11:29

God's call is irrevocable.

Ask your group to explain what this call of God means in Romans.

God calls to salvation, according to His purpose.
The called are the justified—the saved, saints.

God called Paul as an apostle—to a specific purpose or duty, "a calling;" Romans 1:1.

How do the other passages in this lesson relate to this?

1 Corinthians 1:9

The Corinthian believers were also a church primarily made up of Gentiles.

They were called into fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord—a call to salvation.
God did the calling.

1 Thessalonians 2:12

This is another letter Paul wrote.

Again it states that God is the one who calls.
He calls into His kingdom and glory.

Romans 8 says that the called are also glorified.

Matthew 22:1-14

This is a parable about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told this parable to Jews in Israel before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, about 40 years later.

It's a different context than the other passages. Those called (Jews) did not come to the wedding feast, so the invitation went out to any the slaves found (Gentiles).

An invitation was given, many called.
Few actually heard the call and responded, accepted the invitation.

You might ask what their responsibility is in this call.

The believer is to present the invitation. The result is up to God.

FOREKNOWLEDGE

What is the definition?

To know previously, to perceive or recognize beforehand
Again, the definition is the same as the way it's translated.

How is it used in Romans?

Romans 8:28-30

It's one of the words describing the "justified," or believers.

God knew them beforehand. Relate that to His omniscience. God is eternal.

Romans 11:2

In this passage it says that God foreknew His people Israel, the Jews.
He has not rejected them.

Who or what else did God foreknow?

Jesus and His death, Acts 2:23 and 1 Peter 1:20.

1 Peter 1:1-2

God chose according to His foreknowledge.
This is about salvation.

Acts 15:16-18

God, in His Word, foretold certain things He knew before.

Acts 26:5 is what Paul said that his accusers knew about him before their accusations.

You might hold your discussion of more about foreknowledge until discussing predestination. The two are closely associated.

PREDESTINATION

What does the word mean?

Determined or decreed beforehand

How is this used in Romans?

Romans 8:28-30

Those who are called, foreknown, and justified were also predestined to be conformed to Jesus' image. They're the ones who'll be glorified with Him.

How else is this word used?

Ephesians 1:3-6, 11

Again it's in reference to believers—predestined to adoption as sons. Relate that to Romans 8, sons of God.

Verse 11 tells that the predestination is according to God's purpose. Like in Romans 8:28, He works all things according to His will and purpose.

Acts 4:27-28

Jesus' death was predestined. Compare this with Acts 2:23.

At this point, you might ask your group how what they've discussed so far relates to God's character and sovereignty.

ELECTION

What's the definition of the word?

Chosen or selected

How is it used in Romans?

Romans 8:33

God's elect, His chosen ones

This is a reference to those He justified, believers.

The called, the ones foreknown, predestined and glorified by God Himself

No one can bring a charge against believers before God.
We, all believers, are His chosen.

Romans 9:11

This context is about Jacob and Esau.
It connects God's purpose with His choice. His purpose stands.
He does the choosing and calling. Jacob and Esau did nothing to deserve either.

NOTE: God did not say that He knew who was going to believe in Jesus and so He chose according to that foreknowledge.

Romans 11:5, 7, 28

These references refer to Israel.

At the time Paul wrote Romans, and now, there's a remnant God chose from Israel.
There are a few believers in Christ Jesus among the many Jews in the world.

As a whole Israel is against believing in Jesus, but they're still God's chosen.

Encourage your group that they'll understand this more as they study the rest of this course.

How else is elect, chosen used?

Matthew 22:1-14

This is about Israel. The gospel went out to many, but few were chosen.

Matthew 24:22, 24, 31

Jesus spoke these things at the temple to Jews about the last times.

During that time, many will try to mislead the elect by claiming to be the Christ or saying He is here or there. It seems to be a reference to Israel in the last days.

For the sake of the elect, the chosen, those days will be cut short. At the end of the tribulation of those days, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky and He will gather His elect from one end of the sky to the other.

John 15:16

Jesus told the eleven disciples, after Judas left to betray Him, that He chose them, selected them. They didn't choose Him. This applies to all believers.

Believers are chosen to bear fruit.

Colossians 3:12

Those chosen of God are instructed to put on the character described in this verse and the following verses.

1 Peter 1:1-2

This tells the most about those who are chosen / elect by God.

- According to His foreknowledge
- By the sanctifying work of the Spirit
- To obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled in His blood

1 Peter 2:9

This is referring to the church as a chosen race, a people for God's own possession to proclaim His excellencies. He called us out of darkness.

2 Peter 1:10

This also connects called and chosen / election.

Verses 4-11 are about qualities in the believer's life.

Going over this list of qualities can confirm and encourage you.

Use this as a way to make certain that you have been called, chosen / elect.

Revelation 17:14

When Jesus returns, those with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.

Relate this to Romans: the justified—the righteous, the called and chosen—will live by faith.

Luke 23:35 and 1 Peter 2:4

Jesus Christ is God's chosen one.

1 Timothy 5:21

God has chosen / elect angels.

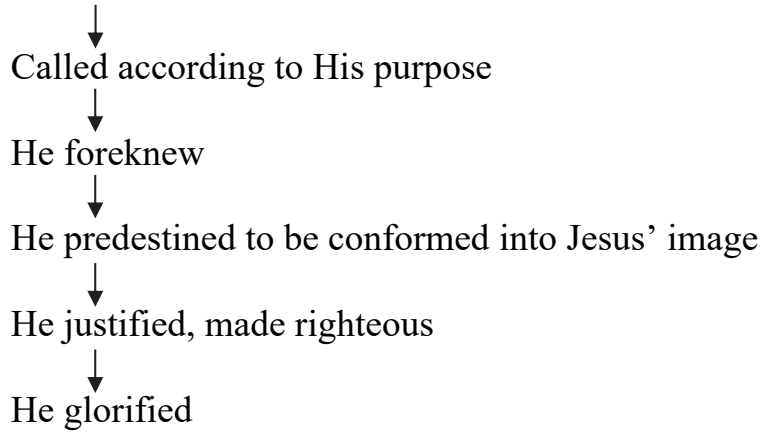
At this point, ask your group how this fits together. What does it say about salvation? How secure is their salvation? Who does it depend on?

You could end your discussion by letting them share the sentence in Day Five of the lesson.

If you do not have time to talk through this sentence with them, you can close the discussion by asking how they would explain these terms to someone.

Encourage your group to keep studying so that they understand for themselves these great doctrines of God.

Those who love God



ROMANS PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 9

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the main theme of Romans is and what the main segments are in Romans 1–8. Use the Romans at a Glance chart and the chart at the end of the lesson “Gospel Reveals God’s Righteousness” as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

The righteous shall live by faith.

There is a sample visual aid at the end of this lesson’s guide that you can use as you lead your group through the discussion of what they learned from Romans 9.

ROMANS 9

Verses 1-5

Who is this chapter about?

The nation of Israel, Jews as a whole

This is not about those who are saved and part of the church.

What does Paul say about them in these first verses?

Paul himself was a Jew and had great sorrow because of his kinsmen.

They had the first adoption as being children of God.
He glorified them above the other nations.
He gave them His covenants and His law.

They had His temple / worship and promises.

The fathers / patriarchs probably refer to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The Christ is also from Israel. Relate this to Romans 1:3.

But as a whole, they rejected Him.

Verses 6-13

What is the statement made in verse 6?

God's Word has not failed. His promises are still true.
The Jews' failure to respond to the Christ didn't mean that God's Word failed.

His promises are to specific people.

He chose Isaac over Ishmael. They were Abraham's sons.

And He chose Jacob over Esau. They were Isaac's sons.

Discuss the Old Testament cross-references that help understand these verses.

Genesis 21:12 and 18:10

Abraham's sons were Ishmael by Hagar and Isaac by Sarah.

Abraham's descendants / offspring were named through Isaac.

In other words, God's promises to Abraham were passed through Isaac and his descendants / offspring, not through Ishmael.

Isaac was the son of promise, and the one the Lord chose to receive His promises.

Genesis 25:23 and Malachi 1:2-3

Isaac's sons were twins, Esau and Jacob.

Before they were born the Lord told their mother Rebekah that the older, Esau, would serve the younger, Jacob. It was His choice.

Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament, was written after Esau and his descendants / offspring, Edom had proven to be godless people.

Also, most of Israel had rejected the Lord. But because of His promises, He still loved Jacob; he was still His chosen one of promise.

The words love and hate indicate choice, not merely emotion.

What seemed to be Paul's point in saying this in Romans 9?

Even from the beginning, only part of Abraham's descendants / offspring and only part of Isaac's descendants / offspring have been Israel.

God's Word, His promises, didn't fail.

Verses 14-18

What are these verses about? What is the question?

There is no injustice with God, is there?

Absolutely not

He is just in all that He does.
His choices are just.

He alone decides who He has mercy on.
It doesn't depend on man, but God.

Who was the example of this?

Pharaoh

How does Exodus help explain this?

Exodus 7-11 and 14 mention several times that Pharaoh's heart was hardened. Sometimes God is the one who hardened it, and sometimes Pharaoh himself did.

Exodus 9:16, quoted in Romans 9:17, says that the Lord raised up Pharaoh to demonstrate / show His power and proclaim His name throughout the world.

One unrighteous man's determined rebellion against God was used to show the whole world the ten plagues on Egypt and God's rescue of Israel from Egypt.

Pharaoh's heart was against God.

He was like one of the people in Romans 1:18-32.

Exodus 14:30-31 says that God saved Israel from His enemy Pharaoh.

He demonstrated His mercy on Israel, but hardened Pharaoh.

Help your group to understand as much of this as they can. This can be very thought-provoking. Try to keep your discussion focused on the text and not on opinions.

What does this passage tell about God's mercy?

His mercy is according to His choice.

The called, elect, and justified have received His mercy.

Exodus 33:19 is quoted in Romans 9:15.

After the golden calf incident in Exodus 32, Moses asked for God's favor and forgiveness for the people.

Favor would be shown by God's presence going with them.

God's answer is in Exodus 33:19.
He allowed Moses to see His glory but refused his request for forgiveness for all the people.

Mercy depends solely on God. All mankind deserves hell, and yet God in His sovereignty chooses to extend mercy to some.

You might ask your group if they remember to thank God constantly for the mercy He has shown them.

Verses 19-26

What is the next reasoning point Paul makes in this text? What are his next questions?

Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?

What is his answer, reasoning?

Who are you, O man, who answers back to God?

His illustrations of this point are that the molder and the potter have the right over the thing molded and over the clay.

There is no rationale for the thing molded to ask why of the molder.

There are statements similar to this in Isaiah. They make the same point. The clay is not equal to the potter.

Verse 17 says that God demonstrated / showed His power through Pharaoh. What does verse 22 say that He demonstrated / showed?

He demonstrated / showed His wrath.

Other places in Romans it says that God demonstrated or showed something.

Romans 3:25-26 He demonstrated His righteousness.

Romans 5:8 He demonstrates His love.

Include discussion of what your group learned from the word studies.

He endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction.

“Vessels” in both verse 22 and 23 is the same word and basically means an object or a container.¹

“Wrath” means punishment or revenge.²

Relate this to Romans 1:18. His wrath is revealed against unrighteous men who suppress the truth about God in their unrighteousness.

Romans 2:5 says that the unrepentant of heart store up His wrath for themselves.

Romans 3:5, God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous.

Romans 5:9, the justified are saved from God’s wrath through Christ.

These vessels of wrath stored up His wrath for themselves. They are fitted,³ fully qualified,⁴ prepared for destruction or ruin.⁵

How does verse 23 continue the train of thought?

God made known the riches of His glory on vessels of mercy (compassion⁶) prepared beforehand.

Contrasted with the vessels, containers, of wrath, the vessels of mercy are prepared beforehand.

“Prepared” in verse 23 is a different word from that in verse 22, and is combined with “beforehand” in one Greek word, *proetoimazo*.

Here it means made ready in advance.⁷

¹Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 163.

²Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 127.

³James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001). G2675.

⁴Timothy 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). 221.

⁵James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G684.

⁶James Strong, *The New Strong’s Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G1656.

⁷Johannes 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). 1:682.

These vessels of mercy are made ready for glory in advance.

Relate this to Romans 8:28-30. Those who are called are also glorified.

According to verses 24-26, who did Paul mean?

“us,” believers—the called

From Jews and Gentiles

What did Hosea say about this?

Hosea 2:23 and 1:10

Paul quoted these passages in Romans regarding salvation from both Israel and Gentiles, although in Hosea they refer to Israel rejecting Him and then returning.

Verses 27-29

Who are these verses about?

Paul quoted from Isaiah about the remnant of Israel.

It shows how few were saved.

Because of sin, they were headed for the same end as Sodom and Gomorrah—vessels of wrath.

But because of God’s promises, some were spared. They were the vessels of mercy.

Verses 30-33

What is Paul’s next question? Next point?

Gentiles did not pursue righteousness.

But they attained righteousness by faith.

Israel pursued a law of righteousness.

They did not arrive at it, because they didn’t pursue it by faith.

They stumbled over the stumbling stone—Christ Jesus.

They didn’t believe in Him who gives righteousness.

To end this discussion, you might ask who all of Romans 9–11 is about.

Romans 9–11 is about Israel, with some statements about Gentiles.

What were the main points of Romans 9?

This chapter tells that God's Word—His promises—has not failed even though all Israel was not saved.

It's about God's choice.

Romans 9

- 1-5 Paul's sorrow for kinsmen, Israel
- 6-13 God's Word has not failed; His choice / election
- 14-18 No injustice with God?
- 19-26 Who resists His will?
- 27-29 Only a remnant of Israel saved
- 30-33 Gentiles' righteousness by faith; Israel's unbelief

ROMANS PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 10
- Salvation and Israel's failure

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the main theme of Romans is and what the main segments are in Romans 1–8. Use the Romans at a Glance chart as a visual aid for this part of your discussion.

The righteous shall live by faith.

Romans 1:1-17 is the introduction and is about the gospel.
In the gospel is God's power for salvation to all who believe, have faith.
It's for Jews and Greeks.

Romans 1:18–3:20
God's wrath is revealed against all unrighteous.
There is none righteous. All have sinned.

All fall short of God's glory.

Romans 3:21–5:21
Justified, made righteous, by faith, not law

Being justified, believers have peace with God and hope in His glory.

Romans 6–8
Believers, the righteous, died to sin and the Law; set free from slavery to sin
This results in sanctification and eternal life.

The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, who indwells all of God's children sets free. The Law's requirements are fulfilled by living according to the Spirit.

There is no condemnation to those in Christ.

There is no separation from Christ's love for the righteous.

What were the problems mentioned in Romans that Paul dealt with in this letter?

In Romans 15:14-16 and 16:17-19 Paul said that there were those who were causing dissensions and hindrances, deceiving some. They were probably the Judaizers who taught that one had to keep the law to be saved, and the Antinomians, who were against the Law and taught that since a man was saved by grace, not by Law, he could live any way he wanted.

Paul warned the believers to turn away from them.

There is a sample visual aid you can use as you lead your group through the discussion of what they learned from Romans 9:30–10:21.

ROMANS 9:30-33

What was the answer to Paul's question?

Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness attained it by faith. Israel pursued their own law of righteousness and did not arrive at it because faith was not involved.

Israel did not pursue righteousness by faith but by works. They failed to believe. Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16 to show that the Jews stumbled over the stumbling stone—Jesus the Messiah.

A person is saved, or made righteous, by faith. This is the theme of Romans.

ROMANS 10

Verses 1-4

Compare the beginning of Romans 9 and 10.

Paul's heart's desire and prayer for his kinsmen Israel was their salvation. He had great sorrow and grief / anguish because of their unbelief.

What did Paul say about Israel in these verses?

They had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. Israel tried to make their own way to God based on what they could do. They really didn't know God's righteousness because it's by faith.

They did not subject themselves to His righteousness by faith.

They did not know or understand God's way of righteousness. Their zeal was to keep the law, and they did not recognize that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness.

NOTE: Some interpret “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness” that Christ is the goal of the Law.

Give time for your group to discuss application of the following.

Righteousness is for everyone who believes in Christ.
Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
Zeal and salvation are not the same.
Zeal without knowledge does not produce salvation.

Verses 5-13

In his reasoning about Israel and salvation, who did Paul quote?

Moses wrote the Law and was highly respected by the Jews of Paul’s day.

Romans 2 and 7 contain Paul’s earlier reasoning or teaching about the Law.
It’s holy, righteous, and good. The problem is that the Jews didn’t keep it from the heart.

The righteousness God spoke of is based on faith, not works of the Law.

What are verses 6-8 about?

No person can do what Christ did.

One cannot bring Him down from heaven—as God did to demonstrate His righteousness.

One cannot bring Him up from the dead—as God did to demonstrate His righteousness.

Verses 6-8 are quotes from Deuteronomy 30:12-14. There is nothing man can do.
God has given Christ as the end of the Law. He did everything needed for
righteousness.

Verse 8 is another Old Testament quote about the “word of faith.”

One does not “do” anything except believe this word of faith.

The word of faith, the gospel, is near, in your mouth and heart.

How did Paul explain what he meant by this? How is a person saved?

Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord.

Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.

This passage is not showing an order, confessing with mouth and believing with heart,
but both acknowledging with one’s mouth Jesus as Lord and believing that He was raised
from the dead are necessary for salvation.

Ask what they learned from the Greek word study of Lord.

kúrios—supreme in authority⁸; Lord, master, owner⁹

It means one who has power and authority; it's a lord or a master who exercises power.

You could ask the question from the lesson on Day Five: What does it mean to “confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord”?

The confession of Jesus as Lord means the acknowledgement that Jesus is God, that He shares God's name, nature, holiness, authority, and power. Jesus and God are one. He is the master, the one who has supreme authority in one's life.

What are the results of confessing and believing?

Confess with mouth Jesus as Lord = salvation

Believe in heart God raised Jesus from dead = righteousness / justified

Righteousness and salvation for all, Jew and Greek alike

Whoever believes in Christ will not be disappointed.

Romans 10:11 and 9:33 both quote Isaiah 28:16.

The same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him.

All who call upon His name will be saved.

What does it mean to “call on His name,” based on the context of verses 9-13?

It means that a person acknowledges Jesus Christ as Lord, master.

One confesses that fact with his mouth.

That is calling on His name according to this context.

Verses 14-15

What were Paul's next questions in the text?

How will men call upon Him whom they've not believed?

How will they believe in Him whom they've not heard?

⁸James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G2962.

⁹Barclay Moon Newman, *Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament*. (Stuttgart, Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft; United Bible Societies, 1993). 105.

How will they hear without a preacher?

How will they preach unless they're sent?

How does the quote in verse 15 relate to this progression in questions?

Those who are sent with the good news, the gospel, have beautiful feet.
People believing the word of faith begins with people like Paul being sent with it.

Then those who hear it can believe it and call on Christ's name for salvation.

Give time for your group to discuss how this relates to them.

Verses 16-17

What happened to Israel?

Israel didn't all heed / obey what they heard. They didn't believe the Word.

Paul quoted from another Old Testament writer held in high esteem by Jews, Isaiah.

God's Word didn't fail—Romans 9:6.
Israel didn't believe His Word.

Relate the progression in verse 17 to previous verses 14-15.

Faith from hearing

Hearing by word of Christ

One is sent with the gospel—the word of Christ.
Another hears the message.
Then that one believes and is saved.

Encourage your group to discuss how important the gospel is. They need to know what they're to do with it.

Verses 18-21

What is Paul's reasoning question and its answer?

Surely Israel has never heard, have they?

Yes indeed, they have.

He quotes Psalm 19.

Relate this to Romans 1:18-20.

Man is without excuse.
God has made Himself known.
Those who call upon His name will be saved.

What is the reasoning question in verse 19?

Surely Israel didn't know, did they?

Yes, they knew.

Both Moses and Isaiah say that the people didn't understand, and when He called them they didn't respond. They are a disobedient and obstinate / contrary people.

But Isaiah said about Gentiles that they found Him even though they didn't seek or ask for Him.

God's plan always included Gentiles.

Compare verses 20-21 with Romans 9:30-32.

Gentiles who did not seek God found Him.
Israel didn't, even though God stretched out His hands to them all day long.
They are disobedient and obstinate / contrary.

The Gentiles would make Israel jealous.
They heeded or obeyed the good news / gospel.
Israel didn't.

You might end your discussion time by asking some thinking questions.

Have you called on the name of the Lord?
Have you acknowledged that Jesus is Lord?
Do you really believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead?

These questions can also be used by your group with others who seem to have a zeal for God but not according to knowledge. Encourage them to be gentle and compassionate.

Ask what they learned about Israel of today. Are God's hands still stretched out to a disobedient and obstinate people today?

Paul desired Israel's salvation

Gentiles attained righteousness by faith
Israel pursued own righteousness

Christ, end of law for believers

Confess Jesus as Lord— saved
Believe God raised Him—righteous / justified

Israel didn't all heed good news / obey the gospel
Disobedient and obstinate / contrary people

ROMANS PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 10:9-13
- Can Jesus be Savior and not Lord of one's life?

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the main theme of Romans is.

The righteous shall live by faith.

What were the problems that Paul dealt with in this letter?

In Romans 15:14-16 and 16:17-19 Paul said that there were those who were causing dissensions and hindrances, deceiving some.

Some were probably the Judaizers who taught that one had to keep the law to be saved.

Others, the Antinomians, were against the law and taught that one didn't need to keep the law at all.

Paul warned the believers to turn away from them.

Who did he write this letter to?

The saints at Rome, primarily Gentiles

Who and what are Romans 9–11 about?

Israel

As a whole, they didn't have faith, but God's Word didn't fail.

He chose to save the Gentiles...for a while.

ROMANS 10

What was Paul's desire in Romans 10:1-4?

Israel's salvation

What did he explain in verses 5-13?

Israel missed God's righteousness because they came up with their own.
The Gentiles attained righteousness by faith in Christ Jesus.

Whoever believes in His heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confesses with his mouth that Jesus is Lord is made righteous, saved.

How do these verses answer the question at the beginning of this lesson?

To be saved, one confesses with his mouth that Jesus is Lord.

kúrios; master, owner, ruler

As a visual aid for this discussion, you can list some of the main points. There is a sample at the end of this lesson's guide which you might use.

What do faith and believe mean?

Both of these words come from the same Greek root word.

faith—*pístis*—persuasion, conviction,¹⁰ confidence, certainty, trust¹¹

believe—*pisteúō*—to *have faith* (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing)¹² ;
to believe, entrust¹³

What does it mean to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead?

It's a conviction, a certainty of heart that God raised Jesus.

Give your group time to discuss the significance of this.

JESUS CAME

Why did God send Jesus into the world?

Matthew 1:18-21 and 1 Timothy 1:15

Jesus, born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, came to save His people from their sins.

¹⁰James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G4102.

¹¹Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich and Geoffrey William Bromiley, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1995, c1985). 849.

¹²James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996).G4100.

¹³Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G4100.

Ask what your group learned about sin.

hamartía—to miss the mark¹⁴

Genesis 3:1-7

The serpent wanted Eve to doubt God, not believe Him, to disobey God, to sin. He told her that Adam and she would be like God.

1 John 3:4; 5:17; Romans 14:23; James 4:17; Isaiah 53:6

Sin is lawlessness which is living without law, rules, against God's standard.

Sin is unrighteousness that leads to death.

Whatever is not from faith is sin.

Sin is not doing the right thing one knows to do.

Each of us has turned to his own way.

Turning to one's own way is missing God's mark or standard of righteousness.

Direct your discussion back to discussing the verses about why Jesus came.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus did not sin, but God made Him sin on our behalf that we might become righteous in Him. He came so that those who believe are made righteous.

That's what Romans is all about.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Don't be deceived.

Those who practice unrighteousness will not inherit God's kingdom—not saved.

But those saved by Jesus don't practice sin any longer.
They're washed, sanctified, and justified.

1 John 3:8-10

Jesus came to destroy the devil's works.
His works are leading and tempting people to sin.

Those who practice sin are of the devil—not saved.

A contrast is with those who practice righteousness and love; they're God's children.

¹⁴James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2001). G266.

Romans 6:9, 14 and John 8:34-36

These verses state that when one is saved—set free by the Son, then sin is no longer master or lord over that person.

Jesus came to set people free from slavery to sin.

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

THE MESSAGE

What did John the Baptist preach?

Matthew 3:1-12

John preached to Israel that they needed to repent because the kingdom of heaven was at hand. They had been looking forward to this kingdom for centuries.

Repentance was necessary to enter the kingdom. Relate this to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

metanoéō—to repent, change the mind¹⁵

When the self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by him, he gave them a severe warning about repentance.

There is fruit or evidence of true repentance. They did not exhibit it.

What message did Jesus preach?

Mark 1:14-15

The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the good news.
It's almost the same as what John the Baptist said.

Luke 13:2-5

Jesus said unless one repents, he'll perish.

Repentance is part of salvation, just like confessing Him as Lord and believing in one's heart that God raised Him from the dead.

Luke 24:44-48

Jesus connected repentance with forgiveness.

Repentance is to be proclaimed to all.

Luke 15:10

Heaven rejoices when even one sinner repents.

¹⁵Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990-c1993). 2:415.

Mark 10:17-31

A man asked Jesus, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

His answer was

- Keep the commandments—the man had done that
- Sell your possessions and give to the poor—the man had much
- Then you’ll have treasure in heaven
- Come follow Me

He summarized to the disciples that it’s hard for the rich to enter the kingdom.

Their response was, “Then who can be saved?”

They were still on the subject of eternal life.

Jesus said salvation is only possible with God.

Turning from all else to put Him first.

The reward is 100-fold in the present life and in the age to come—eternal life.

That’s the answer to the man’s question.

To inherit eternal life, one must give his all to follow the Lord Jesus.

Mark 8:34-38

This is a similar statement.

To follow Jesus it’s necessary to deny self and take up one’s cross—signifying death to self.

Whoever loses his life for Jesus’ sake will save it.

This total commitment is the definition of believe and faith.

What message did Paul preach?

Acts 17:30

As Jesus said, the message of repentance went to all.

Paul preached it where he went.

Acts 20:18-21

Paul tells that he had testified to both Jews and Greeks

- Repentance toward God
- Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 26:19-20

In Paul’s defense before Agrippa, he stated that he declared to both Jews and Gentiles they should repent and turn to God.

He also mentioned here that there are deeds appropriate to repentance.
 Relate this to Matthew 3:8.

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

The Thessalonians had been idol worshipers.
 Then they heard the gospel.

- They believed.
- They turned from idols to serve God.
- They waited for Jesus' return from heaven.
- They were rescued / delivered from God's wrath.

The Thessalonians had deeds appropriate to repentance.

What message did Peter preach?

2 Peter 3:9

Peter says the Lord is not slow about His promise to come again.
 His patience is exhibited in that He has not yet returned.

Peter wrote this letter to believers. God is patient toward them, not wishing that any perish—any who are still to be saved.

Again repentance is connected with perish.
 No repentance = perish

Discuss the relationship of repentance to salvation.

Lord	Believe/faith	Sin	Repentance
Master Owner Ruler	Persuasion Conviction	Missing the mark Going own way	Change of mind, heart toward God Turn around
One who exercises power	Trust	Lawlessness	Change direction

ROMANS PART 3
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis:

- Romans 11
- Has God rejected Israel?

REVIEW

To begin this discussion you can ask what the main theme of Romans is.

The righteous shall live by faith.

What were the problems that Paul dealt with in this letter?

In Romans 15:14-16 and 16:17-19 Paul said that there were those who were causing dissensions and hindrances, deceiving some.

Some were probably the Judaizers who taught that one had to keep the law to be saved.

Others, the Antinomians, were against the law and taught that one didn't need to keep the law at all.

Paul warned the believers to turn away from them.

Who did he write this letter to?

The saints at Rome, primarily Gentiles

Who and what are Romans 9–11 about?

Israel

As a whole, they didn't have faith, but God's Word didn't fail.

He chose to save the Gentiles...for a while.

ROMANS 11

Verses 1-10

What was Paul's first reasoning question in this chapter?

Has God rejected His people? No.

Paul himself was a man of Israel whom God had saved.

Verse 2 says God foreknew Israel as His people.

He doesn't reject those He foreknew. Relate this to Romans 8:28-30.

Then Paul used the illustration of Elijah to show; from Elijah's time to the present, God has a remnant according to His gracious choice.

The remnant was first mentioned in Romans 9:27-29, quoting Isaiah.

Verse 6 reminds the readers that grace is the way to salvation, not works.

What are verses 7-10 about?

The remnant obtained salvation because of God's gracious choice.

Those who were seeking their own righteousness, 10:3, were left to it.
They were hardened as Deuteronomy and Isaiah said would happen.

It's the same kind of thing that happened to Pharaoh, 9:14-18.

God is always just and righteous. The fact that He has mercy on some is amazing because all deserve death and condemnation.

Verses 11-24

What was Paul's next reasoning question in this chapter?

Did Israel stumble so as to fall?
Is it over for Israel?

No.

In the rest of this chapter, Paul states the reasons that Israel has not completely fallen.
God has not completely rejected them. They have not stumbled so as not to recover.

How do the rest of verses 11-24 relate to the question and answer?

Israel's transgression / trespass resulted in salvation for the Gentiles to make Israel jealous.

Israel's transgression / trespass brought riches to the world.
Their rejection of the gospel is reconciliation to the world.

So what will Israel's fulfillment be like?
Their acceptance will be life from the dead. This is about salvation.

What did Paul say about himself personally?

He was part of the remnant of Israel according to God's gracious choice.
His ministry was primarily to Gentiles, but his heart toward Israel was their salvation.

Ask your group what they think about the Gentiles' salvation making Jews jealous.
Give time for discussion of how that applies to them.

What are the illustrations Paul used in these verses to make his point clearer?

A lump and its first piece / firstfruits of dough
A root and branches

If a part is holy, then so is the source.

Israel was holy to the Lord from its beginning and part of it still is.

But if some branches—of Israel—are broken off because of unbelief, and the wild—Gentiles—were grafted in, the wild shouldn't be arrogant.

Most Jews didn't believe.
Then God grafted in Gentiles.
But they shouldn't be arrogant toward Israel.

Verses 21-22 speak of continuance in the faith.
This is true salvation—the righteous live by faith—Jews and Gentiles.

Verses 23-24 tell of Israel being grafted in again, if they don't continue in unbelief.

God has not rejected them.
They have not stumbled so as to fall.
The gospel still goes to the Jews first, Romans 1:16.

Verses 25-32

How do these verses relate to the previous?

The mystery is that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. This is true of Paul's time and the present.

What is Israel's future?

All Israel will be saved.
When the fullness of the Gentiles has come in—Gentiles being saved

When the Deliverer comes from Zion and removes Israel's ungodliness
When God takes away their sins

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about this.

Isaiah 59

Israel's iniquities separated them from God.
Justice and righteousness were not part of their lives.

Salvation was far from them.
So God Himself brought salvation and His righteousness.

He'll come as a Redeemer to Zion, to those who turn from transgressions, repent.

This is His covenant with Israel. He has not revoked this.

Ezekiel 37:21-28

When the Lord brings Israel to their own land from the other nations, they'll no longer defile themselves with idols.

He'll cleanse them. Relate this to Romans 11.

They'll be His people, and He'll be their God.
He'll make an everlasting covenant of peace with Israel as a whole.

God will be in Israel's midst, their Lord who sanctifies them.

Zechariah 13 and 14

When Israel says that the Lord is their God, it will be after 2/3 of them perish.
But 1/3 of them will call on His name. These are the ones of Romans 11:26, "all Israel."

It's after a battle against Jerusalem by all the nations when the Lord rescues Israel. Then He'll be king over all the earth, and Jerusalem will be safe.

All of this is referring to when Jesus comes again.

What are verses 28-32 about?

Although at the present time Israel as a whole is an enemy to the gospel, they are still God's chosen and called people.

His gifts and calling are irrevocable.

His mercy is extended to a disobedient people.

All are disobedient, Jews and Gentiles, and He shows mercy to all.

Paul explained this in Romans 1-11.

Verses 33-36

How did Paul close this main segment of Romans 1–11?

The depth of God's

- riches
- wisdom
- knowledge

His

- unsearchable judgments
- inscrutable ways

God is incomprehensible.

He is beyond man's understanding.

If you have time, close by asking your group what they learned about God, Israel, and salvation in this course.

Encourage them to return for Romans Part 4.

God has not rejected Israel

Paul

God foreknew Israel

Remnant by God's choice

Some chosen / some hardened

Israel not stumble so as to fall

Partial hardening until fullness of Gentiles

All Israel saved as Deliverer comes from Zion