

The Gathering



## At the Gathering, we have one desire:

that all of us would look more and more like Jesus, and so we develop resources like this one to help each of us in our mission of becoming disciplers. As great as one meal may be, none of us were made to eat once a week, either physically or spiritually. That's why our goal is to help you fall in love with the Bible, and learn how to feed yourself from it.

Think of this guide as a roadmap for our Romans Road Trip. It isn't designed to follow along with the weekly teachings perfectly, but more as a tool to help us learn and live the truths we'll discover on the journey. In John 13:17, Jesus said, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." So, use the reading plan to discover and learn the truth, and use the note sections and prompts to apply and live the truth. According to Jesus, that's where the blessing is found.

To watch the messages in our Romans Road Trip, go to thegatheringnow.com and find the ROMANS ROAD TRIP series on the messages page.

By viewing the messages and using this resource together, you will gain a greater understanding of the book of Romans and how to study the Bible for yourself. It will also empower you to discuss what God is showing you with your Community Group. We encourage everyone to get in a group, sit around the table weekly, and apply John 13:17 by asking and discussing three questions:

#### An information question

What's God saying to me? Now that you know these things...

#### An application question

What am I doing about it? ...and you do these things...

#### A transformation question

How am I changing because of it? ...you'll be blessed.

### Before We Begin

As the car is warming up and we're all getting buckled in, here are three important nuggets to keep in mind. (We would share them like a flight attendant before take-off, but there isn't enough room in the car for us to stand up.) Please don't lose sight of these "navigational hand holds" that will guide us along the way.

1

#### It's about a person, not a preference

There's nothing wrong with preferring one thing over another, and church history is full of people who loved theology so much that they weren't practical, or people who only wanted to do stuff but became unhinged from the doctrines they were trying to live. In Romans, Paul doesn't allow us to choose theology over practice, and that's because both point to Jesus. The gospel is to be believed and lived, and so Paul tackles both. We will, too.

2

#### Learn to love questions

In the NIV, there are 80 questions in the book of Romans, and as any teacher knows, questions are extremely important to the learning process. They cause us to stop, think, ponder. They make us feel a certain kind of way that most of us don't like because questions – especially the ones we can't answer – often leave us feeling vulnerable. So rest assured that we'll address the questions we find in Romans, but we don't have to answer them.

3

#### A river runs through it

Actually, two rivers run through it, and when we keep that in mind, it can really help us navigate some of the passages that can be harder to understand. One river leads to salvation, and the other leads to destruction. As we go through the book, we'll see that Paul continually points out that the only way into the right river is Jesus. Period. Jews don't get saved because they're Jews, and Gentiles aren't destroyed because they're Gentiles. All of us are in a river headed for destruction, and God sent Jesus on a river rescue mission. To quote Paul in the letter, "Who will rescue us? Thanks be to God who delivers us through Jesus!" (Romans 7:24-25)

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.

Romans 1:16 (NLT)

☐ Romans 1:18-32



☐ Romans 1:1-7

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□ Romans 1:8-17

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Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Romans 2:4 (NLT)



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□ Romans 2:1-16	☐ Romans 2:17-29

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We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Romans 3:22 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 3:21-31

☐ Romans 3:1-20

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Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

Romans 4:20-21 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 4:1-25

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But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:8 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 5:1-11 ☐ Romans 5:12-21

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For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

☐ Romans 6:15-23

Romans 6:4 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 6:1-14

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So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.

Romans 7:4 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 7:1-6 ☐ Romans 7:7-25

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So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:15 (NLT)



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# So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

Romans 9:16 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 9:1-33

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If you openly declare that
Jesus is Lord and believe in your
heart that God raised him from
the dead, you will be saved. For
it is by believing in your heart
that you are made right with
God, and it is by openly declaring
your faith that you are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 10:1-21

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Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

Romans 11:33 (NLT)



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□ Romans 11:1-10	□ Romans 11:11-24 □ Romans 11:33-36	□ Romans 11:25-32
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Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 12:1-8 ☐ Romans 12:9-21

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Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law.

Romans 13:8 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 13:1-7 ☐ Romans 13:8-14

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#### Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

Romans 14:9 (NLT)



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 14:1-23

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I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 15:13 (NLT)** 

□ Romans 15:23-33



☐ Romans 15:1-13

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☐ Romans 15:14-22

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#### All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

**Romans 16:27 (NLT)** 



#### **Reading Plan**

☐ Romans 16:1-27

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# When it comes to the gospel, **EVERYONE MATTERS.**

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13

Because everyone who calls on Jesus will be saved, we encourage you to write the names of each one you're praying would be saved. Think of this as your personal "H.I.T." list - a list of Hearts In Transition from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Call their names out to the Lord as you wait for the day when they will do the same.

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