

Growth Group Booklet

Term 2 | 2026

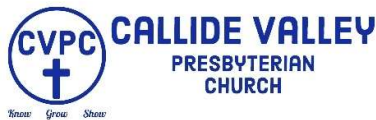


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Series Introduction

A crusty, angry man is walking along a road. He’s on his way to a city where he knows there are lots of Christians. And he’s going to round them up, pressure them to renounce their faith and bring them to trial. Some of them will die. He’s okay with that. He’s doing the Lord’s work. But then, all of a sudden, everything changes. A light shines all around him and bowls him over. A deafening voice rings out around him, “Why are you persecuting me?” The Apostle Paul finds himself face to face with the risen Lord Jesus Christ and everything changes (Acts 9). The gospel changes everything.

The word ‘gospel’ means good news. It’s the announcement of the world changing news of Jesus Christ, promised in the Old Testament, descended from David, who died for our sins, is risen from the dead and exalted at God’s right hand. He now calls all people everywhere to repent and put their faith in Him to find forgiveness and new life forever. (Romans 1:1-6, Acts 17:30-31)

This good news changes everything. It changes the way we see ourselves, each other and the world. It has changed everything for Paul, and he’s writing Romans because he wants it to change everything for the believers in Rome too.

When Paul wrote, the church in Rome was doing it tough. Scholars think the church was likely started by Jewish believers, who’d heard the gospel from Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:8-11), come to trust in Jesus and then returned to Rome with the good news. After great riots erupted in Rome in AD49, the emperor Claudius expelled all the Jews (including Jewish Christians) from Rome for disturbing the peace. Just imagine what would happen if all the leaders in your church were forced to leave town one day. The Gentile believers in Rome stepped up and took care of the church, until 5 years later Claudius died, and the Jews were allowed to return. It’s not hard to imagine the joy, tensions, **conflict**, and power struggles in the church when the ousted Jewish leaders turn up to church again.

So, a few years later, Paul writes them the letter of Romans all about how the good news of Jesus changes everything. Paul is not writing an abstract theological treatise or a textbook for Bible College students and wanna-be reformers. He's writing a real letter to a real church to explain how the real good news of Jesus really changes everything.

Over three terms we're letting this great gospel letter change us, too.

Last year in chapters 1-5 we saw how the good news of Jesus changes the way we view ourselves, understanding that we all fall short of the glory of God but can be made right with God by grace, through faith in Christ. That was our theme 1: 'Right Through Christ': Declared right with God, justified by the blood of Jesus, reconciled through Him.

This term, we're learning from chapters 5-11, 'Alive in Christ'. Over 9 weeks we'll explore how in Jesus we've come to reign with him in life, set free from our enslavement to sin and death. We'll learn what it means to hope in this life and hope in our sufferings, to be heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ! To really live, alive in Christ, delivered from the power of sin, setting our minds on what he desires, and putting to death the misdeeds of our flesh. We'll see that united to him, Jesus sets us free to live in joyful obedience, and how this changes the way we see our present sufferings, and our future glory. We'll also see how God's promises to his ancient, chosen people remain 'Alive in Christ', and how the rest of us are to humbly live as those newly 'grafted in'.

Then, next year, we'll see how the good news of Jesus changes the way we view each other. The gospel is for everyone, no matter their status or circumstances. So, the gospel calls us to humbly love one another with a Christ-like mindset. Instead of passing judgement on our fellow believers, we are to strive for peace and unity together, to the glory of God (Romans 15:5-6).

And we're going to see how the good news of Jesus changes the way we view the world. If the gospel is for everyone, then everyone needs to hear it! That's why Paul wants the believers in Rome to support Him as he boldly goes to preach the gospel in Spain, where no missionary has gone before (Romans 16:18-24). That's also why we want to see the people who live around us and around the world hear and understand the gospel.

As ministers of sister churches across Queensland, in Graceville, Mackay & Sarina, Toowoomba, and Warwick (and Biloela!), we have developed this series together because we are excited about how this powerful letter of Romans reveals the incredible truth of God's gospel to us.

So, to recap: In this series, we're seeing how we are:

1. **Right Through Christ** (Romans 1:1-5:11, 2025)
2. **Alive in Christ** (Romans 5:12-11:36, 2026)
3. **Together with Christ** (Romans 12:1-16:27, 2027)

The good news of Jesus changes everything, we can't wait to see how God changes us through it together.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." - Romans 1:16-17.

How to Use this Booklet

The best way to understand how these studies work is to assume we've written them for grown-ups! That is, we're making certain assumptions about adult education in the 21st century: that you're self-motivated and highly impacted by experience, that you learn well through discussion with other adults in a healthy and non-anxious setting, and that the primary role of the group leader is to facilitate the group's learning rather than having to teach it. This means that each week we'll follow a similar pattern, working through 6 Rs to help us reflect on, respond to and grow through God's word together. These are:

Reflect - Reflect on the last week of your life and share with the group a 'Good thing and bad thing' from the last week. Living together as God's people means sharing in the ups and downs of regular life, rejoicing with one another and being informed in praying for each other. Remember it doesn't all have to be serious!

Read - Hear God's word again together by reading this week's passage from Romans and the other Bible readings for this week.

React - God's word should provoke a reaction in us! Share what stood out to you as you read through these passages.

wRestle - God's word is something we should wrestle with together. These questions will help you to wrestle with the meaning of the passage together. (Yes, we know wrestle doesn't really start with an R.)

Relate - The gospel changes everything. These questions will help you to relate this part of God's word with our day-to-day life following Jesus. How does the gospel revealed in this passage change us and the way we live?

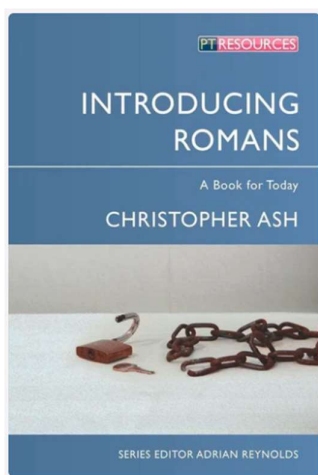
Respond in prayer - Spend time responding to God's word by praising God for who He is, confessing our sin, thanking God for what He's done, praying for one another and praying for those who still need to respond to the gospel.

Resources

As we work through Romans over the next few terms, you may like to follow along with these optional resources.

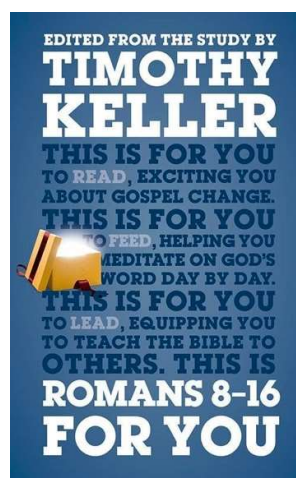
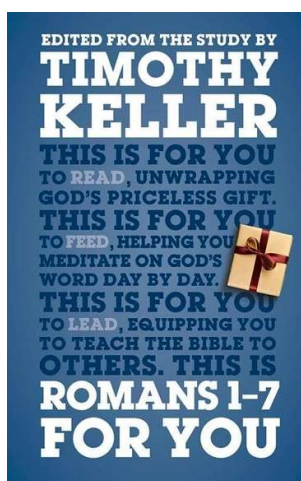
For a small book to get an overview of Romans:

Introducing Romans
by Christopher Ash



To follow along through Romans:

Romans 1-7 For You and
Romans 8-16 for You
by Timothy Keller



Video Overview of Romans:

The Bible Project has a video overview that is very helpful to watch. You can find it by going to the bibleproject.com/explore/video/romans-5-16



created by Bible Project

Series Song

There Is One Gospel, by City Alight

Lyrics

Verse 1

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there, where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 3

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour, I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine!
For He has promised I, too, will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 4

May God bless us, as his people, as we grow in our understanding of the gospel together and as He works through it to change us together.

Your Brothers in Christ,

Rev. Rohan Pieris, Graceville

Rev. Josh Rowe, St. John's on Geddes Toowoomba

Rev. Troy Wilkins, Mackay & Sarina

Rev. David Bailey, Rose City (Warwick)

Rev. Andrew Purcell, Callide Valley (Biloela)



Talk

1



Sunday following
26/4/2026

Romans 5:9-21

Big Idea: Through Adam's disobedience death reigned over all, but through Jesus' obedience all who receive his gift reign in life.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 5:9-21

Psalm 2:1-12

Genesis 3:1-24

Matthew 7:13-14

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. See how v12 starts. We learnt last term that when a passage starts with 'Therefore' we must ask, 'What is it there for?'. How has Paul just concluded in his climax of the first 5 chapters of his letter in 5:1-11?

2. In v12 Paul anticipates an objection to his conclusion of v9-11. What is the probable objection to his claim that the blood of Christ has reconciled us to God?

3. In v14c Paul says the reign of the first Adam is a pattern of the second Adam. What are some ways the reign of the second Adam is NOT like the first (v15-17)?

4. What are some ways the reign of the second Adam IS like the first? (v18-21)

5. Relate

1. Paul describes two kingdoms in this passage - with everyone either living under the reign of death (in Adam) or the reign of life (in Christ). Why is it difficult for people in our particular culture to understand that in Adam 'all sinned' (v12)?

2. In v21 Paul says that 'sin reigned in death'. Share one way that sin once ruled over you, but now doesn't, because of Jesus.

3. In Romans 1-5 Paul has talked a lot about God's wrath against sinners (both present and future wrath). But count how many times Paul now mentions God's 'gift' in vv15-17. Why is it so important for those around us to hear of this 'gift'?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

2



Sunday following
3/5/2026

Romans 6:1-14

Big Idea: If you are united to Christ in his death and resurrection, do not let sin reign in you, but offer every part of yourselves to God.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 6:1-14

Psalm 119:9-16

Exodus 16:1-12

Matthew 5:27-30

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. Why might the gospel be seen to encourage sin and what is Paul's response to this objection (v1-4)?

2. What does it mean for us to be united with Jesus in his death and resurrection (v5-10)?

3. How does our union with Christ help us resist sin and live a new life (v1-11)?

4. In v11-13, we get the first ethical commands so far in Romans. Why is this significant? What are we told to do and why (v11-14)?

5. Relate

1. Discuss the relationship between grace and obedience in the Christian life. How does the gospel help you live a godly life without legalism?

2. Reflect on areas of your life where you struggle with sin. How does being united with Christ make a practical difference to that struggle? What would it look like for you to count yourself 'dead to sin' and 'not let sin reign', as you seek to 'offer every part of yourself' to God?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

3

SLAVES

Romans 6:15-23



Sunday following
10/5/2026

Romans 6:15-23

Big Idea: We have been set free from slavery to sin, leading to death, to live as obedient slaves to righteousness, leading to life.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 6:15-23

Psalm 1

Exodus 19:1-6

Matthew 11:25-30

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. As Christians, we are no longer under the law, but under grace (v15). So why does Paul argue we should not continue in sin (v16)?

2. How is it that followers of Jesus are transferred out of slavery to sin (v17-18)?

3. Where do the two slaveries Paul is talking about lead (v19-23)

5. Relate

1. How do you experience the power of sin over you in your life?

2. What does it mean to you to be reminded of your freedom from sin? How will this reminder change the way you approach the situations of your life?

3. Knowing that we are free to offer ourselves to God, what are the incentives for you? And how can you continue to offer yourself to God?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

4

DELIVERED

Romans 7:1-25



Sunday following
17/5/2026

Romans 7:1-25

Big Idea: God's good law exposes and arouses the sinfulness of our hearts, but Jesus Christ our Lord delivers us from the power of sin and the body of death.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 7:1-25

Psalm 40

Jeremiah 31:31-34

John 3:1-21

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. What are the big questions that Paul is trying to answer in this passage? (v 7, 13)

2. Why is it impossible for the law to make us holy? Is the problem with the law or with us? Point to the specific verses which show this.

3. Why do you think Paul feels the need to defend the law as holy and good? (vv 12)

4. According to verses 4-6, what have we been set free from? What have we been set free for?

5. Relate

1. How might we be tempted to rely on rules as well as grace to live the Christian life? How does this chapter help?

2. Whether verses 7-25 describe the life of the Christian or not, we all experience a struggle with sin and temptation that at times feels overwhelming (see also Galatians 5). How does this passage give us hope and guidance in the midst of temptation?

3. What questions does this chapter still leave us asking? (Make a list of these questions. After next week's study on Romans 8, come back to these to see what questions have been answered.)

4. How should the fact that we have been set free from the law to belong to Christ and bear fruit for God (v4) shape the way we think and act when we are tempted to sin?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

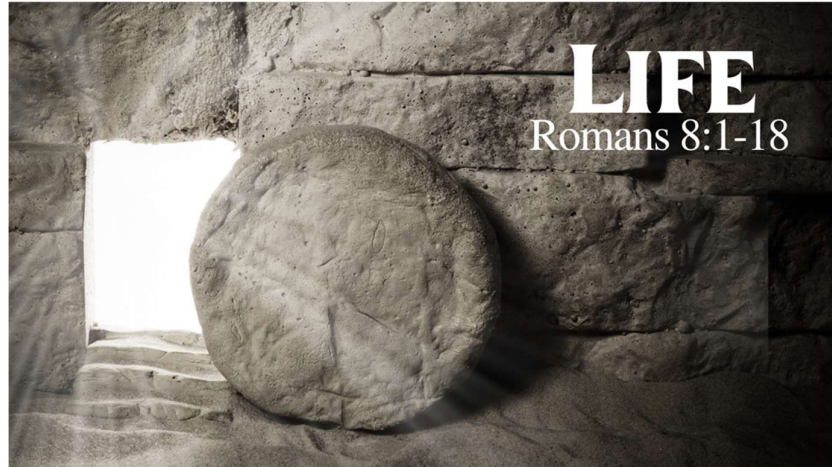
Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

5



Sunday following
24/5/2026

Romans 8:1-18

Big Idea: Because the Spirit of Christ lives in us, we are obligated to live a new life, setting our minds on what He desires and putting to death the misdeeds of the flesh.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 8:1-18

Psalm 16

Ezekiel 36:22-32

John 16:14-15

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. What has Jesus set us free from according to v1-4? How did God achieve this?

2. Compare the difference between living by the Spirit and living according to the flesh (v5-12).

3. All who belong to Jesus have the Spirit of Christ (v9-10). What do we learn about the Holy Spirit's ministry concerning:

(a) Our minds (v5-8)

(b) Our life in the body (v9-13)

(c) Our adoption as God's children (v14-16)

4. What do God's children share with Jesus according to v17?

5. Relate

1. In what practical ways does this passage challenge you to "live in accordance with the Spirit" and "put to death the misdeeds of the body" (v12-13)?

2. How does the invitation to cry 'Abba, Father', by the Spirit, shape your relationship with God (v15)?

3. How do v17-18 bring perspective to our sufferings? Have you experienced this in your own life?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

6



Sunday following
31/5/2026

Romans 8:16-39

Big Idea: As we groan in our present suffering, those who are called according to God's purpose, hope in glory, assured that nothing will separate us from his love.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 8:16-39

Psalm 42

Isaiah 65:17-25

Matthew 5:3-12

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. In Romans 5:17 Paul has shown how we will 'reign' with Christ. Now in 8:17 he declares us to be 'heirs of God' and 'co-heirs with Christ' - on one condition. What indeed must we share in?

2. For Paul, what is the relationship between our present sufferings and future glory?

3. Notice all the groaning in this passage. Who groans? And for what?

4. List of all the things that cannot separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Relate

1. How can our present sufferings (if we let them) distort our perspective and tempt us to lose hope for the future?

2. How can our future glory, instead, give us hope amidst our present sufferings? List some of the things Paul says in v18-39 to reassure us, in Christ.

3. Paul neither minimises our suffering, nor exalts it. Instead, he honours it with proper perspective. Why is this so important as we pastorally care for one another - in our sufferings?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

7



Sunday following
7/6/2026

Romans 9:1-33

Big Idea: God's promises to Israel have not failed, nor is he unjust, because salvation depends on God showing mercy to those he has chosen.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 9:1-33

Psalm 106

Genesis 25:19-34

Matthew 21:33-45

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. After the wonderful assurance of chapter 8:31-39, why might Paul change topic to Israel and God's promises to them in chapters 9-11? (v6)

2. In verses 6-13, what is Paul's answer to the question he raises in verse 6?

3. Is God's choice to show mercy towards some unjust? (v14, 19) What is Paul's answer in v14-29? How is his answer satisfying? How is it not?

4. How do verses 30-33 fit with what Paul has been teaching throughout Romans so far?

5. Relate

1. What attitudes do we tend to have towards sharing the gospel? How does the intensity of Paul's desire for his people to come to faith in Jesus (v1-5) challenge these attitudes?

2. In this challenging chapter, Paul doesn't answer all our questions about God's choice to show mercy to some and not others. How should the answer he does give shape our attitude towards God regarding our unanswered questions and shape our response to God for His mercy?

3. Praying for Jewish people is something we often neglect. How should this chapter, particularly verses 1-5 and 30-33 shape the way that we pray for Jewish people and our attitude towards them?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

8



Sunday following
14/6/2026

Romans 9:30-10:21

Big Idea: In the gospel, God holds out his hands to offer salvation to everyone who believes in Jesus, rather than relying on their own righteousness.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 9:30-10:21

Psalm 19

Deuteronomy 30:1-20

John 12:37-43

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. What surprising contrasts do we see in 9:30-31?

2. Who is the 'stone' (v32-33)? What does it mean to 'stumble over the stumbling stone'?

3. What is the difference between trying to establish our own righteousness and submitting to God's righteousness (10:2-4)?

4. What is God's righteousness (10:3), and how does the connection with 9:32-33 help us understand this?

5. What can we learn about different responses to the preaching of Jesus (v16-21)?

5. Relate

1. Share how you've seen God's sovereign work in your life or the lives of others to bring them to faith in Jesus even when it seemed as though they weren't seeking Him.

2. What kind of excuses do we make for not doing what the bible teaches about sharing our faith with others, and how does what we learn in 10:6-10 undermine our excuses?

3. Share how Paul's heart to share the gospel impacts you. How can you have 'beautiful feet', sharing the gospel from now on?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

9



Sunday following
21/6/2026

Romans 11:1-36

Big Idea: God has not rejected Israel, nor have they stumbled beyond recovery, so as Gentiles grafted in, we must consider his sternness, continue in his kindness, and praise him for his rich mercy.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 11:1-36

Psalm 126

1 Kings 19:1-18

Matthew 8:5-13

3. React

What Stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. What's Paul's answer to the objection that God has rejected his people, Israel? Why? (v1-9)
2. Who are the remnant & what is the basis for God's election (v5-7)?
3. What has God brought about through Israel's rejection of the gospel? How should we respond to our grafting in (v11-22)?
4. Has Israel stumbled beyond recovery (v11-16)? Despite their present response, what future prospects does this passage hold out for Israel's salvation (v23-32)?

5. Relate

1. How does the teaching of Romans 11 about God's sovereignty in the salvation of Jews and Gentiles, help you appreciate more of his incredible mercy to you? What is the appropriate response (see v17-22, 33-36)?
2. Discuss how this passage should shape our thinking and prayers for Israel today.

3. Verses 33-36 are a fitting conclusion to all that we've seen from Romans 1-11 over these past two terms. Spend some time praising God together for His powerful gospel that brings salvation to all who believe.

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask: