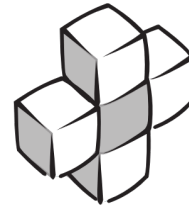




SMACC
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Romans



Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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Study 1: “I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel” (Romans 1:1-16)

Getting Started

1. The gospel means good news. Do you know what the gospel is?

Context:

In Romans 1:1-16, we see Paul’s emphasis on the gospel in where he goes, what he does, what his purpose in life is, and on how his relationship with the church is defined. We will be challenged to see how the gospel takes its place in a Christian’s life.

2. When is this book written in the bible timeline?

3. What type of book is this?

4. We can identify the circumstance and purpose of the letter by comparing the *beginning* and *end* of Romans. Compare **Romans 1:1-7** with **Romans 16:25-end**. Discuss with your group the similarities between the passages.

What is the whole book of Romans all about?

In summary, Paul begins and ends Romans with: _____

Digging In

5. Read **Romans 1:1-16**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

6. Examine carefully, and use the text of verses 1-7, to determine the order of the questions in which Paul answers (as if Paul is answering each question in a particular order).

The questions below are arranged out of order:

Questions	Order of questions
Who is Jesus?	
What is Paul's purpose?	
Who is Paul?	
What is the gospel about?	

7. Paul's relationship with Rome is described in verses 8-15. In verse 8, Paul thanks the Christians in Rome, but he has yet to been to visit them. See how Paul explains himself in verses 9-15.

If you were the church of Rome, would you accept Paul's explanation? Why?

8. Finally, verses 14-16 is key to the epistle. What is the reason for Paul's obligation to Greeks and barbarians, wise and foolish? What is the reason for Paul's eagerness?

Answer: _____ It is _____ for _____ to _____

9. Read Paul's description of himself and his purpose in v1-7.
- How do these verses help us to understand what Paul desires for Christians?
 - How does Paul's exhortation to his readers provide a model for us, when we are going through uncertain circumstances in our life?

Application

10. When we hear a cry for help or watch someone in danger, we are not inclined to just walk away. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believes. Yet, why do we struggle to have the same reaction for fellow sinners around us? Discuss some of your struggles, with one another.

11. How does your answer to the question above reveal to you about how you view the gospel?

12. Now compare your answer with the passage we just studied. Think through how God wants you to change your understanding about the gospel through this passage. Do share your thoughts with one another.

Reflection & Prayer: *Thank God for the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is God's power to save all who believe. In his grace, he has judged sin and saved us through the ultimate suffering of the cross, giving us peace with Him. Pray that in the light of the cross that he would enable us to trust and rejoice in him, and to share the good news so that others might believe and be saved.*

Study 2: “The Wrath of God” (Romans 1:16-32)

Getting Started

1. Your parents may have often got angry with you when you rebel against them. What do you feel when they release their wrath on you? Do you feel you deserving of their scolding?

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 1:16-32**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 1:16-17

3. Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel? (v16)
4. Paul says ‘For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith’ in v17, what does this mean?
5. Paul quotes from Habakkuk 2:4 in v17, how is that related to the verse in Romans?

Romans 1:18-23

6. Why is the wrath of God revealed? (v18)
7. What has God made plain to men? (v20)

8. Instead of honoring God, what did men do? (v23)

9. What is the result of not honoring God and giving thanks to Him? (v21-23)

Romans 1:24-32

10. Fill in the table below:

Verses	What did God do?	What are the consequences?
1: 24-25		
1: 26-27		
1: 28-32		

Application

11. What have we learnt from the passage today about God?

12. What have we learnt from the passage today about mankind?

13. How would you respond to someone who says that God has no right to be angry with him/her because God has not revealed Himself to him/her? (v18-23)

14. Look into v29-31, which unrighteousness act(s) are you more prone to do in your life?

15. How do we see v32 being manifested in our world today?

16. The passage today paints a bleak picture of God's wrath and the consequences of it. What hope do we have in the face of God's wrath? (v16-17)

Reflection & Prayer: *Thank God for revealing Himself to us through creation and the gospel of Christ which brings salvation to those who believes. Thank God the wrath of God is turned away for those who believes in Jesus. Pray that God will help us not to be ashamed of the gospel, but to bring this gospel to those who are still under His wrath.*

Study 3: “God, the Impartial Judge” (Romans 2)

Getting started

1. “Privileges are a given-right. So, it does not entail any form of responsibilities.” How would you respond to someone who said this to you?

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 2**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 2:1-5

3. Why does Paul say that those who judge others are passing judgment on themselves?
4. Is it alright to continue in sin since God is so kind and patient with people? Why or why not?
5. “Streaming TV shows and downloading music online illegally is not a crime. I’ve been saved and I have the gospel. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Is that true?

Romans 2:6-11

6. He will render to each one according to his works (v6). Complete the table below:

Types of works done		
God’s response		

15. What does a genuine Jew look like?

16. What does Paul mean by “circumcision”? (cf. Gen 17:10, 14 and Deut. 10:16)

Application

17. Strong Bible teaching, baptism, going to church, praying every day, etc. Do we rely on any of those things for our salvation apart from Jesus?

18. Are we Christians better people than others? Why or why not?

Reflection & Prayer: *Thank God that He is absolutely righteous, just and impartial in carrying out His judgment. Thank Him for Jesus Christ who obeyed God perfectly and as His people, we can rely on Him. Pray that God will remind us to be humbly model Christ to other Christians and non-believers that we might save some.*

Study 4: “All Under Sin” (Romans 3:1-20)

Getting Started & Context

In Romans 2:12 – 29 we see that while it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God but the doers (v13). Paul charged that the Jews who boasted they knew God because they had the law and circumcision, yet they failed to keep the law and they condemn themselves when they condemn others.

Digging In

1. Read **Romans 3:1-20**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 3:1-4

2. Referring to end of Romans 2 (v17 – 29) and contrasting with Romans 3:1-4; is there 2 conflicting points? (*i.e. useless being a Jew vs advantage being a Jew*)

3. Why was it considered an advantage being a Jew? (v.2)

4. Despite the Jews having the advantage of knowing God; they failed to keep to their part of the covenant (that they will obey the precepts of the Law); did God then renege His covenant with them? Yes/no; why?

Romans 3:5-8

5. Does our sin gives God opportunity to be more gracious?

Romans 3:9-18

- 6. Despite the Jews having advantage, why weren't they better off? (v.9)

- 7. Contrary to today's modern culture (i.e., the meme – 'Faith in humanity restored' seems to create a notion of that there is some goodness in humanity); are we really worthless no good for anything? (v.10-12)

- 8. Sin is an inward state of rebellion against God that expresses itself outwards towards God and fellow mankind. List the inward state and its outward expression as per verses 10-18:

9.

Verse	Outward expression

Romans 3:19-20

- 10. If the law can't declare us righteous, what is it good for?

Application

- 11. Do you consider it an advantage to know God? Does this advantage justify you?

- 12. Knowing what we have learned from this passage, what hope is there for us if we all sin and deserve God's just punishment?

- 13. There is no use of having the advantage to know God if there is no response of faith. The law condemns and pronounces us guilty. Not only does it pronounce us guilty but it does not show how we can by our own effort save ourselves from the wrath of God. Would you trust Jesus to save you from the wrath of God? If no, what are some of the obstacles that is hindering you from trusting Jesus as Saviour?

Study 5: “Righteousness of God & Our Justification through Faith” (Romans 3:21-31)

Getting Started & Context

So far in Romans, we have looked at the predicament that all humanity is in – all are under sin (Romans 3:9), both Jews (even though they have been entrusted with the oracles of God) and Gentiles alike, none are righteous. Therefore, all are recipients of God’s righteous wrath (Romans 1:18).

Right now, everything seems so bleak. Is that all? Are we hopeless and completely doomed? Let’s continue with our study of Romans to find out!

Digging in

1. Read **Romans 3:21-31**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 3:21-26

2. How does Paul link the previous section with this new section? What does that imply?
3. How is the righteousness of God shown ‘**now**’?
4. Do the ‘righteousness of God ‘**now**’ and ‘the Law and the Prophets’ (i.e the Old Testament) oppose each other?
5. Why is there no distinction?

6. What does it mean to be 'justified'? How are we 'justified'?
 - a) What do the words 'grace' and 'gift' imply?

 - b) What does redemption mean and what has God done to redeem us?

7. If God simply ignores sin and does not execute judgment, it would render Him unjust. If He does execute judgment however, it would mean that all humanity is doomed, having to face His righteous wrath. Based on the passage, how is the dilemma solved?

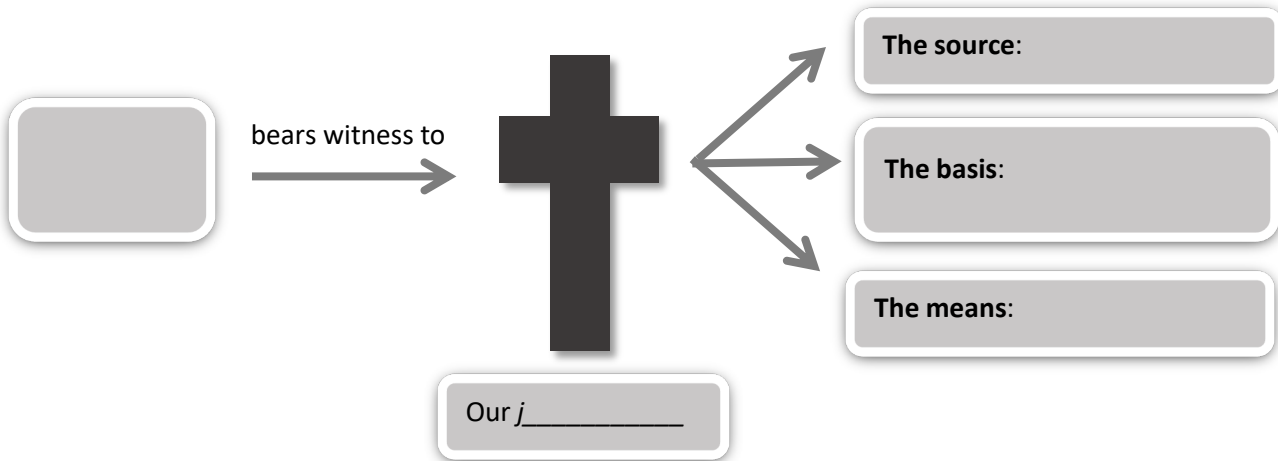
Romans 3:27-31

8. Why do we have no reason to boast?

9. If God is the God of both Jews and Gentiles, what does it say about the basis of justification of both the Jews and Gentiles?

10. Does 'this faith' disregard the law completely? Why/why not?

Bringing Things Together



Application

11. Based on the passage, there is only one way by which we are justified – faith in Christ Jesus. What are the other things that you might be tempted to rely on to be declared righteous before God?

12. How would you respond to this good news, now that you know that we are not completely doomed?

Study 6: "Counted Righteous by Faith" (Romans 4:1-25)

Getting Started

1. Read Genesis 15:1-6. What is promised to Abraham? What was his response?

Context

In the previous study, we learnt that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we learnt that our sins are justified NOT by works and efforts in trying to follow the law (which shows us how sinful we are!) BUT by God's grace as a GIFT for us---Jesus' blood so that ALL (Yup, whether Jews or Gentiles!) who has faith in Christ our Justifier will be justified! Today we will continue to see Paul's argument about justification by faith alone.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 4:1-25**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 4:1-12

3. On what grounds would Abraham be able to boast? But how was Abraham justified before God?
4. What does it mean that "his faith is counted as righteousness"?
5. What is Paul trying to say in verse 4 "Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due."?
6. How does David's psalm (Psalms 32:1-2) relate to Paul's message about how we get right before God? (v6-8)
Context: This psalm was recorded during David's lamentation after he committed adultery with Bathsheba and engineered the murder of her husband Uriah who was one of David's warrior (may refer 2 Samuel 11)
7. Who are the circumcised and uncircumcised? (v9)

8. In one sentence, explain what Paul says about the purpose of circumcision? (v10-12)

9. Is circumcision required for us to be right before God?

Romans 4:13-25

10. How did the promise to Abraham and his offspring come?

11. Why should the promise made be dependent on faith? (v14-16)

12. In verse 22, why is Abraham's faith "counted to him as righteousness"? (v17-21)

13. In verse 24, who does the word "us" and "him" refer to?

Application

14. What have you learnt about:

a) God's character?

b) God's power?

15. In what ways do you sometimes feel tempted to try to earn God's approval by your own good works?

16. What is the main take away lesson for you today?

Study 7: “Implications of Justification by Faith” (Romans 5:1-11)

Getting Started

1. “I do trust Jesus, but I’m worried that somehow I might still miss out and not be saved.” What are some possible answers, both true and false, to this question?

Context

2. Romans 5:1 gives the story so far. What then is the story so far, and how does verse 1 help us understand it? (Think back over Romans 1-4)

Digging In

3. Read **Romans 5:1-11**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

4. According to verses 1-2, what does faith in our Lord Jesus Christ result in? (5:1-2)
5. Look for the word “rejoice” in this passage (literally “boast”. What do Christians “rejoice” or “boast” in? Why?
6. How does Paul change our perspective on suffering?

7. Fill in the following table and answer the following questions.

Verses	Who We Are	What God did	Who we are now	What God will do
8-9				
v10-11				

8. On what basis can we be sure that God loves us?

a) When and who did Christ die for?

b) How is God's love the same as, or different from, human love?

c) What things might make us feel God doesn't love us? Are those things true according to this passage?

9. How have the earlier parts of Romans helped us to understand how Jesus death has saved us from the wrath of God? (e.g. Romans 3:21-26)

10. What is our status in the present, because of Jesus death?

11. How does Jesus death in the past, and our new status in the present, assure us of the future?

12. How does the discussion so far help us to understand v5 and our response of joy?

Bringing It Together

13. To summarise – what are the benefits of justification for the present and the future?

Application

14. Have there been certain things that you've been finding hard in life? From what you learn today, how can you learn to rejoice even in the midst of difficult circumstances?

15. "I am sure that I'll be going to heaven". Can you say this statement with confidence for yourself? Why? Why not?

16. Go back to the question under 'Getting Started'. How would you answer the person differently now that you have worked through Romans 5:1-11?

Reflection & Pray:

- *Thank God for the peace we have with God through the reconciliation of Jesus.*
- *Thank God for showing his love for us in sending Jesus not for the sake of the righteous, but for the sake of sinners.*
- *Pray that we would boast not in our own achievement, but in all that Jesus has done for us.*

Study 8: “Jesus’ Obedience is Better Adam’s Disobedience” (Romans 5:12-21)

Getting Started

1. When a man marries a woman, his debts becomes her debts and her savings will become his savings and vice versa. (True or False)
2. If President Trump declared war on North Korea, the whole nation of America will be at war with North Korea. (True or False)

Context

From our previous passage (Rom 5:1-11), we have been assured of our salvation. If Christ died for us while we were still sinners, He will definitely save us from the anger of God NOW that we have been declared righteous by Jesus blood. So, we can put our hope in God through Jesus who loves us and depend on Him.

Digging In

3. Read **Romans 5:12-21**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 5:12-14

4. What does death have to do with human beings? What does that mean for us?
5. Was Paul confused when he wrote, “for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law”? What does he mean?

Romans 5:15-19

6. How are Jesus and Adam parallel? (cf Rom 5:14b)

7. How are Jesus and Adam different?

Category/ Name	Adam	Jesus

8. Following Paul’s comparison of Adam and Jesus, who is better and why?

Romans 5:20-21

9. How is God being gracious when the law was given to increase trespass? (cf Rom 5:13-14)

Application

10. Is your life represented by the disobedience of Adam or the obedience of Christ? Why do you say so?

11. What does it mean in practical terms for each of us if we have received the life given by Jesus?

12. How should we respond now, after being reminded of our need for Jesus and His exceeding grace which has brought us eternal life?

Reflection & Prayer: Give thanks to God for his grace which abounds for those in Jesus, for sending Him to be our new representative, who is completely righteous and obedient to the Father. Pray that God would conform us into His image by His Holy Spirit through His Word. Thank God for the assurance that we can have eternal life through Jesus, our Lord.

Study 9: “Our Death with Christ. Our Freedom from Sin” (Romans 6:1-14)

Getting started

1. What would you answer if your friend asks you ‘Since Jesus has died for my sin, does it matter how I live now?’

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 6:1-14**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 6:1-2

3. Paul anticipated a response from his readers in v1. Why do you think they will think this way?

4. How did Paul respond to his readers? (v2)

Romans 6:3-10

5. How did Paul use the imagery of Baptism in his argument? (3-4)

6. What is the effect of Christians being united with Jesus (v5)

7. Draw the contrast of the old self and new self (v6-8) Old Self New Self

8. What has Jesus's death and resurrection achieved? (v9-10)

Romans 6: 11-14

9. Paul said in v11 to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ, how does it look like? (v12-14)

10. What does it mean for us who's not under law but under grace? (v14)

Application

11. After going through Romans 6:1-14, how would you answer your friend who asked you the question in question 1, and what is the reason behind your answer?

12. Is your life today being represented by your old self or new self?

13. In what way does sin still reign in your mortal body? Or what passion in life are you chasing after at the moment?

14. How can you say no to sin in your life?

15. How can we help each other to fight sin's dominion over our lives?

Reflection & Prayer: *Thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins and raise him up to glory. By this amazing grace, we are now united with Jesus, our sinful self has died together with Him, and we now receive newness of life. Also Thank God that our body is now free from sin, and spur each other to present our body to God as instruments for righteousness.*

Study 10: “Slaves to Righteousness” (Romans 6:15–23)

Getting Started

1. What are some things that come to your mind when you see that word ‘slave’?
2. Note the rhetorical question in v15. What do you think is the argument that Paul is trying to defend against in this passage? What would you have to say to this argument based on your own knowledge and thoughts?

Digging In

3. Read **Romans 6:15-23**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 6:15-19

4. How is the question in v15 different from the question in 6:1?
5. Since we are freed from the Law (i.e., the Mosaic Law), does this mean we are free to indulge in sin? Why or why not? (refer to John 8:34)
6. What are the 2 slave masters that Paul present in Romans 6:16-17? What does it look like to be slaves to these masters?
7. What does true freedom look like? How do we receive this freedom?
8. How could true freedom involve being a slave?

Romans 6:19-23

9. How does Paul exhort us to live now that we are no longer slaves of sin? What is the result of doing that in contrast to the old way of living?

10. How does Paul contrast living free from righteousness (v20) against living free from sin?

Application

11. If we reject this passage and continue living under sin, what does it mean in regard to our salvation? What effect does it have on us?

12. "I'm forgiven, so why shouldn't I just keep sinning?" Use the ideas from Romans 6:15-23 to answer this question.

13. Do you normally think of the Christian life as a life of freedom, or a life full of rules and restrictions (slavery)? How ought your thinking to change as a result of this passage?

14. What has God spoken to you through His word, in this study today?

Reflection & Prayer: *The word that Paul used in this study is a particularly strong one – slave and here he says we are to offer ourselves as slaves to righteousness. Notice that this isn't a forced compulsion to do so but rather as a response to salvation. Referring back to the intro question, think and share about some of the areas that you are currently struggling to submit to God. Pray in light of what you have learnt and share something that others can be praying for you to help you be slaves of righteousness.*

Study 11: “The Root Cause” (Romans 7)

Getting Started

1. Do you find it hard to do what is pleasing to God? Why do you think this is so?

Context

In Romans 6, we saw Paul addressed the issue of sin. That we should not continue sinning even though we have been declared righteous before God. Why so? Because we have been united with Christ by baptism, in being dead to sin and now no longer enslaved to sin but set free by the grace of God so we can enjoy our true freedom in being slave to righteousness which leads to sanctification and finally, eternal life! This week, we will look more into our struggle with sin.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 7**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

3. From verse 1, who is Paul addressing as “those who know the law”?
4. How has Paul illustrated freedom from law in verse 2-3?
5. What fruits may we bear for God now that we died to the law to belong to Christ? (v4)
6. Do you think Paul is disregarding the importance of the “old way of the written code”? (v6)
7. What does it mean to covet?

Note: Though Paul is giving an autobiography (“I...”), it is also representative of human beings in general, not just so personal as to apply to him exclusively.

8. How was Paul “once alive apart from the law” but died when the commandment came? (v9-11)

9. Going back to verse 7, do you think the law is sin? What does Paul say about it?

10. Why is the law spiritual? (v14)

11. From verse 17-20, how does Paul refer to himself and sin?

12. Explain what Paul is saying about the “law” mentioned in verse 21. (v21-25)

In Inner Being = _____	
In Flesh = _____	

13. What does Paul say will deliver him from the body of death (v24)? What does that mean for us?

Application

14. Big Idea:

The Law is _____, _____ and _____. It shows us _____ and our need for _____!

15. Paul shared his struggle with sin to his readers. Has Paul written these as a form of discouragement for us Christians?

16. Do you hate sin, or do you find ways to excuse it?

17. Do you seek to bear fruit for God in the way you live, or merely seek to serve yourself?

Study 12: “No condemnation in Christ” (Romans 8:1-17)

Getting Started

1. How do these religions provide an answer to the evil done in us, men & women alike?
 - Buddhism
 - Islam
 - Hinduism
 - Other religions you know about

Context

From our previous passage (Rom 7:1-25), we have established that the law is good, holy and righteous. It shows us we cannot save ourselves from sin, and our need for a saviour in Jesus Christ.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 8:1-17**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 8:1-17

3. In Chapter 8 verse 1, Paul begins with ‘no condemnation’. Recap chapter 7, why would ‘those who are in Christ Jesus’ be led to think that they are condemned?
4. Who are the ‘you’, ‘us’, ‘we’ and ‘brothers’ in this passage?
5. We have established that the law is for a good purpose – to give life (ref Rom 7:10-12), but it could not fulfil its purpose because of sin. Why must ultimately be God that saves, and not people that save themselves from sin & death?
6. How will a Christian ever know which mind he/she has now?

7. Why would chapter 8 v13 not be interpreted as 'stop sinning and be saved'?

Bringing Things Together

8. From the study of Romans 8:1-17, comment on what sort of relationship can be expressed in church.

9. After studying the passage together, I think the main idea of **Romans 8:1-17** is:

Men are _____ from condemnation of sin by _____, to live in the Spirit as _____ of God, sharing in Jesus' _____ and glory.

Application

10. *Daniel: I was born and raised in a Christian family but when asked if I was a Christian, I was unsure of myself, as I felt I didn't trust in God. I was able to join a church and meet people that talked about their relationship with God.*

What do you think about this?

11. If you are a Christian, why does it mean so much for you to know that if you are in Christ Jesus, you are not condemned?

12. According to the bible, is there any value in setting your mind on the flesh?

Study 13: “Suffering Now, Glory Later” (Romans 8:18-30)

Getting Started

1. Whenever you face a difficult time, how do you usually respond?

Digging in

2. Read **Romans 8:18-30**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 8:18-25

3. Look through v18-25 and compare what happens now and what happens in the future.

Verses	Present	Future
v18		
v19		
v20		
v21		

4. To Paul, what makes present sufferings more bearable? (v18)
5. What does Paul mean when he says that creation was subjected to futility? (refer to Genesis 3:17) (v20-21)
6. Will creation remain in this state forever? How do you know? (v21-22)
7. According to Romans 8:15, aren't we already 'adopted as sons'? Why, then, according to v23, are we still waiting for it?

Romans 8:26-27

8. In our weakness, what do we struggle to do? (v26)

9. How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? (v26, 27)

Romans 8:28-30

10. Who are those for whom all things will work together for good? (v28)

11. If things don't seem to be working well for me, does it mean that I don't love God enough / I am not called according to his purpose? Why or why not? (v28)

12. In v29, what has God done in the past for us?
 - i. Explain what these words mean
 - a) Foreknew:

 - b) Predestined:

13. What has Christ being the firstborn among many brothers got to do with us being conformed to His image? (v29)

14. What promise holds for us according to v30?

Application

15. When things don't seem to be going well, what encourages you to keep pressing on?

16. Do you long to be conformed to the image of Christ? What stops you from longing for this?

17. How can you be encouraged by this hope today?

Study 14: “Assurance of Salvation and God's Love for His Elect” (Romans 8:31-39)

Getting Started

1. Name a person who you love. How much can they rely on you and how far are you willing to go?

Context

Previously on Romans 8: 18-30, Paul encouraged his readers to continue suffering in the present life which is not worth comparing with glory that is promised to God’s chosen people. Since we have been given the promise of final redemption, we wait for it with hope. To help us pray according to His will, God gave us His Spirit. The salvation of God’s elect is accomplished completely by Him.

Digging in

2. Read **Romans 8:31-39**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

3. What is Paul’s main concern in this passage?

Romans 8:31-32

4. Based on verse 31, Paul seems to imply that Christians can do anything or find success in anything because God is on our side. Is that true? Why or why not?

5. Is God going to give us all the things we want? How does Paul describe God’s love?

Romans 8:33-34

6. How does Christ's role in salvation assure you that if God is for us, no one can be against us?

Romans 8:35-36

7. What insight did Paul give his readers regarding the Christian life when he cited Psalm 44:22?

Romans 8:36-39

8. What does he really mean by "we are more than conquerors"?

Application

9. How does Paul's certainty assure you that your relationship with God will never break off?

10. Since we are in relationship with God, how should we live today in relation to Him?

Study 15: “God’s Sovereign Choice” (Romans 9:1-29)

Getting Started

1. What are some of the factors that lead to someone becoming a Christian or not?

Context

- In **Romans 1-8**, Paul has explained the gospel: human depravity and God’s condemnation (1:1-3:20), justification through faith in Christ’s death (3:21-4:26), the benefits of justification (5), the changed life that flows from justification (6:1-8:16) and the future of hope of God’s justified people (8:17-39). Romans 8 finished on a note of confident hope.
- Romans **chapters 9-11** introduce an argument about Israel that, for us today, seems curious, baffling, and even a little unnecessary. And yet it obviously occupied a central place in Paul’s thinking—there it is, right in the middle of the book, taking up three whole chapters. Also notice that, for Paul, this is obviously not just an academic argument, for he tells us that the topic causes ‘great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart’ (9:2).

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 9**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

3. What is the hope of God’s justified people? How can they be sure? (Romans 9:1; 28-30; 37-39)

Romans 9:1-5

4. Why does Paul insist that he is not lying? What might Israel’s rejection of the gospel have to do with it? (Hint: think about how chapter 9 is related to chapters 1-8)
5. How does Paul feel about the Israelite’s rejection of the gospel? Why?

Romans 9:6-13

6. Why might someone suggest that God's word had failed?

7. What point is Paul making by using the Old Testament examples in verses 6-13? How do they show God's word hasn't failed?

8. On what basis does God choose one person over another?

Romans 9:14-23

9. In verses 14-23, Paul addresses two objections to God's sovereign election. How does Paul answer these objections?
 - a. "It's not fair for God to choose some and not others" (v14-18) (cf. Exodus 9:16, 14:4, 33:19)

 - b. "If God doesn't choose some, then it's unfair for him to judge them" (v19-23) (cf. Isaiah 45:1-10; Exodus 14:4)

Romans 9:24-29

10. In these verses, Paul summarizes his argument. What point is Paul making about Israel and the nations in these verses? How does that address the problem of Israel's rejection? (v6)?

Application

11. What truths about God does Paul teach here, and why do we find them hard to accept?

12. Why God's sovereignty in salvation ought to be a comfort for us as God's people rather than a source of bitterness? (cf. Rom. 8:28-29, 37-39)
13. Think of the non-Christians around you in your life. Do you share Paul's sorrow for them that they have not yet accepted the gospel? Why? Why not?
14. How might God's sovereignty and mercy encourage you to pray?

Reflection & Prayer: *Pray that your heart will never be hardened to the people you love who don't know Christ. Pray that God will show them mercy. Thank God that he is sovereign and ask him to make us humble in our attitudes to others and dependent on him for getting the gospel message to all.*

Study 16: "Salvation for All" (Romans 9:30-10:21)

Getting Started

1. Share your thoughts with another on your opinion of Jews.

Context

- In Romans 1-8, Paul has explained the gospel: human depravity and God's condemnation (1:1-3:20), justification through faith in Christ's death (3:21-4:26), the benefits of justification (5), the changed life that flows from justification (6:1-8:16) and the future of hope of God's justified people (8:17-39). Romans 8 finished on a note of confident hope.
 - In Romans 9, Paul teaches us of God's sovereign choice, mercy, and judgement, and God's desire for his own glory through his Word to Israel.
2. What was God's purpose for Jews and Gentiles? (Romans 9:24)

Digging In

3. Read **Romans 9:30-10:21**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 9:30-10:4

4. According to v30-31, what is the result of the gospel on Gentiles and Jews?
5. How were Israel meant to reach that law?

Romans 10:1-13

6. How will 10:12-13 help us to understand the meaning of this passage in v5 & 6?

7. So, how is a person saved by faith, regardless of being Jew or Gentile?

Romans 10:13-17

8. Were people sent to tell Israel that they were wrong?

9. Using the flow of the passage and Paul's words, determine who are the 'they'?

Romans 10:16-21

10. According to OT scripture, what did God say about Israel (His people)?

11. According to OT scripture about God's treatment of Israel, how has it informed you about God's character?

Application

12. What truths about God does Paul teach here, and why do we find them hard to accept?

13. Read Acts 12:1-3, 13:44-52, 14:1-2, 17:5-9. From reading Romans, how does Paul feel about the Jews, his kinsmen? Can this be an example to Christians?

14. "Gentiles are to condemn Jews for their rejection of the gospel". Discuss how it is not the right application after reading this chapter.

15. What warnings can we learn from what Paul says about the Jews approach to pursuing righteousness?

16. How might God's sovereignty and mercy encourage you to pray (like Paul in 10:1)?

Reflection & Prayer: *Pray that your heart will never be hardened to the people you love who reject Christ. Pray that God will show them mercy. Thank God that he is sovereign and ask him to make us humble in our attitudes to others and dependent on him for getting the gospel message to all.*

Study 17: “The Mystery of God’s Salvation” (Romans 11)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever questioned God’s love for you? Have you ever felt forsaken by God? Share the basis for your answers to these questions.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 11**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 11:1-11

3. Refer to Romans 10:21 and 10:16; was Israel’s rejection of God universal?
4. However, did God universally rejected Israel? What are the evidence(s) to support your answer (refer only to Romans 11 context)?
5. How does God choose whom to save?
6. Why did Israel failed to obtain salvation?

Romans 11:11-24

7. What has resulted out of Israel’s unbelief?

8. What was the logic Paul was arguing in Romans 11: 17-21 regarding how the Gentiles should view their salvation?
- v 17:
- v 18:
- v 19:
- v 20–22:
9. How should the Gentiles respond to their salvation instead of being boastful about it?

Romans 11:24-32

10. Is Israel's rejection of the gospel final? Why or why not?
11. How does God save Israel? (Rom 11:26-27)
12. Why will God save them instead of banishing them despite their repeated, persistent and stubborn unbelief?
13. At the end of Romans 11:32, how is God gracious both to Gentiles and Jews?

Romans 11:33-36

14. What are the attributes Paul praises God for in this chapter (Romans 11)?

Application

15. How can you as a Gentile trust the promises of God?

16. Why would you trust God to keep His promises to you?

17. Do you feel often times you are the only Christian in where you are? (i.e., family, college etc) How does the study encourage you to continue to persevere believing in Jesus?

Reflection & Prayers: *Romans 11 encourages us Gentiles to see and know that we can trust God to keep His words just as how we see the enduring existence of the nation of Israel and how God will save them out of sin but also warns us Gentiles against arrogance and unbelief. If you have not trusted in Jesus today as Lord and Saviour, today is the day for tomorrow may never come. If you have already trusted in Jesus, Paul exhorts to continue in God's kindness in humility.*

Study 18: “Living a Life Fully Dedicated to God” (Romans 12:1-8)

Getting Started

1. Do you still remember when you first put your faith in Jesus Christ, how did you expect your life to change?

Context

In the previous chapters in Romans, we have seen how Paul argued with his readers on God’s mercies to sinful man who deserves the full wrath of God; no one is able to attain righteousness by own means. However, with His grace, we have received the amazing gift through his only Son-Jesus, who washes clean of our sin, leading to a new spirit-led life. In the remaining chapters of the letter, we look at ways to live our life in response to His saving mercy.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 12:1-8**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 12:1-2

3. Paul is appealing to his readers by the mercies of God. What are some of God’s mercies Paul mentioned in Romans 1-11 so far?

4. How does Paul expect believers to present their body as a living sacrifice?

5. Is the living sacrifice mentioned different from the sacrifice in Old Testament?

6. How can believers resist from conforming to the world? And why is this important?

Romans 12:3-5

7. What warning Paul gave regarding the gifts given by God?

8. How should we treat the other members of the body of Christ?

Romans 12:6-8

9. What are some of the gifts mentioned in Romans and other letters written by Paul? Do you see the similarities and differences?

Romans 12:6-8	1 Cor 12:7-10	1 Cor 12: 28	Ephesians 4:11

Application

10. Paul urges all believes who received the gift of grave from God to dedicate our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. How have we been doing that since the day we put our faith in Jesus?

11. How can we encourage other members of the church to dedicate their body to God too?

12. What are some the spiritual gifts you received from God? How have you been using these gifts to build up the body of Christ?

Reflection & Prayer: *In light of the unmeasurable mercies given by God to us through his Son Jesus Christ, let us dedicate our flesh, spirit, soul and mind to bring glory to God. And always remind each other to use our spiritual gifts given by God humbly, to build up other members in the body of Christ.*

Study 19: “The Life of Worship” (Romans 12:9-21)

Getting Started

1. What differences do you notice between how Christians and non-Christians behave?

Context

2. Read Romans 12:1-2. What is the motivation for the life of Christian worship?

Digging In

3. Read **Romans 12:9-21**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 12:9-13

4. “Let love be genuine” (v9). What does genuine love look like?
5. What might it look like to put these qualities in practice? Give practical examples.

“Abhor what is evil”	
“Hold Fast to what is good”	
“Love one another with brotherly affection”	
Outdo one another in showing honour	
Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in Spirit, serve the Lord	
Rejoice in hope	
Be patient in tribulation	
Be constant in prayer	
Contribute to the needs of the saints	
Seek to show hospitality	

6. If you were competing to show honour, how should you do it?

Romans 12:14-21

7. What is the Christian's goal as they relate to others?

8. How should Christians respond to evil doers? Why?

9. What should we do when we're tempted to retaliate? Why?

10. What might it look like to put these qualities in practice? Give practical examples.

"Bless those who persecute you..."	
Rejoice with those who rejoice	
Weep with those who weep	
Live in harmony with one another	
Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly	
Repay no one evil for evil	
Live peaceably with all	
Never avenge yourselves	
Overcome evil with good	

Bringing Things Together

11. If you were asked to summarise this passage into one sentence, how would it look like?

Study 20: “To Live As A Living Sacrifice” (Romans 13)

Getting Started

1. What does obedience look like in the Christian life?

Context

Previously in Romans 1-12, Paul shows his readers that his main message is the gospel of Jesus Christ which saves everyone who believes. The gospel shows God’s righteousness and our unrighteousness. So, we need to be made righteous by faith alone in Christ alone who is humanity’s new representative. As such, a person becomes part of God’s family not by works of the law or by lineage, it is by faith. Hence, Christians of different ethnicities and backgrounds can be united in Christ.

2. Read Romans 12:1-2. How do chapters 12-16 relate to Paul’s explanation of the gospel in chapters 1-8?

3. Read **Romans 13**. Identify the main sections and give them short titles.

Verses	Title

Digging In

Romans 13:1-7

4. How are Christians to respond to the governing authorities? Why?
5. Knowing that the Roman authorities persecuted Christians during his time, why would Paul still ask the Roman Christians to be subjected to them? (cf 1Pet 2:13-19)
6. What struggles do you face in being a good citizen? How can these verses guide your living?

Romans 13:8-10

7. How does love fulfil the law?

8. How should we understand love in light of the commandments?

Romans 13:11-14

9. What does it mean to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (V14)? How do we do that? (cf. Eph. 6:13-17)

10. What is the motivation behind these measures which Paul calls us to take?

Application

11. How has the study changed the way we view obedience to God? (Especially in regard to the governing authorities)

12. Who are our neighbours whom we fail to love? How can we love them?

13. How should we encourage one another to put on Christ and stop gratifying our sinful desires?

14. In what ways do you tend to conform to living like the prevailing culture of the world or according to the 'night'?
How in practice can you overcome this tendency?

15. Verses 11-14 put Christian living in the context of Christ's return. How often do you think about Christ's return? Can you point to recent decisions in your life that have been affected by the fact of Christ's return?

Study 21: “To Do or Not To Do?” (Romans 14:1-12)

Getting Started

1. What are some of the things that you have disagreed with a fellow believer about? How have you dealt with these disagreements?

Context

So far, in the first 11 chapters of Romans, we have looked at how unrighteous, hopeless, fallen and deep in sin we are, and how our righteous God has redeemed us from that and reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ who died on the cross.

Last week, in Romans 13:8-10, we saw that the commandments are summed up in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Today, we will discuss how that looks like, in the face of differences with one another.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 14:1-12**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

3. From the text, identify the two ‘kinds’ of people (v2, v5).

Verses	Group A: The ‘stronger’ one	Group B: The one who is ‘weak in faith’
V2		
V5		

4. Why are they labelled as weak? Is it possible that they still hold on to justification by works (i.e. abstaining from certain foods, observing certain days)?

5. What should their attitude to each other be?

Group A to Group B:

Group B to Group A:

6. What reasons do Paul give for these commands?

7. From what we have seen in the previous chapters of Romans, how has God 'welcomed' us and what holds for us when we stand before God on the day of Judgement? (cf. Romans 5:8-11, Romans 8:16)

8. In v5, what should each person's attitude to these 'matters of opinions' be? What does this mean?

9. If someone then claims, "I'll do whatever I want to, as long as I am ***fully convinced in my own mind***". Would you agree? Why or why not?

10. From v6, how are these two *groups* similar?

11. Based on v7-9, what is the implication of Christ's death and resurrection?

Study 22: “Not to Stumble Others” (Romans 14:13-23)

Getting Started

1. Have you ever use the right thing the wrong way? Share some of your experiences.

Context

In the first part of chapter 14, Paul exhort the stronger in faith to not argue over opinions with the weaker in faith, and the weak not pass judgement to the strong. But all should do everything in honour to our only master because everyone will be accountable Him one day.

Today we are going to continue with the second part of the chapter, reminding us while we are given the liberty on how we honour God, but we are also responsible for not stumbling others in our actions.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 14:13-23**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 14:13-15

3. Paul reaffirms that he is persuaded nothing is unclean in itself, but why does he still call the stronger in faith not to eat “unclean” food in front of those weaker in faith? Is not eating all things the right thing to demonstrate that nothing is unclean in itself?
4. How do you differentiate a weaker brother than someone who behaving like the Pharisee?
5. What are some of the things you do today that could stumble your weaker brother?
6. Is practicing our liberty be that harmful to our weaker brother? Isn't the point of us being saved by Christ is to have freedom to do all things (things that pleases Him)?

Romans 14:16-19

7. What did Paul warn those stronger in faith against? (v16)

8. What did Paul say is the heart of God's kingdom instead of eating and drinking?

9. Hence what are we called to do instead? And what is the motivation for such actions? (v18-19)

Romans 14: 20-23

10. How should the stronger brothers practice their liberty in Christ then? (v22)

11. Why is it important for those stronger brothers to do that instead of convincing the weaker brother to do the same? Anyway, it is not disobeying God's command?

Application

12. Have you been in conflict with another believer regarding an opinion related to Christian belief? Is he/she a weaker believer or acting like a Pharisee?

13. Have you recently imposed your belief on another believer because he/she has a different way of honouring God?

14. Have you noticed a fellow believer feel conflicted about what they heard from other believers and what they personally believe in? How can we encourage them?

Reflection & Prayer: *Thank God that we are given the liberty to honour God freely, and not bound to the statues listed in the Moses Law anymore. However, we should be sensitive towards the fellow believers around us with a weaker faith. As it is the priority for us to witness for Christ instead of flaunting our liberty which might end up destroying their faith and the work of God in their life.*

Study 23: “Our Hope in Christ” (Romans 15:1-13)

Getting Started

1. ‘United we stand, divided we fall’. What do you think of that statement? Does unity have a basis?

Context

Romans 14 ends on a note that what we do or don’t do should not destroy the work of God because the kingdom of God is not about eating or drinking but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:1-13 then proceeds to tell Christians that they should be united and tells them why.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 15:1-13**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 15:1-7

3. What did Paul exhort the Romans to do?
4. What are we to do instead? Why should we do it?
5. Looking at our human nature as sinners; is it possible to please our neighbours?
6. How did God makes pleasing our neighbours possible?
7. How were the Romans commanded to express unity? And why were they commanded to do so?

Romans 15:8-13

8. How did Christ welcome us?

Application

9. How do you bear with the failings of our fellow brethren in church?

10. What does it mean to please our neighbours for their good? How does that look like in our lives?

11. How can we be constantly reminding each other of the hope we have in Christ?

Reflection & Prayer: *Paul calls Christians to be united not for unity's sake but because of the example Jesus has set for the glory of God. That reason alone is a strong common bond we all share in Jesus that we stand not because of what we did but what he did. The hope that He gives is also the same hope that we all share when we believe in Jesus. Therefore, the gospel that we have should be the common reason why we can stand united for the glory of God.*

Study 24: “Living a Christ-Centered Life” (Romans 15:14-33)

Getting Started

1. What is your ambition in life?

Context

In Romans 15:1-13, we see that Christ came not to show how much better he is than other believers but came to be a servant. He came to show God’s truthfulness to all (both Jews and Gentiles), so that we can receive the blessing of salvation and have hope that the old order will be done away. Paul also reminded us that it is because of the gospel that we should all stand united in endurance and encouragement through the Scriptures, so that we may live Christ out for the glory of God!

Today, as we reach the end of the letter, we’ll see what Paul, a minister to the Gentiles, have to say in his final greetings to the church in Rome.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 15:14-33**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

3. In reading verse 14, what can we, as fellow believers, learn from the church in Rome?
4. What is Paul’s reason in writing boldly to remind them? (v15-16)
5. Is Paul selfishly giving himself credits in verse 17 (v17-19)?
6. In verse 22, why has Paul been hindered from going to visit Rome?
7. If Paul’s primary mission is to bring the gospel to the Gentiles, why has he longed for so many years to see the church in Rome? (v23-33)

Application

8. Paul's ambition and primary mission was to bring the gospel to the Gentiles - we can see how it shaped everything he did. Is this true for all of us as Christians today? What is our primary mission? (Matt. 28:19-20)

9. As a student/working adult:
 - a. What are the things in your life that you need to change so that you may live for the cause of Christ?

 - b. What is the basis for making these changes?

10. Are there people whom you have shared/ talked about the gospel with, but forgotten to catch up with for a long time? In response to this study, list out at least 5 names whom you would pray and share the gospel to this year.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

Study 25: “Centrality of the Gospel and Communal Work of Making It Known”

(Romans 16)

Getting Started

1. Are there anyone whom you are closed to and is far away from you? If you were to write them in anticipation of seeing them again, how would you write the closing section of your letter to them?

Context

Romans 15 ended on the context of Paul’s wish to visit Rome and is confident of their faith in Jesus. In Romans 16, Paul closes his letter by publicly acknowledging those who had actively partnered with Paul in his ministry and leaves them with encouragement, warning and hope.

Digging In

2. Read **Romans 16**. Identify the main sections and give them a short title.

Verses	Title

Romans 16:1- 16

3. What did Paul exhort the Romans to do in the first half of the closing verses?

4. What were some of the reasons Paul wanted to greet them personally?

Romans 16:17-20

5. What did Paul warned them to keep away from?

6. Why are they warned to stay away from them?

7. What does Paul want them to do instead?

8. What will God do on behalf of the Roman Christians?

Romans 16:17-27

9. How did Paul end his letter?

Application

10. How can you actively partner with your fellow Christians in advancing the gospel?

11. How can you encourage others to take active part in advancing the gospel?

12. How can we as university students continuously encourage each other to preach the gospel?

Reflection & Prayer: *Preaching the gospel is not a work done by a single man, but it is a culmination of a community effort who has been redeemed by God for God. Every Christian has a role to play and should share in that effort for the glory of God and the salvation of all. Preaching/reminding the gospel should always stay central because it is the expression of loving God and loving our fellow man.*