



SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

growing followers of Jesus

SERIES COMPANION TERM 2 2019



The Power of Love

R O M A N S 9 - 1 6

| | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | May 5 | Love's Choice | Romans 9:1-29 |
| 2 | May 12 | Love's Call | Romans 9:30-10:21 |
| 3 | May 19 | Love's Commitment | Romans 11 |
| 4 | May 26 | A Corporeal Love | Romans 12:1-8 |
| 5 | June 2 | A Consistent Love | Romans 12:9-21 |
| 6 | June 9 | A Civic Love | Romans 13 |
| 7 | June 16 | A Compassionate Love | Romans 14:1-15:7 |
| 8 | June 23 | A Comprehensive Love | Romans 15:7-33 |
| 9 | June 30 | A Co-operative Love | Romans 16 |

ROMANS 9-16

Welcome to your Term 2 series companion. Let me encourage you to keep it tucked inside your Bible and bring them both along with you each Sunday. As you listen to the Bible talk, keep an eye on the questions in that week's study and take notes on the pages of the study. It'll help you to listen AND have the added bonus of meaning you're much better prepared to contribute well in your DNA group during the week.

The BiG change to this term's series companion (and the reason it feels much thicker!) is that every week you've got TWO options for your study: you can either use the "Swedish Method" studies which use a set of stock questions that work for any passage of the Bible (see the sample study on pages 6-7) OR you can make use of the alternative study which has tailored questions for each passage. You may even want to use a mix of both from one week to the next—the choice is yours.

In our prayer time, we'll continue to use the ACTS acronym to pray based on the passage and also to keep prayer for our BiG 1 on the agenda, but I'd also encourage you to make use of the revamped prayer guide in your Sunday Handout.

I'm praying that the coming term studying Romans 9-16 together will help us to appreciate the expansive love of God revealed in the gospel so that we love him well and so that our love for each other will be fuelled by the awesome power of his incomparable love for us.



How to be growing followers of Jesus as you study Romans 1-8...

In community

It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

Word to life

When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to understand and to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

Life to word

The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!

SAUL OF TARSUS, A PHARISEE



PAUL APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES



OFFICIAL REP. OF JESUS



OCCASIONALLY WROTE Letters



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

THE GOSPEL...

1-4 ...REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

1-17 THE GOSPEL:

THE RISEN JESUS IS KING OF THE NATIONS



IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE PEOPLE

REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

- ① HE ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS **JUST & RIGHT.**
- ② HE IS **FAITHFUL** TO HIS PROMISES

1:18-32 ALL NATIONS ARE TRAPPED



GUILTY!

...ISRAEL IS TRAPPED TOO! 2:1-3:8



MORE GUILTY!

3:9-20 BUT...GOOD NEWS!

JESUS BECAME WHAT WE ARE... TRAPPED & GUILTY

...SO WE COULD BECOME WHAT HE IS.



JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH "TO DECLARE RIGHTEOUS"

- NEW STATUS: RIGHT WITH GOD & FORGIVEN
- NEW FAMILY: INCLUDED IN GOD'S PEOPLE
- NEW FUTURE: TRANSFORMED LIFE

"IN CHRIST"

4 WHO IS IN GOD'S COVENANT FAMILY?

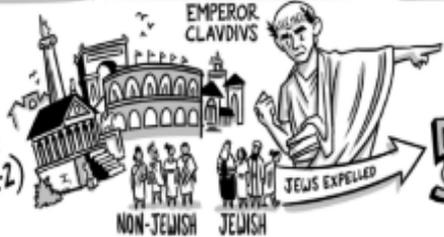
DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BY HIS FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE (GENESIS 15:6)

ALL NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU & YOUR OFFSPRING.



THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN THE ONE WHO FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE

THE CHURCH OF ROME (SEE ACTS 18:1-2)



5 YEARS LATER

5-8 ...CREATES A NEW HUMANITY

5 JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH CREATES NEW HUMANITY



6 DEATH

LEAVE THIS HUMANITY!

BAPTISM

WE ARE JOINED TO JESUS (WHAT'S TRUE OF HIM IS TRUE OF US)

LIBERATED TO LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR

7 WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE



GOOD & SHOW GOD'S WILL

- ☒ DON'T LIE
- ☒ DON'T STEAL
- ☒ LOVE OTHERS
- ☒ DON'T COVET

MORE GUILTY! THE PARADOX IS THE POINT!

8 THE SOLUTION: JESUS & THE SPIRIT



LIBERATED TO LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR

TO THE ANS

PAUL'S FULLEST EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL, THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS' LIFE, DEATH, & RESURRECTION

SPAIN!

BLASPHEMY!!!

WE ARE FREE IN CHRIST!

OH, WHAT? OH, YOU'RE BACK AGAIN...

YOU MUST EAT KOSHER!!

YOU NEED THE SABBATH!!

YOU NEED TO BE CIRCUMCISED.

GENTILE CHRISTIANS

JEWISH CHRISTIANS



SUMMARY OF CHS. 1-4

- ch 1 ALL HUMANITY IS TRAPPED IN SIN & NEEDS TO BE RESCUED
- ch 2 RESCUE WON'T HAPPEN BY TRYING TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE TORAH
- ch 3 GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS RESCUED THE WORLD THROUGH JESUS...
- ch 4 ...TO CREATE THE FAITH-BASED, MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY OF ABRAHAM

9-11 ...FULFILLS GOD'S PROMISE TO ISRAEL



10 ISRAEL IN THE PRESENT

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP BASED ON LAWS

NEW COVENANT FAMILY BASED ON FAITH



12-16 ...UNIFIES THE CHURCH

12-13 UNIFYING THROUGH LOVE & FORGIVENESS

SERVING ONE ANOTHER

HUMILITY & FORGIVENESS

IM SORRY... I'VE BEEN A JERK.

LEADING

TEACHING

PROPHESYING

GIVING

Love fulfills the TORAH

14-15 SHOW GRACE TO EACH OTHER ON NON-ESSENTIAL ISSUES

HEALING ETHNIC DIVISION

GENTILE

JEWISH

16 HONOR PHOEBE! ...SHE'S LEGIT!

SAY HI TO THE GANG!

ROMANS



SAMPLE “SWEDISH” STUDY

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you’re ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read the chapter



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?

Pay close attention to the logical flow of the passage. If it contains direct teaching (e.g. the NT letters), the most helpful tool in your kitbag is to follow the linking words (e.g. “therefore”, “so”, “but”). If your passage is more descriptive, the logic (and therefore the point) will be less explicit so you’ll need to focus on the flow of the story to work it out. You’ll also want to keep an eye out for significant themes which may be highlighted by repetition or by the use of metaphors or significant words or word families.



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he’s done?

The Bible is God’s “special revelation”. In it he reveals himself to us so that we can know him. So the Bible is like a WINDOW through which we can see the most glorious view ever beheld—a view of God himself. When we read the Bible we should be keeping the authors purpose in mind—to know him—rather than coming with our own agendas.



MIRROR

3. What did you discover in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?

The Bible also acts like a MIRROR. As we read God’s word and discover what he is like, we should also be looking to discover ourselves. A mirror allows us to see features and parts of ourselves that we wouldn’t otherwise (and perhaps would rather not!) see. The Holy Spirit uses God’s word to shape the way we think about ourselves and our circumstances. The Bible corrects our distorted views with the main purpose of helping us to relate rightly to God and our neighbour.



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?

The Bible, like all good stories, has a shape to it. It has a focus. It has a hero. God’s self-revelation is fulfilled in Jesus. So no matter what part of the Bible we’re reading we’ll only fully understand it when we grasp how it points us to Jesus and enlarges and deepens our understanding of the gospel. Some tools to help in discovering this dimension of a passage are the SALVATION HISTORY tool (asking “what role does this passage play in the grand story of the bible?”); the TYPOLOGY tool (asking “how is this person (or group or situation) a type (or anti-type) of Jesus?”); and the THEMES tool (asking “what gospel themes are central to this passage?”). This can also be a good time to think about personal application—i.e. If this is true about Jesus and his gospel, then what difference should it make to my life?



QUESTIONS

5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?

One of the key skills in Bible discovery is to be inquisitive. Asking questions will help you get the most out of any passage. Whenever you feel any mental discord reading a passage it's a sign that there's still more to discover, so dig in! Any questions that remain unanswered are worthy of group discussion. Such questions might be logical ("I just don't get how the whole passage fits together"); theological ("this doesn't seem to match with my understanding of what the Bible teaches elsewhere"); semantic (I'm not sure I really know how those words are being used); etc...



RESPONSE

6. How should you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?

This is perhaps the most important and most neglected aspect of Bible discovery. God has given us his word for a purpose—so that we can know him and be inwardly and then outwardly transformed by our relationship with him. The challenge is that we are insecure and resistant to the hard work of transformation. Because of our insecurity we're reluctant to admit to ourselves and admit to each other what needs to change. Because of our pride and laziness we'd rather deal with "general truths" that are easy to hold at arms length than let the truth come home. But the good news is we CAN change and community is the God-given context for growing followers of Jesus. You should spend more time discussing and praying through this question than any other.



SHARE

7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?

One of the big obstacles to growing as followers of Jesus is that we don't take our discoveries with us as we go about our everyday lives. And the best antidote to this problem is to be sharing our discoveries with others. Sharing with others is an awesome way of reinforcing our discoveries and driving them deeper down into our lived experience. In addition to the personal benefit, our discoveries have huge potential to deepen our relationships with our friends and to spur them on to be growing followers of Jesus too!



PRAY

Pray for one another in response to what you've discovered in God's word and what you've shared.

Prayer is an ESSENTIAL dimension of every aspect of DNA. Prayer transforms what would otherwise be introspective reflection (preparing on our own) or interpersonal dialogue (talking to each other) into something truly spiritual.

We will only "discover" the powerful truths of a passage if God opens our eyes to see. We will only "nurture" one another effectively if our discussion is shaped by the wisdom of the gospel. We will only "apply" purposefully and powerfully in response to God's word if the Holy Spirit enables true heart change.

So make sure that prayer isn't a rushed activity at the end of your time together. Pray as you prepare. Pray at the beginning, during, AND at the end of your time together. Pray for yourselves and for each other throughout the week. Anyone should feel free to initiate prayer. Everyone should be encouraged to participate in prayer.

And one final piece of advice, don't fall into the trap of "sharing prayer points". It chews up valuable time and tends to put our concerns ahead of God's concerns. If its really important it will have come up already in response to God's word. And if it hasn't you can always just pray for it off the cuff—no point in everyone hearing it twice!

1

LOVE'S CHOICE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 9:1-29



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)



1

LOVE'S CHOICE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 9:1-29

1. List all the things that Paul says belong to Israel. Why is Paul in such "great sorrow and unceasing anguish"?

2. Why does it matter whether or not God's word/promises have failed?

3. On what basis does Paul reason that God's word/promises *haven't* failed?

4. How does the fact that your salvation is entirely the result of God's election/choosing (see verse 16) affect you? Does it move you to gratitude or curiosity or questioning or some other response?



5. How would you use Romans chapter 9 to answer someone who accuses God of being unjust? If you are able, spend some time roleplaying this conversation in your time together.



6. Meditate on verses 20-21. How does this humble you and help you to exalt God?

7. Do you have questions raised by this chapter that you need to wrestle with or find out more about?

In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)



2

LOVE'S CALL

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 9:30-10:21



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

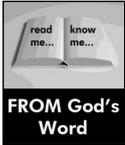


2

LOVE'S CALL

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

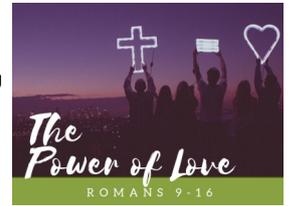


Read Romans 9:30-10:21

1. Do you know people who were not seeking righteousness (maybe even yourself!), and yet in whom God worked to bring about faith in Jesus? What does this reveal about God?
2. What is the stumbling stone? How is it related to the law and to whether or not a person is saved?
3. Are you naturally someone who needs to add knowledge to your zeal (like Israel) or zeal to your knowledge? What would help you in this?
4. Have you realised that faith in Jesus Christ means the end of any reliance on law-keeping (i.e. achieving your own righteousness) for your security? What difference does this make for you?
5. Do you feel that God's generosity & justice are at odds with each other – why or why not?



6. Do you count it a privilege to be part of the way that God saves people? If not, why not; and if so, how does this privilege motivate you to “preach” good news? Can you give examples?



7. What are some avenues for you to have “beautiful feet”, sharing good news today?

8. Do you ever find yourself making excuses for “good people” who have rejected the gospel message? How do Paul’s words about his own people, whom he clearly loves, challenge you?

In light of what you’ve discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A
doration (praise)

C
onfession

T
hanksgiving

S
upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

B1C 2019

3

LOVE'S COMMITMENT

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 11



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

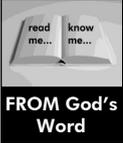


3

LOVE'S COMMITMENT

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 11

1. In Chapter 11, Paul is describing God's past, present and future plans for Israel and also the impact of these plans on the wider world. How would you describe each stage of this plan (past, present, future)?

2. One of the challenges in understanding this passage is what Paul means by terms like "full inclusion" (v12) and "all Israel will be saved" (v26). What other parts of this chapter and chapters 9-10 help to shape your understanding of God's plan for Israel?

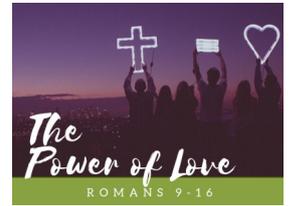
3. What do you think the pastoral issue might be in the Roman church that has prompted Paul's teaching in Romans 9-11?

4. How do these verses shape your view of yourself and also of the Jewish people?

5. What would go wrong in your life if you remembered only the kindness or the sternness of God, and not both?



6. Are there people who you think (perhaps subconsciously) are beyond God's reach – that he has given up on? Where does this attitude come from and how can you fight against it?



7. Could someone looking at your life clearly see, and so come to envy, the benefits of the gospel you enjoy?

8. Meditate on the truths of Romans 9-11. Let them lead you into praising God for his character and works.



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR



4

A CORPOREAL LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 12:1-8



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

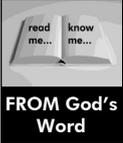


4

A CORPOREAL LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 12:1-8

1. How have the first 11 chapters of Romans revealed God's mercy?
2. What does Paul conclude is the appropriate Christian response to God's mercy?
3. What is the difference between being CONformed and being TRANSformed, and what is the goal of this transformation?
4. In 12:3-8 what is the first area in which Paul urges the Roman church to worship God from a renewed mind? How would you fill the blanks: FROM _____ TO _____?
5. How do these verses shape/change the way you think of yourself?



6. How do these verses shape/change the way you view our church?



7. How will these verses shape/change the way you use your gifts in and for our church?

8. Identify a way in which you "conform to the pattern of this world" which effects your contribution to the "one body" of the church. How could God's mercy transform your mind and help you to leave this old way behind?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

B1C 2019

5

A CONSISTENT LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 12:9-21



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

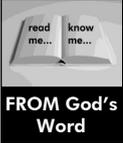


5

A CONSISTENT LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 12:9-21

1. The way Paul contrasts words like "evil" & "good" suggests that we should see most behaviour as one or the other. How does this compare to how you think of your own behaviour?

2. What does Paul put forward as the yardstick for whether our behaviour is evil or good?

3. WHO are we particularly commanded to love in this chapter?

4. HOW are we commanded to love in this chapter?

5. What is the key to being able to love these people in these ways?



6. Looking at your answers to questions 3 & 4, what do you need to repent of?



7. Is there someone in your past or present who has done you evil? What wrong responses are you tempted to or guilty of? What would it look like for you to overcome evil with good in that specific situation?

8. Think of a Christian brother or sister you know who is in need. How can you love them this week?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

B1C 2019

6

A CIVIC LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 13



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

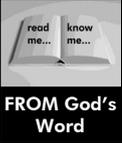


6

A CIVIC LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 13

1. Romans 13 says that the governing authorities have been established by God. Is this a truth you find easy to accept? If not, what makes it difficult for you?

2. How does/would a firm belief in God's appointment of the governing authorities help you to be a good citizen?

3. What are the main factors currently influencing your attitude towards the governing authorities and how can you work at applying Romans 12:2 in this area?

4. Are there any ways in which you are being called to courageously disobey authorities in order to obey God?



5. In what other ways does/should your heavenly citizenship and its "law of love" help you to live as a good citizen on earth?



6. Why is love a debt that can (and in fact should) never be fully paid (verse 8)?

7. What are some ways that we as a church can be a blessing to our town (put another way: if we disappeared overnight, would we be missed by the wider community?)?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)



Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 14:1-15:7**BIG IDEA**

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?

**WINDOW**

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?

**MIRROR**

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?

**GOSPEL**

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

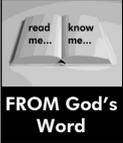


7

A COMPASSIONATE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 14:1-15:7

1. It seems the Roman church was disagreeing about whether it was OK to eat certain foods and whether certain days should be regarded as special (see 1 Corinthians 8 for a similar situation). What is it that makes these matters “disputable” rather than clear-cut?
2. How would you summarise the difference between “weak” and “strong” faith?
3. What attitude are the “weak” prone to having towards the “strong” and vice versa?
4. Which group does Paul address the majority of his instructions to? Why do you think he does this?
5. What is required in practical terms to “accept the one whose faith is weak” (verse 1)?
6. How does verse 23 help to explain verse 14 (and without verse 23, how could verse 14 be misunderstood)?
7. According to this passage, what matters more than insisting on our right to do as we please in regard to “disputable matters”?



8. What motivation does Paul point the “strong” to three times in 15:1-7? How can we continue to have this motivation and respond to it?



9. Its hard to think of direct parallels but are you aware of any “disputable matters” causing conflict in our church?

10. Can you see any area in which you may be a “weaker” Christian? If so, how do these verses challenge you and change you?

11. If you consider yourself a “stronger” believer in one of these matters, how does the gospel teach you to relate to a “weaker” brother or sister?



In light of what you’ve discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

B1C 2019

8

A COMPREHENSIVE LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 15:7-33



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

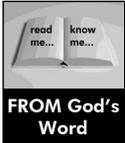


8

A COMPREHENSIVE LOVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 15:7-33

1. The gospel that brings peace at the local level, is also at work on a global scale. Why does Paul want the Roman church to know this?

2. Paul says his ambition was always "to preach the gospel where Christ was not known". Do you think this is an ambition we should share – why or why not and if so, what would/could/should it look like?

3. How does Paul intend his visit to Jerusalem to reflect and to serve the gospel?

4. In what ways does Paul invite the Roman church to partner with him in gospel mission?

5. If you have the time, read or at least skim over Acts 21-28. To what extent did Paul's plans come about and how do you see God at work as events unfold?



6. How does Paul's example encourage you and challenge you to play a part in local mission?



7. How does Paul's example encourage you and challenge you to play a part in global mission?

8. Whose gospel mission could you partner in by praying for them now and continuing to do so on a regular basis?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

B1C 2019

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.

Read Romans 16



BIG IDEA

1. How would you summarise the central message of this passage?



WINDOW

2. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about what God is like and what he's done?



MIRROR

3. What did you discover (or recover) in this passage about yourself or your circumstances?



GOSPEL

4. How does this passage relate to or contribute to your understanding of the gospel and what it means to live according to the gospel?



5. What questions has this passage raised for you that remain unanswered?



6. How will you respond to this passage in your thoughts, attitudes & behavior?



7. Who could you share all this with beyond your DNA group?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

PRAY | FOR | YOUR

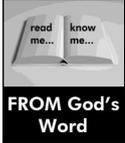


9

A CO-OPERATIVE

Preparation Questions

Use these questions to help you work through the passage and discover what God is saying and how it applies to your life. Do this on your own so that you're ready to share your thoughts when you gather with others.



Read Romans 16

1. What features do you notice about the make-up of this long list of members of the church in Rome?

2. Which description of ordinary church members in verses 1-15 particularly strikes you?

3. For someone who's never been to Rome, Paul seems to know lots of people there! How?!

4. Of the 29 people Paul mentions by name, only three are mentioned anywhere else in the Bible (Priscilla & Aquila in Acts 18:2, 18-26; 1 Corinthians 16:19 & 2 Timothy 4:19; and possibly Rufus in Mark 15:21). Why does Paul spend so much time sending greetings to "nobodies"?

5. What impression do you get from this list of how God builds his church?



6. Spend time meditating on verses 25-27 and let them move you to praise God.



7. Skim over Romans 9-16 and previous studies. How has Romans 9-16 led you to:

- love God more?

- enjoy your identity as God's child more?

- offer yourself as a "living sacrifice" in new ways?



In light of what you've discussed, pray together using the ACTS acronym:

A doration (praise)

C onfession

T hanksgiving

S upplication (asking)

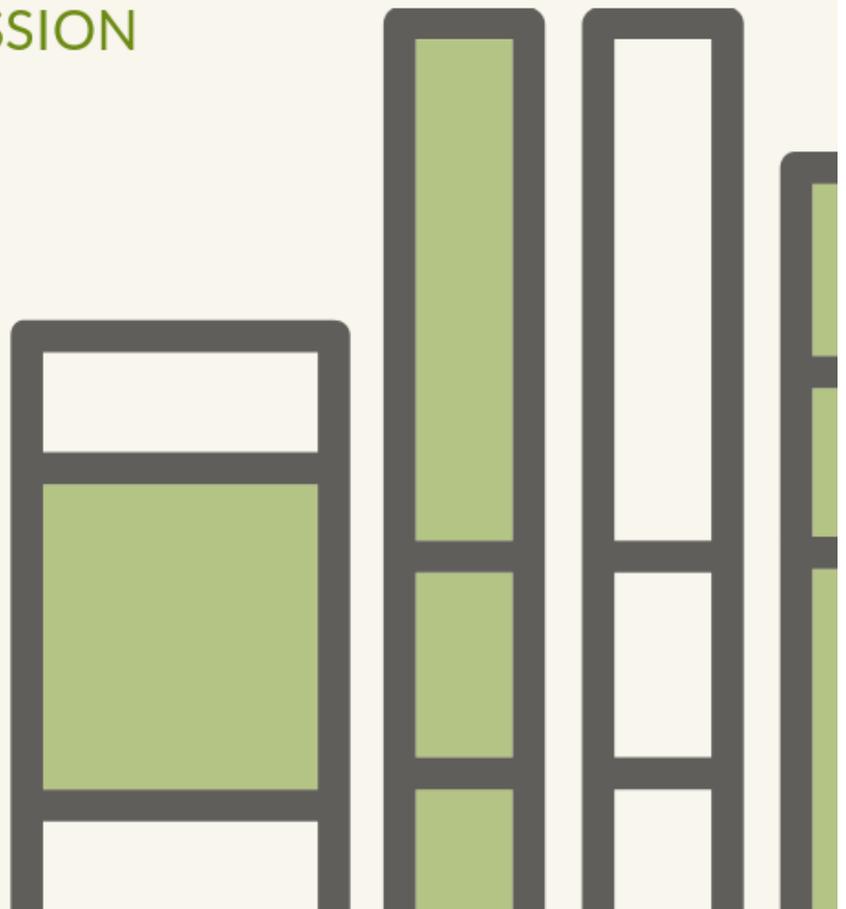


SCPC BOOK CLUB 2019

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

READING SCHEDULE

| DATE | CHAPTER |
|-----------|----------------|
| 5th May | Crucial |
| 12th May | Close |
| 19th May | Constant |
| 26th May | Candid |
| 2nd June | Careful |
| 9th June | Christ-centred |
| 13th June | DISCUSSION |





**SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

growing followers of Jesus