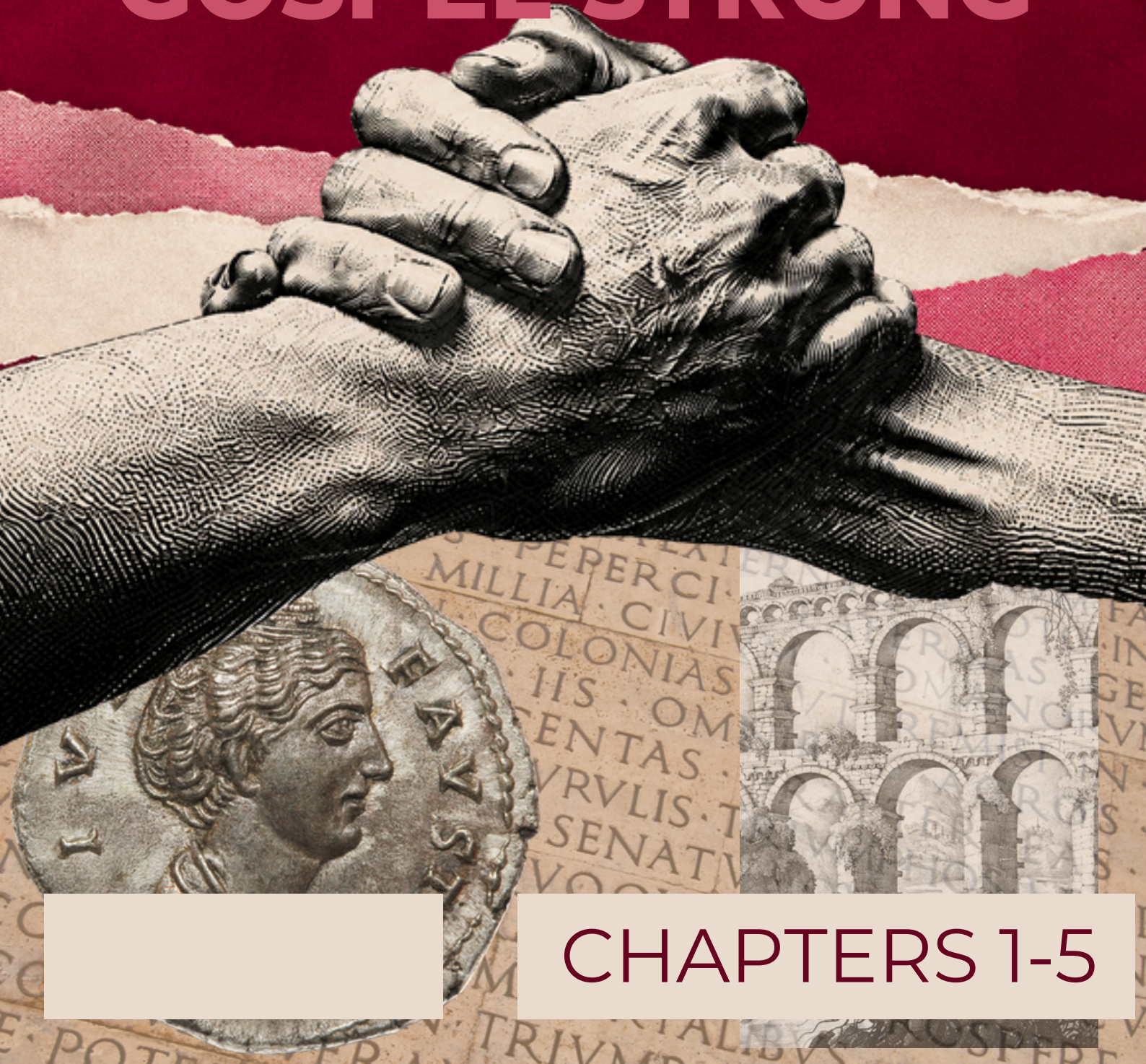


GROWTH
GROUP

ROMANS

GOSPEL STRONG



CHAPTERS 1-5



ROMANS

GOSPEL STRONG

CHAPTERS 1-5

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OUR PRAYERS FOR THIS SERIES

Study 0 Rom 1:1-17	That we'd delight in the gospel and live unashamedly for Jesus. That God would save people from every nation.
Study 1 Rom 1:18-32	That we'd rejoice that God has not left us in our sin but has given us salvation through Jesus.
Study 2 Rom 2:1-29	That we'd stop relying on ourselves and repent, and rest in the hope of the gospel.
Study 3 Rom 3:1-20	That we'd stop excusing ourselves and relying on our own goodness, be humbled by God's faithful judgment, and trust fully in the grace and salvation in Christ.
Study 4 Luke 7:36-50	That we'd not be quick to judge or confident in ourselves, but would come to Jesus with humility and repentance, trusting in his mercy and forgiveness for our sin.
Study 5 Rom 3:21-26	That we'd see the Righteousness of God revealed in Jesus Christ and give him the glory.
Study 6 Rom 3:27-4:12	That we'd be so confident and joyful in the gospel that we would boast in what Christ has done more and more.
Study 7 Rom 4:13-25	That we'd know the promise that comes to us by faith, so much so that we would be changed.
Study 8 Rom 5:1-11	That we'd rejoice, knowing the righteousness of God and what he means for our lives now and into eternity.
Study 9 Rom 5:12-21	That we'd see the depths & hopellessness of our sin, and the heights & power of Christ's righteousness on our behalf
Study 10 Rom recap	That we'd be strengthened in our knowledge of the Righteousness of God

STUDY 0

THE WONDER OF THE GOSPEL

Engage



What is something you feel strongly enough about to publicly identify with?



Growth Groups
starting the
week of 27th
July: use the
study on this
QR code

Observe

Read Romans 1:1-17

1. Read the passage, circle any repeated words, phrases or ideas.
2. What does the passage say about:
 - a. Paul _____
 - b. the gospel _____
 - c. Jesus _____
3. Draw a box around the words that describe what God does.



1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, **2** which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh **4** and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, **5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, **6** including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

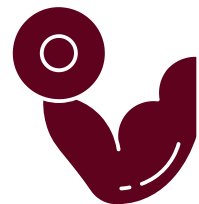
16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Dig deeper

What stands out about how Paul describes himself?

What does it mean that the gospel was 'promised beforehand' in the Scriptures?

What does that show about how we should read the Old Testament?



Summarise what Paul longs for and desires in this passage.

What reasons does Paul give in verses 16–17 for not being ashamed of the gospel?



Live it out

What kinds of fears or desires might stop us from speaking or living openly for the gospel this week?

Who in your life are you currently praying will grow in their love for Jesus?

How might you encourage them in God's Word this week?

Memorise Romans 1:16 as a group.
(Try writing it out, blocking out a few words at a time.)

Respond in prayer

- Pray that people from all nations would come to know, trust, and follow Jesus.
- Pray that we would be unashamed of the gospel and willing to go wherever God sends us so that all nations might hear of Jesus.
- Pray for the person you shared about earlier, that they would grow in their love for Jesus.



**Church on Sunday
16 August**



**4 themed meals over
4 weeks starting Tues
25 August**

“We want to see the news of Jesus producing more and more life-long disciples, who together see the gospel reach further and deeper into Canberra and beyond.”

“**Come and See**” is a great opportunity for us to invite friends, family & colleagues to join us at church. The service will be tailored to suit those who may be new or less familiar to church. There will be a gospel talk on Luke 7 and some fancier snacks or a special meal after the service.

During the service we'll advertise our 4-week series “**Taste and See**”. This will be happening on 25 August, 2 Sept, 9 Sept & 16 Sept from 6.30pm at the Crossroads Ministry Centre.

Take 5-10 mins now to pray for each event and for opportunities for you to invite others.

We'll have a short slot at the start of the next few weeks before jumping into Romans to encourage each other by checking in on how invites are going & planning and praying for our Reach events in August!



STUDY 1

THE NEED FOR THE GOSPEL



Engage

What's something you used to find unusual, but now seems normal because you've done it or seen it so often?



Growth Groups
starting the
week of 27th
July: use the
study on this
QR code

Observe

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. Circle words that show how humanity acts.
2. Draw a box around the words that describe what God does.
3. Pick the most confronting statement in this passage. Explain why you chose it.



18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

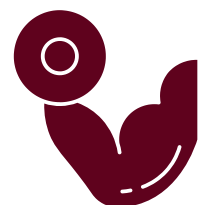
26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Dig deeper

What does creation make “plain” about God, according to this passage? Why is that important for Paul’s argument?

What does it mean that people don’t lack truth but “suppress” it? What difference does that make to how we understand sin?



Based on this passage, how would you respond to someone who says what we do with our bodies doesn't matter?

If this is humanity's condition, why is the gospel such good news? (You may want to reread Romans 1:16–17.)

Live it out

What is one lie our culture regularly tells us that this passage challenges?

In what everyday situations are you tempted to “exchange” what God says is good for something that feels more satisfying or easier?

Is there someone you trust who could help you identify blind spots where you're tempted to exchange God's truth for something else?

How does remembering the gospel help us respond when we see our own sin?



Respond in prayer

- Thank God that he has made himself known to us.
- Confess the ways we suppress the truth and exchange God's good gifts for other things.
- Thank God that he has not left us in our sin but has given us the gospel, his power to save everyone who believes.

August Outreach



**Church on Sunday
16 August**



**4 themed meals over
4 weeks starting Tues
25 August**



Remind yourselves about these events (see Study 1 for details).

Ask yourselves and share your response with your group:

- *“How deep a relationship do you need to invite someone to a dinner?”*
- *“Are we predicting the outcome of the conversation before it takes place?”*
- *“If the person has turned down an invitation in the past, can we be certain that they will do so again?”*

Write out a list of potential people to pray for individually and as a group. Pray that God could use you despite fears or negative experiences. Pray for them.

Like last year, we're aiming to invite people along to the first dinner on 25th August of **“Taste & See”** and then decide if they would like to sign up for the 3 remaining dinners.

STUDY 2

NOTHING BUT THE GOSPEL

Engage



Have you ever judged someone for doing something and then later, done the exact same thing yourself?



Observe

Read Romans 2:1-29

1. Read the passage, circle any words related to judgement, righteousness, and obedience.
2. Draw a box around everything the passage says about God's character.
3. Underline any surprises or reversals you notice in Paul's argument.



2 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³ Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

6 He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

11 For God shows no partiality.

12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

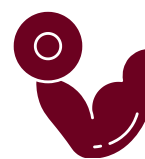
17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸ and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹ and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹ you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal?

22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. ²⁴ For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

25 For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶ So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷ Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Dig deeper

Imagine Paul is debating a religious person who is confident they are right with God. What arguments does that person seem to be relying on, and how does Paul respond?



According to verses 4–5, what is God's kindness meant to lead people toward? What is the danger of misunderstanding God's patience?

Compare verses 7 and 8. What are the two paths people pursue? What do these verses reveal about what they are ultimately seeking?

Why would verses 17–24 have been particularly confronting for Paul's Jewish readers?

According to verses 25–29, what makes someone a true member of God's people?

Live it out

Where do you tend to feel spiritually “better” or more acceptable than others? What do you base that on?

How might your words or actions create a gap between what you say about God and how you live?

When are you most tempted to rely on religious activity, knowledge, or “being a good person” to feel right with God?

If Romans 2 removes every reason for confidence in ourselves, what confidence does the gospel give us instead?



Respond in prayer

- Thank God for his kindness that leads us to repentance.
- Confess the ways we rely on our own goodness, knowledge, or religious activity instead of Christ.
- Thank God that through the gospel, our hope rests in Jesus, not ourselves.

August Outreach



**Church on Sunday
16 August**



**4 themed meals over
4 weeks starting Tues
25 August**

If needed, remind yourselves about the details of these events (see study 1).

Share your answers to the following:

- “Do you believe that someone will become a Christian after attending **“Come & See”** and/or **“Taste & See”**?”
- What makes you hold back or hesitate in asking someone?
- What might happen if we let them respond and left the answering of prayer up to God? See 1 Cor 3:6.

Share together your wins and setbacks at inviting people. Pray for your list of potential invitees.

You can check out more info/sign up for **“Taste and See”** here.



STUDY 3

THE VERDICT OF THE LAW

Engage



What's the best excuse you've ever heard (or used) for getting out of trouble?



Observe

Read Romans 3:1-20

1. Underline each piece of "evidence" Paul uses to make his case (questions, quotes, or claims).
2. Label every Old Testament reference in this passage.
Why do you think Paul brings together so many different passages?

What verdict does Paul seem to be building toward based on all this evidence?

3 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3** What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)⁶ By no means! For then how could God judge the world?

7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner?⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one.”

13 “Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

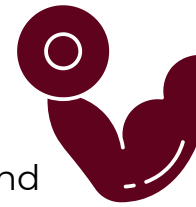
16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Dig deeper



What does this passage teach about God's ability and right to judge the world (vv.5–8)?

Does human unfaithfulness change or damage God's faithfulness? Why or why not?

What is the purpose of the law according to verses 19–20? What can it not do?

Sometimes people say, "I could never be a Christian because of what Christians have done"? How does Paul respond to that kind of thinking?

Live it out



How do people today try to argue that God is unfair or unworthy of being judge?

What are some ways we still try to use the law (rules, morality, religious activity) to justify ourselves before God?

If Romans 3:1–20 is true, what does it change how we see ourselves and others?

How does recognising your need for the gospel actually prepare you to receive it as good news?

What truth could you share with someone?

Respond in prayer

- Praise God that he is always true, faithful, and just.
- Confess that we often try to excuse ourselves or shift blame instead of owning our sin.
- Ask God to humble our hearts so we stop trusting ourselves.
- Thank God that the gospel brings grace and salvation.

REACH STUDY 4



Engage

Can you think of a situation where two people saw the same event very differently?

Observe

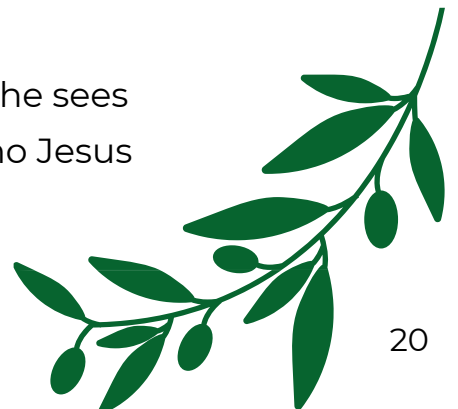
- Underline every detail that describes Simon.
- Circle every detail that describes the woman.
- Box every action or statement of Jesus.

What differences do you notice between Simon and the woman in their actions toward Jesus?

Dig deeper

What does Simon assume about Jesus and about the woman? What does this reveal about his confidence in himself?

What do the woman's actions reveal about how she sees herself before Jesus and her understanding of who Jesus is?



Why does Jesus use a story about debt to explain forgiveness? What does this show about how grace works?

What is Jesus claiming when he says, “Your sins are forgiven”? In the context of this passage, is Jesus declaring that she has already been forgiven, or forgiving her at that moment? Why?

Live it out

Where are you most tempted to judge others?

When do you find it hardest to be fully honest with Jesus about your sin?

This week, how could you speak words of forgiveness and hope from Jesus into someone’s life?

Is there anyone you find it hard to believe could be forgiven by Jesus? What does this passage challenge in that thinking?

Respond in prayer

- Thank Jesus that he does not turn away those who come to him with their sin and need.
- Confess the ways we are often more like Simon, quick to judge others while slow to see our own need for grace.
- Ask God to give us humility and repentance, like the woman, who comes to Jesus with nothing to offer but trust in his mercy.



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16 August**



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25 August**

STUDY 5

RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED



Engage

How do most people figure out what is right and wrong? What do people refer to when trying to win an argument?



Observe

Summarise what the big idea of Romans 3:1-20 was.

This week we are slowing down, we are going to break the passage down by flow charting it.



You could do this in pairs or as a whole group, but don't be afraid to give it a go individually.

- The aim is to slow down,
- take in each phrase
- and figure out how they fit together.

Write the passage out, but break it into phrases and drop down a line for each phrase.

Show how the phrase fits with the previous one (Check out the example in the appendix).

Underline the repeated words and phrases.

What questions has this exercise raised for you?

Righteousness, just and justified all come from the same root word in the original language

Flow chart of Romans 3:21-26:

Dig deeper



How is the righteousness of God revealed?

- How does Paul's use of different technical terms help us?

(Court: Justified, Marketplace: Redemption, Relational: Propitiation.)

Why is God's righteousness revealed this way?

Live it out

How do you measure yourself before God? Are there ways you subtly try to justify yourself apart from Christ or as well as Christ?

Do you come to the bible to see the righteousness of God - Christ, or do you measure the bible against your own idea of what is right and wrong?
What's the impact of this?

Do you ever doubt God is truly just, or have a friend who does? How does this passage push back against your doubts? Does it address your questions or reshape them?



Respond in prayer

- Praise God, that he is the just and the justifier.
- Confess the ways we rely on our own goodness, knowledge, or religious activity instead of Christ.
- Thank God that through the gospel our status is secured because of a gift, not ourselves.

STUDY 6

BOASTWORTHY



Engage

Australians aren't obvious boaster's, (tall poppy syndrome and all that jazz), can you think of a time when someone has boasted in less obvious ways? Was it justified?



Observe

What questions does Paul ask? How does he answer them?



Question	Answer

Flow chart the answer to the question: “What shall we say was gained by Abraham?” (v.2-6)

Dig deeper

How does Paul flip boasting around as he answers these questions?



Look at Genesis 15:6; how does ‘righteousness by faith’ fulfill this better than ‘righteousness by law’?

How does righteousness by faith help us boast in God, not ourselves?

(How might building our understanding of salvation help us boast in the one who has saved us?)



Live it out

How does this passage challenge the belief: “The God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament are different?”

What signs/seals of faith are you tempted to boast in, or place your confidence in, instead of Christ?

Respond in prayer

Write a prayer of praise (boasting) in what Christ has done for you.

STUDY 7

ALWAYS BY FAITH

Engage



Somebody promises you 'the world', what is your response?



Observe

Read verses 13-16.

What themes does this passage pick up that we've already seen in Romans?



Read verses 17-25.

How does Paul describe Abraham's faith?

- If you glance back at Genesis, is this how you would characterise Abraham's faith? (c.f. Gen 15,16,17)

How is God characterized in verse 17 and 21-22? Why has Paul included these attributes?

Why do you think Paul describes Abraham's faith the way he does in Romans? What is significant about his faith?

Dig deeper



Why is “Faith...in the presence of God” significant?

How is our faith similar/different to Abraham’s?

How would you define/describe faith in light of Romans 4?

Live it out

Trust in God’s promises totally reshaped Abraham’s life; how have God’s promises shaped and reshaped your life?



Abraham struggled in his trust of God’s promises, are there things that make you find it hard to let God reshape your life now?

- How does Romans 4 give you assurance, even when you feel like your faith is small?

Respond in prayer

- Praise God, that our salvation relies on his promise, not our faithfulness..
- Ask God to grow your faith, to trust in him with everything in your life.

STUDY 8

JUSTIFIED = PEACE & JOY

Engage



Can you think of a time or place when you have really felt peace?
Were you able to take that feeling with you?



Observe

Read Romans 5:1-5



“Since we have been justified by faith” what 3/4 things do we have or do?

What do we hope in? Why are these things hopeful?

Read Romans 5:6-8.

Over the page, draw a timeline or infographic to show what Christ’s death and resurrection/life achieve for us.

Romans 5:6-8

Romans 5:9-11

Track the contrasts Paul makes between what Jesus achieves by his death and his new life

	Jesus' death	Jesus' new life
1st contrast		
2nd contrast		

Dig deeper



What do joy and peace look like in light of this passage?

Why was this the 'right time' for Christ to die?

'More, more, more', why is Paul so excited in verses 9-11?

If you had to describe love to an alien, think about how you could use this passage.

Live it out



How does this passage challenge your own, or society/s, definitions of joy and peace?

Is there suffering or disappointment in your life which you see as punishment rather than God drawing you closer?

Jesus died for us while we were still sinners.

- a. How does this display of love fill you with confidence? (Does it?)
- b. How does this display of love reshape how you know and show love?

How do you respond to sin, suffering, criticism, doubt and death now? What would it sound like to respond with rejoicing?

Respond in prayer

- Pray that the peace of God might guard your hearts and your minds
- Praise God for his generous love towards us, spend time working through all the wonderful things Jesus' death and life achieve for us.

STUDY 9

GRACE REIGNS: LIFE

Engage



What is the most satisfying twist you've ever seen?
(Could be in reality, in a book or a movie)



Observe

Read through Romans 5:12-21. Track the comparison Paul is making.



Adam's trespass

Christ's act of righteousness

Dig deeper



How does this passage link to what has just come before?

In what ways are Adam's sin and Christ's act of righteousness similar/different?

In what way do we see here that the one act has a greater impact than the other the other? Why is this good news?

Do you think Adam is a good and fair representative for you?

Live it out



What does this passage teach us about sin?

What does this passage teach us about grace?

How do these verses cause you to confront your sin?

How do these verses cause you to love Jesus more?

Respond in prayer

- Pray in repentance for your sin, and the desire to minimise it.
- Pray in praise of Jesus, and the identity we now have in him.

STUDY 10

GOSPEL STRONG



Engage

Which of your assumptions have been challenged or reshaped as we've gone through Romans 1-5?



Observe

Create a gospel fitness program.

Looking back on all the previous weeks, what would be your mental mantra, trusting action, and/or word of truth to your team mates (or, potential team mates)



Passage	Mental mantra	Trusting action	Word of truth
1:1-17			
1:18-32			
2:1-29			
3:1-3:20			

3:21-26			
3:27-4:12			
4:13-25			
5:1-11			
5:12-21			

Dig deeper

Paul's response to all of Romans is worship (aka doxology):

Read Romans 16:25-27

What threads of Romans 1-5 do you see here?



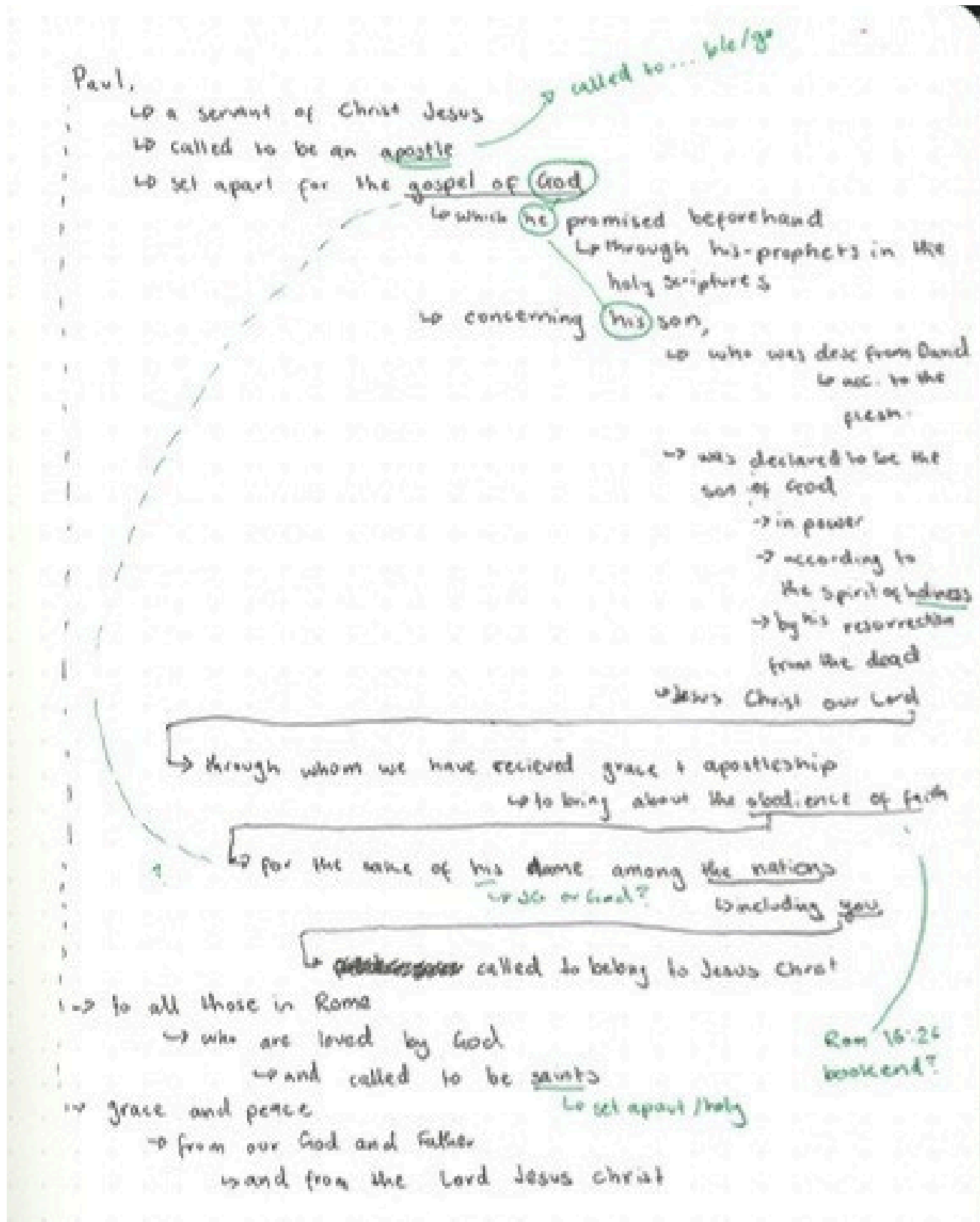
Live it out

Write your own doxology in light of all you have seen in Romans 1-5. Write it in an email and schedule it to be sent to yourself in a year's time (We'll be starting Romans 6 then!)



APPENDIX

FLOWCHART EXAMPLE - ROM 1:1-7



STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

Intro: I (Paul) want to strengthen your faith by teaching you the gospel (1:1-17)

- Paul has been set apart for the gospel 1:1-7
- Paul wants to build up the Roman believers, by preaching the gospel (God's power to save) (1:8-17)

We all need God's righteousness: humanity is under the right judgment of God (1:18-3:20)

- Gentiles are under the reign of sin:
 - Men suppress the truth about God in creation, they are without excuse (1:18-23)
 - God is judging them by giving them up to their sin (1:19-32)
- Jews are under the reign of sin (2:1-3:8)
- The whole world is under the reign of sin (3:9-20)

God has revealed his righteousness through faith in Christ (3:21-4:25)

- Righteousness by faith in Christ, apart from works (3:21-31)
- Just like for Abraham:
 - Not justified apart from works (4:1-12)
 - Justified by faith (4:13-25)

What this righteousness means for us... (5:1-8:39)

- We can be assured we have peace with God (5:1-11)
- We were dead through Adam, now alive through Christ (5:12-21)
- ...the blessings continue...in 2027!! Or beyond!

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