

Romans - Introduction

Romans: September 13, 2026

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off the topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask “How does this scripture apply to this?”.

The Gospel That Unites Us through the Ordinary People God Uses

Read: Romans 10:9-13, Romans 15:5-7, Acts 18:1-3, Romans 16:3-5, 2 Timothy 4:19

Paul wrote Romans to a church facing both theological confusion and relational tension. Jewish and Gentile believers were struggling to live in unity, and Paul wanted them to clearly understand that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone and that all believers stand equally before God by grace. The gospel was not only the means of their salvation, but also the foundation of their unity and endurance through coming persecution.

One of the most encouraging examples connected to the book of Romans is the story of Aquila and Priscilla. They were not apostles, pastors, or famous church leaders. They were ordinary tentmakers who faithfully followed Christ wherever life took them. They opened their home for ministry, discipleship, supported Paul, risked their lives for the gospel, and helped churches in both Ephesus and Rome. During a time when the Roman church faced division between Jewish and Gentile believers, they served as faithful partners in helping strengthen and unite the church.

We may never be Paul, but God can use our faithfulness just as He used Aquila and Priscilla. Their lives remind us that God's kingdom is often advanced not only through gifted leaders but through ordinary believers who make themselves available to God. By opening their home, serving others, investing in people's lives, and remaining faithful through hardship, Aquila and Priscilla left a legacy that continues to encourage the church today. The same gospel that transformed the Roman church can also use ordinary people like us, surrendered to an extraordinary God, to make an impact far beyond what we can imagine.

- What part of the sermon stood out to you, and why?
- Why do you think Paul spent so much time explaining the gospel to people who were already Christians?
- What divisions existed between Jewish and Gentile believers, and what are some modern divisions that can challenge unity in the church today?

- Romans teaches that our unity is found in Christ rather than our backgrounds or preferences. Why is that truth still important for the church today?
- What stands out to you most about the life and ministry of Aquila and Priscilla?
- Paul calls them "fellow workers in Christ Jesus." What qualities made them such valuable ministry partners?
- Why do you think God chose to use ordinary tentmakers to have such a significant impact on the early church?
- Most Christians will never have a ministry like Paul's. How does the example of Aquila and Priscilla encourage you in your own walk with Christ?
- What would it look like for you to be an Aquila or Priscilla to someone else this year?
- How can our small group become the kind of community that promotes unity, encouragement, discipleship, and spiritual growth?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing
- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing "Please pray for my friend's cancer journey", include personal prayer: "Please pray as I'm struggling with my friend's cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season".

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.

Family Discipleship Ideas