

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

ROMANS

Volume I

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

ROMANS VOLUME I: SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions Small Group Study. This three-volume, 17-week study on Romans is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. Here at Saddleback Church, we believe it's better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million

downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. There are three ways you can access this podcast study on Romans:

1. Click on the link at the start of each session of this study guide.
2. Download the Drivetime Devotions app to your phone or tablet. Go to “Devotions” and select “Romans.”
3. Go to drivetimedevotions.com/devotions/romans.

HELPFUL TIP

Depending on your device settings, you may need to select the **PLAY BUTTON**  or the **UNMUTE BUTTON**  on the Drivetime audio player when it is fully loaded.

This is the first of three volumes in a 17-week study on the book of Romans.

VOLUME 1: Romans 1–6, six-week study

VOLUME 2: Romans 7–11, six-week study

VOLUME 3: Romans 12–16, five-week study



HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out, unless you want to. Throughout the guide, you will see areas where you can type directly into the guide. There are also convenient links that direct you to external resources including Scripture passages on [BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com).

HELPFUL TIP

For best experience on Android platforms, please view this interactive study on Adobe Acrobat Reader.





A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse (or verses) from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.



WEEK ONE: Romans 1



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. If you are a new group, take time to go around the room and get to know each other. Besides your name, share where you were born and what brought you to the group.
2. What are you hoping to gain from this study of the book of Romans?



KEY VERSE

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 1:16 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you consider how greatly the book of Romans changed world history, how would you like it to change your personal history?
2. What does it mean to you to be “called” by God? How do you picture the idea of calling as fitting into your life? Verse 7

3. Paul uses the following six statements (listed below) in his letter to Christians in Rome. Tom mentions in Day 2 that these actions have the power to change others and change history. Which of these could you practice towards someone this week? Verses 8–17
- I thank God for you.
 - I serve you.
 - I pray for you.
 - I encourage you.
 - I planned to come to you.
 - I had a harvest with you.
4. Did something in Tom's teaching this week help you to better understand and accept the reality of the wrath of God? Verses 18–23



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

Share with the group someone you are praying will come to faith in Jesus. Pray for these friends together during this study of the book of Romans.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week's study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK TWO: Romans 2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. Share with each other any contact you may have had last week with the person you're praying will begin a relationship with Jesus.
2. Take turns each week having someone in your group share how they first heard the news of Jesus' love.



KEY VERSE

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Romans 2:4 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Did this study change your thinking about what it means to be judgmental? Verses 1–5
2. Are there ways that you see God graciously working to break down a judgmental spirit in you? Verses 6–10
3. How does the fair judgment of God give you encouragement in an often unfair world? Verses 11–15
4. How did you see the kindness of God working in your life to lead you personally to repentance? Verse 4



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Fellowship

Is there someone that you've had a judgmental spirit towards? Make it right with God this week. And if you know this person has been affected by your judgmental spirit, go and make it right with them. Matthew 5:23-24



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week's study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK THREE: Romans 3



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. Did you have any experiences with feeling a little less judgmental towards yourself or others this last week?
2. Take turns each week and have someone in your group share how they first heard the news of Jesus' love.



KEY VERSE

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-24 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of silly questions and statements do we use to excuse ourselves? Verses 3-4
2. In what ways was the meaning of the word "righteousness" filled out for you in the study this week? Verses 21-24
3. Share with the group the thoughts and emotions you experience when you think about the cross of Christ. Verses 21-31
4. Discuss which of the following three words helps you to most clearly picture what Jesus has done for you: redemption, propitiation, justification. Why do you think that picture most personally impacts you? Verses 21-26

WEEK THREE



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship

Look up and listen to or sing songs about your salvation and about the cross of Christ this week (e.g., The Wonderful Cross, The Old Rugged Cross, At the Cross, etc.). If you have time to prepare in advance, you might share and play for each other your favorite songs about the cross in your group time together.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week's study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK FOUR: Romans 4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening.



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Take turns each week and have someone in your group share how they first heard the news of Jesus' love.



KEY VERSE

What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:3



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Are there any "favorite" ways you have found yourself trying to earn God's approval? Verses 1-5
2. In what ways does forgiveness bring a sense of freedom into your life? Verses 6-8
3. Is there a situation you are facing where you need to be "fully persuaded that God has the power to do what he's promised"? Verses 18-21
4. God has "credited your faith as righteousness." What does that mean to you? Verses 22-25



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Discipleship

Begin a stack of promise cards this week. Write down some favorite promises from God on 3 × 5 cards that you put beside your bed or at your desk so you can read through them a few times each day. Here are some verses to begin with: John 14:27, Philippians 4:13.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week's study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK FIVE: Romans 5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. How did you see “God’s power to do what he has promised” in your life this last week?
Romans 4:21
2. Take turns each week and have someone in your group share how they first heard the news of Jesus’ love.



KEY VERSES

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you to have peace with God? Verses 1-2
2. How have you seen problems used by God in your life to strengthen your character? Can you point to specific character qualities he has strengthened? Verses 3-5

WEEK FIVE

3. We use escape, denial, and blame to try to get away from our need to persevere. Do you find yourself falling into one of these three more often than the others? Verses 3–5
4. What do you find in reading these verses that deepens your confidence in God's love for you? Verses 6–11
5. How is the gift of Jesus greater than the trespass of Adam? What does that say to you about God's forgiveness in your own life? Verses 15–17



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

Who do you know who needs to hear the good news that God loves them? Who do you know that needs to have peace with God? Continue to pray together for those you began praying for at the beginning of the study, asking for continued opportunities to talk to them about this good news during this study of Romans.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week's study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.



WEEK SIX: Romans 6



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

1. How did you experience the peace of God this last week?
2. Take turns each week and have someone in your group share how they first heard the news of Jesus' love.



KEY VERSE

Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to you when you read in the Bible that Christians are “dead to sin”? Verse 2
2. Tell the group about your baptism and what it meant to you. Verses 3–5

If someone in your group has not yet been baptized, offer to support them as a group by going to their baptism together.

3. What helps you to “count yourselves dead to sin”? Verses 6–11
4. How can you encourage one another to offer yourselves to love and serve God? Verses 12–14

WEEK SIX

5. In what ways do you see becoming a slave of righteousness actually setting you free?
Verses 15-23



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Be intentional this week when you are serving God or serving others, and think of serving as an offering to God. Begin your service by praying, "Lord, this is my offering."



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through this week's study and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

NEXT STEPS

ROMANS VOLUME II SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download this six-week study to continue your study of Romans 7–12.



DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: EPHESIANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download this six-week study through the book of Ephesians. This study will help you discover the life you were meant to live and how to make the most of what you've been given.



DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: PHILIPPIANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

Download this four-week study through the book of Philippians. This study will help you learn the eight places where joy is won or lost.



