

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

ROMANS

Volume III

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

ROMANS VOLUME III: SMALL GROUP STUDY

Copyright © 2020 Tom Holladay and Saddleback Church

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, without the written permission of Saddleback Church.

CSR8178



SADDLEBACK CHURCH

Published by Saddleback Church
1 Saddleback Parkway
Lake Forest, CA 92630
www.saddleback.com

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011, by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations noted NIV84 are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Designer: Doug Newbry
Page Layout Artists: Betty Hopkins and Carrie Segrist
Copyeditor: Erica Kang

CONTENTS

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES	4
HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE GUIDE	6
A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN	7
WEEK THIRTEEN	10
WEEK FOURTEEN	14
WEEK FIFTEEN	17
WEEK SIXTEEN	20
WEEK SEVENTEEN	23
NEXT STEPS	26



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 third 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 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 THIRTEEN: Romans 12



LISTEN

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



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Discuss the meaning of the statement:
“Worship is more than singing in church.”



KEY VERSE

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What difference could it make in your life this next week to live in view of God’s mercy?
Verse 1
2. What people or truths or actions do you find God often using in the renewing of your mind?
Verse 2
3. How have you recently seen God using other people’s gifts to encourage and strengthen you? Verses 4–8
4. Read Romans 12:9–14 and discuss how you as a group could help one another in doing these things?
5. The challenges in these verses can seem impossible for us to keep. What do you do to stay spiritually encouraged when you struggle with faith and growth? Verses 15–21



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Take some time to go around your group and encourage each other by celebrating each other's gifts. Based on this description of our gifts and actions in Romans 12, affirm one person at a time in your group and talk about what gifts and abilities you see in them. (If you don't have the time to get through the entire group, divide the group in half and finish during your next meeting.)



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another. Pray for those whose gifts you've just affirmed, asking God to use those gifts for his glory.



TELL A FRIEND

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

WEEK THIRTEEN



WEEK FOURTEEN: Romans 13



LISTEN

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



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Were there any ways that God gave you the opportunity to experience what it means to be “a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to him” this last week?



KEY VERSES

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.

Romans 13:1 (NIV84)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to submit to governing authorities even in a democracy? Are there some changes in attitude or action these verses challenge you to make? Verses 1–5
2. What should we do as believers when government leaders—or any leaders—don’t live up to our expectations? Verses 1–5
3. Do you owe someone something you aren’t giving them? Verses 7–8

4. When you read about the “debt to love” who do you feel you need to make a payment to today? Verse 8



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Continue going around your group and encourage each other by celebrating each other's gifts. Based on this description of our gifts and actions in Romans 12, affirm one person at a time in your group and talk about what gifts and abilities you see in them.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to talk about your specific prayer requests and to pray for one another. Pray for those whose gifts you've just affirmed, asking God to use those gifts for his glory.



TELL A FRIEND

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



WEEK FIFTEEN: Romans 14



LISTEN

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



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

How did you see God using the gifts of others to minister to you this week? How did you see God use your gifts to minister to others?



KEY VERSE

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Romans 14:1 (NIV84)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think we so easily fall into the trap of passing judgment on one another as believers? Verses 1-2
2. What are some of the non-essentials that we sometimes use as tests of purity today? Verses 2-10
3. How could we be more aware of the stumbling blocks we might be putting in another person's path? Verse 13
4. Is there something that you are doing "not from faith" that you would like to start doing with faith? How could your group help you? Verses 14-23



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Fellowship

Determine this week to act in ways that help—not hinder—the faith of other believers. For example, it could mean asking for someone's forgiveness, letting go of an argument, or forsaking a habit for the benefit of someone else's faith.



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 SIXTEEN: Romans 15



LISTEN

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



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

Is there some place you've always wanted to visit? Or for you world travelers, what is one of the favorite places you've ever been?



KEY VERSE

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:7



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Who do you need to accept because Christ has accepted you? Verses 1-7
2. Is there some way that the encouragement of the scriptures has recently given you hope? Verses 4-5
3. Is there a specific circumstance or relationship in your life right now where you need the God of hope to give you hope? Verses 8-13
4. Where is it your ambition to preach the gospel? Verses 16-21



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Take some time to pray for one another's ministries to church and family as Paul directed in verses 30–33. Ask Jesus to rescue you from obstacles and to make your ministry acceptable as you serve.



PRAYING TOGETHER

You've already done this above!



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 SEVENTEEN: Romans 16



LISTEN

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



CATCHING UP & LOOKING AHEAD

As you look back on this study of Romans, what have been some of the truths that have been:

- New for you?
- Encouraging for you?
- Challenging for you?
- Life-changing for you?



KEY VERSE

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Romans 16:20



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Tell the group someone you need to commend for their faith. Who have been the greatest spiritual influences in your life? Who have been the greatest partners in ministry in your life? Who has worked very hard for your growth in Christ? Who has been a spiritual mother or father to you? Verses 1-16
2. How does the truth that God will soon “crush Satan” give you peace? Verses 17-20

WEEK SEVENTEEN



LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry

Take some time to meet with or write to one of those you consider a source of spiritual strength during this study and thank them for their ministry.



PRAYING TOGETHER

As you close this study together, take some time to thank God in prayer for the book of Romans and the truths that have impacted your life



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

DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: EPHESIANS SMALL GROUP STUDY

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



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.



COMING SOON

DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS: JOHN SMALL GROUP STUDY

