

...eyes of a person born blind...
...had not come from God, he
...nothing."
the Pharisees replied, "When
born, you were already deep
...dare you talk like that to
...they threw him out of the
...le."

Who Can't See the Truth

...he heard that the Pharisees had
...the man out of the synagogue.
...Jesus found him, he said, "Do you
...in the Son of Man?"
...who is he, sir?" the man asked.
...so I can believe in him."
...Jesus said, "You have now seen him.
...he is the one speaking with you."
...then the man said, "Lord, I believe."
...he worshiped him.
...Jesus said, "I have come into this
...to judge it. I have come so that peo
...no are blind will see. I have co

12 The hired man
and does not own the sheep. So
the hired man sees the wolf coming,
leaves the sheep and runs away. Th
the wolf attacks the flock and scatte
it. 13 The man runs away because he
a hired man. He does not care about
sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd. I know
sheep, and my sheep know me. 15 T
know me just as the Father knows
and I know the Father. And I give my
for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep
do not belong to this sheep pen. I
bring them in too. They also will l
to my voice. Then there will be one
and one shepherd. 17 The reason n
ther loves me is that I give up my lif
I take it back for my life. No one
can take it from me. I give my life
for the sheep. 18 No one has
taken the Father's life from me. I ha
And I have
the Father's life in myself. I ha
not gotten into the world by my
my Father."

I AM

...will show myself to them.
...udas spoke, "Lord," he said
...u plan to show yourself only
...not also to the world?" The
...spoke the
...riot.
...s replied, "Anyone who loves
...bey my teaching. My Father
...them. I will come to them
...e our hearts with my Spirit. My
...does not believe in me. He
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...I have spoken all these things while
...ll with you. 26 But the Father will
...e Friend in my name to help you
...riend is the Holy Spirit. He wil
...ou all things. He will remind yo
...ything I have said to you. 27 I leav
...ace with you. I give my peace t
...do not give it to you as the wor
...Do not let your hearts be trouble
...do not be afraid.
...You heard me say, 'I am goi
...v. And I am coming back to you
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...v. And I am coming back to you
...you would be glad I

Spirit later. Up to that time, the Spir
not been given. This was because
had not yet received glory.
...The temple guards heard
...ards. So
...the F
...we've been expecting."
41 Others said, "He is the Messia
...Still others asked, "How can the
...siah come from Galilee? 42 Doesn't
...ture say that the Messiah will com
...the family line of David? Doesn't
...that he will come from Bethlehe
...town where David lived?" 43 So th
...ple did not agree about who Jesu
...44 Some wanted to arrest him. But
...laid a hand on him.

The Jewish Leaders Do Not Believe

45 Finally the temple guards wen
to the chief priests and the Phar
...led the guards, "Why did

INTRO

As we open up the book of Romans together, our prayer is that you would read it as if Paul was writing to you. Paul has experienced radical life change, and writes a warm and personal greeting as a fellow believer who is eager for all to experience the same life changing power of the Gospel. Through the book of Romans, Paul equips the believers with basic theological truths for the journey of life.

First, spend time on your own reading through the assigned chapters of Romans.

- Ask the Lord to reveal Truth to you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to things you haven't understood before.

Second, come to Life Group pumped and ready to share what God revealed. Gathering with your group is a time where you can come to share, not only to receive.

- Share what you learned.
- Share how you received encouragement.
- Share what was challenging.
- Share how something you learned shifted how you lived that week.

Paul says in Romans 1:12 [NLT] "When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours."

Our prayer for this time together in Life Group is that all would be mutually encouraged as each individual brings encouragements, convictions, and questions to share from their time spent with Jesus throughout the week.

WEEK FIVE

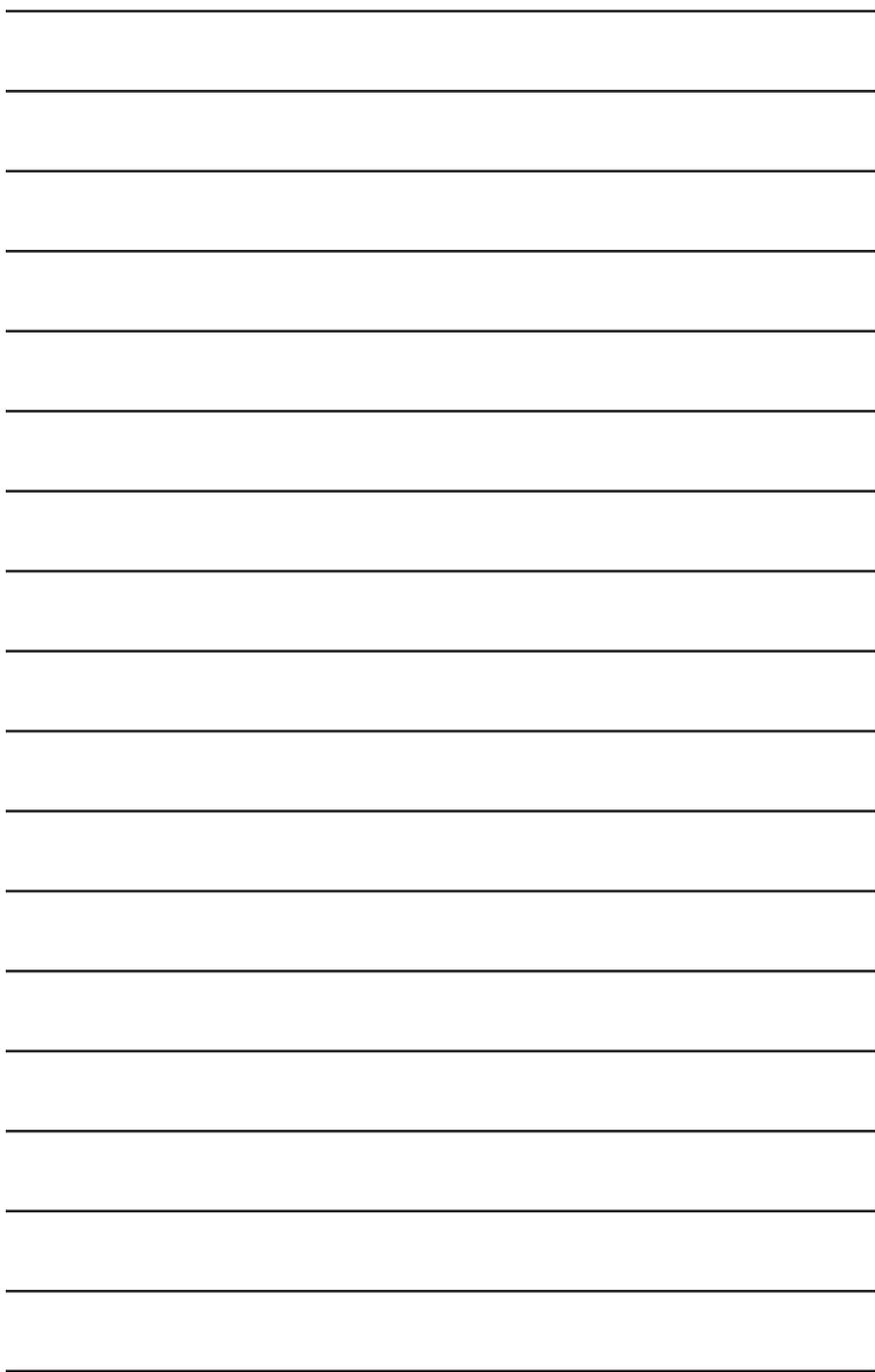
On Your Own ::

Read Romans 6:1-7:25.

- What does baptism symbolize? Why is it important? [6:3-4]
- What truth is most evident to you in Romans 6:7? How are you set free by this truth?
- What does it mean to be holy? How do you become holy? [6:19] Have you ever had a time where you have felt broken over your sin?
- Why do we fail to do the right thing? [7:18]
- How do you receive the Holy Spirit?
- How are you experiencing His power?

Discuss with Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- How can Christians be dead to sin, but still have a daily struggle with sin? Talk about how you notice that in your life. What [6:6]
- Romans 6:12 says “do not let sin control the way you live.” How do you live out that directive?
- Jesus delivers us from death. This incredible truth inspires worship from those who have experienced His salvation. Give praise to Jesus and share with your group how this truth inspires you.
- How can you daily remind yourself victory over sin?



WEEK SIX

On Your Own ::

Read Romans 8.

- What is the role of the Holy Spirit? [John 15:26]
- How do you follow the Holy Spirit?
- What evidence reveals the Holy Spirit is living in someone [8:1-11]?
- Paul explains that Christians are children of God rather than slaves. How does this shift the way that you approach and respond to God?
- How do you share in God's glory? How you share in God's suffering?
- How are you experiencing God's love? Can you be separated from God's love?
- What does "good" mean in Romans 8:28-29?
- When facing difficult situations or hardships how can you encourage or pray with this scripture? [Hebrews 5:7-8]

Discuss with Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance / teaching / help this week?
- How have you been reminded this week that you are a Child of God? How does that truth influence your daily living? [8:16-17]
- If the Spirit pleads for believers in harmony with God's will when we don't know what to say [8:26-27], our dependence upon Him must be

a part of every action, decision, conversation... etc. Do you notice that dependence in your life? Is there a difference in your dependency on the Holy Spirit between times of suffering and times of contentment?

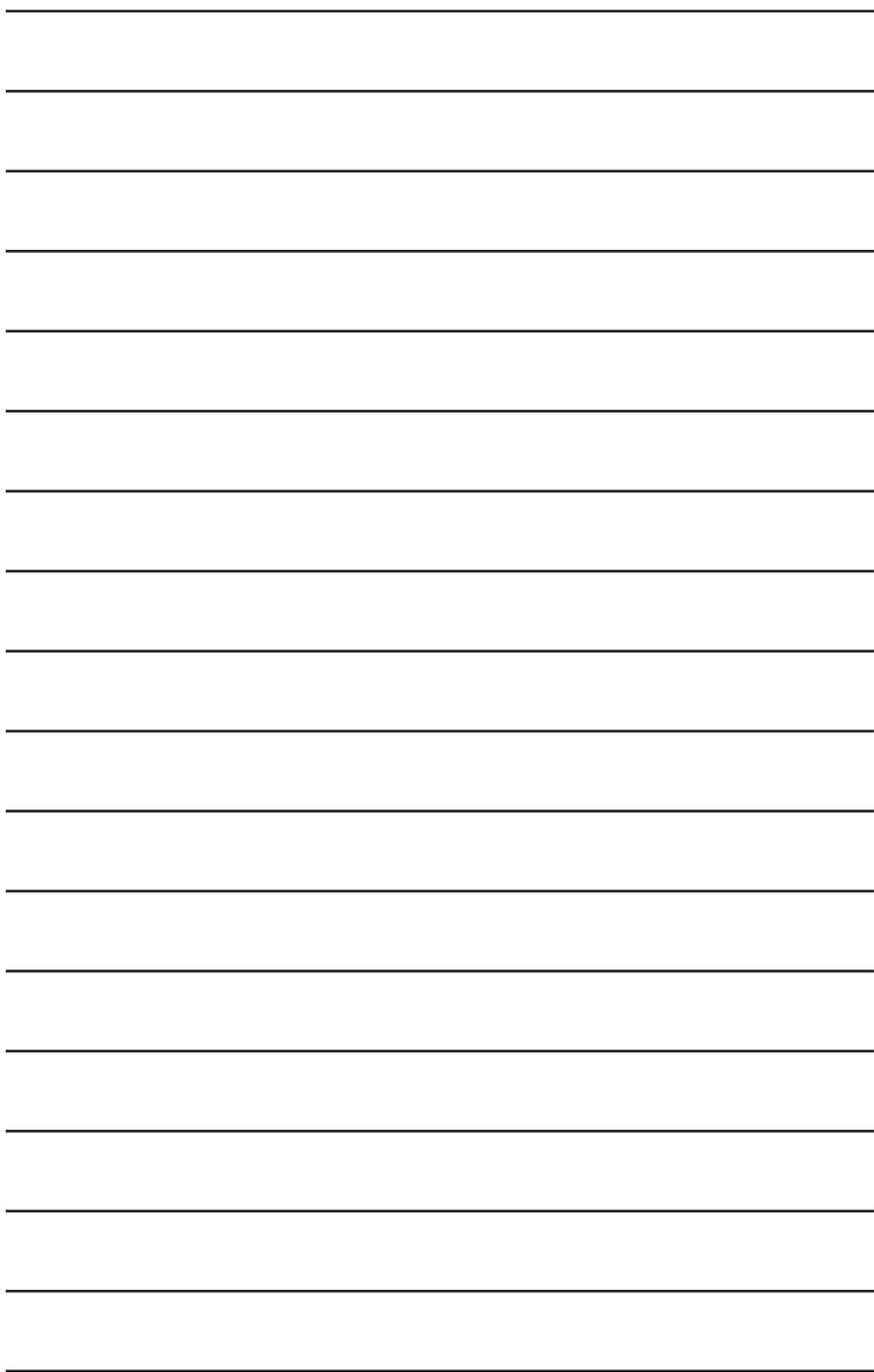
- How does the promise in Romans 8:28 compel you to live differently?

Pray With Your Life Group ::

Read Romans 8:35-37.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep. 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. despite trouble, calamity, persecution, hunger, danger, threats and more - we have overwhelming victory through Christ who loves us. [NLT]

As a life group, break off in groups of two-three and declare in prayer this truth over one another.



WEEK SEVEN

On Your Own ::

Read Romans 9:1-10:21.

- Who confirms truth?
- How does Paul's heart for the lost mirror that of God's? [9:2-3]
- What is the difference between 'children of the flesh' and 'children of the promise'? What does this mean for you?
- Can you believe with your heart and not confess with your mouth?
- What is required for salvation [10:9-13]?
- Why must you share and live out the gospel? [10:14-16]
- What motivates right living?

Discuss with Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- How does the statement "Grace is not opposed to effort, but it is opposed to earning" influence the way you understand grace?
- The relationship between the clay and the potter reveals an important truth about our relationship with God. Just as the clay must yield to the potter, we must yield to God to discover His useful intention for our life. How has God molded you? How is He molding you?
- Where in your life are you trying to get right with God by following rules instead of by trusting Him

with the free gift of salvation through Jesus?
[9:30-32]

- How does the call to be “messengers” [10:15] influence your day to day living?
- How does Romans 10:21 show you God’s heart towards stubborn, disobedient people? How is this meaningful to you?

Pray With Your Life Group ::

Read Romans 9:26.

“In the place where they were told, ‘You are nobody,’ this will be the very place where they will be renamed ‘Children of the living God.’ [TPT]

How does this truth influence your living? The way you see yourself? The way you see God the Father? The way you see those around you? As a life group, break off in groups of two-three and declare in prayer this truth over one another.

WEEK EIGHT

On Your Own ::

Read Romans 11.

- How is God both kind and severe?
- What is grace?
- What is mercy?

Discuss with Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- God's grace is free and undeserved. [11:6] How does that truth influence your day to day living?
- How have you experienced mercy? How does receiving mercy influence you? How does your experience with mercy influence the way you give it away / show it to others?
- How has this study of Romans driven you to respond as Paul did in Romans 11:33-36?
- How does Romans 11:36 influence you? Your circumstances? Your relationships? Your job?
- How has the Gospel driven your actions this week?

Pray With Your Life Group ::

Read Romans 11:36.

“For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. [NLT]

WEEK NINE

On Your Own ::

Read Romans 12.

- How do you truly worship God?
- Can you live half-heartedly to God? What keeps you from living wholeheartedly to God?
- At the moment of your decision to follow Christ will you immediately understand God's will and have a perfect grasp on every detail?
- Do I blend in with the world or am I set apart?
- How do the members of the body of Christ work together?
- What are Christians to look like in this culture we live in? Does my life look like this scripture?

Discuss with Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- The commands in Romans 12:9-21 are only possible if you allow God to transform the way you think. How has that / can that become a rhythm in your life?
- What other passages in Scripture give instruction about our minds and what we think about?
- Have you ever struggled to answer the question "What is God's will for my life?" How does Romans 12:1-2 answer this question?
- What is a living sacrifice? What is an old testament example of a living sacrifice? What is a new testament example of a living sacrifice?

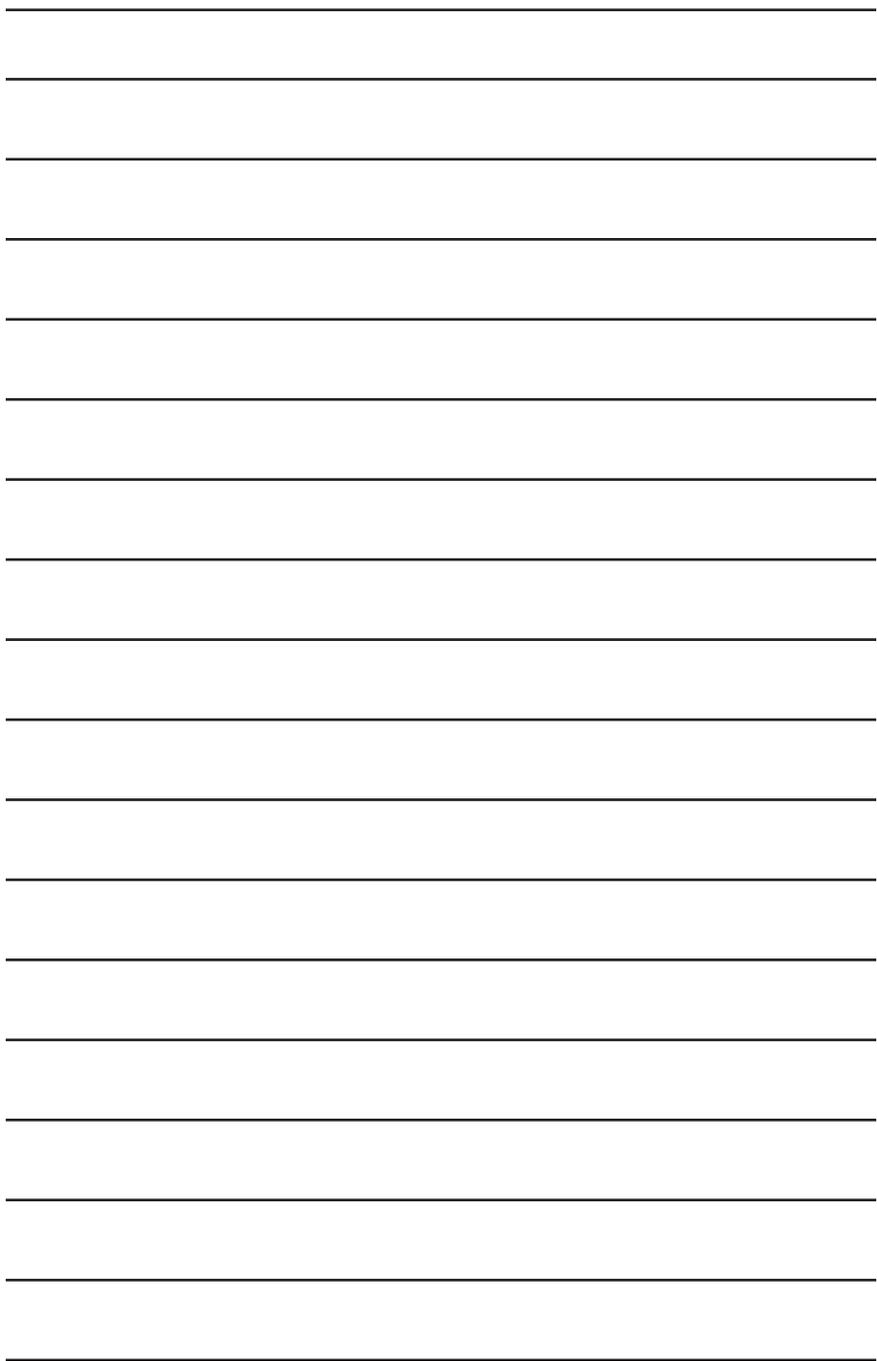
- How has the Gospel driven your actions this week?

Pray With Your Life Group ::

Read Romans 12:21.

“Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.” [NLT]

As a life group, break off in groups of two-three and pray this directive over one another. Ask God for strength to close your mouth when you have no life-giving words to give. Ask God for courage to walk away from an unhealthy situation. Ask God for medicine to give away to heal. Ask God for supernatural vision to see the evil schemes. Ask God for wisdom and discernment for how to conquer evil with good.



WEEK TEN

On Your Own ::

Read Romans 13:1-15:13.

- What does submission mean?
- Who are your neighbors?
- Why did Christ come?
- How do you overflow with confident hope?
- What does this scripture say is to be our response to those in authority over you whom you do not agree with?
- What dark deeds do you need to “remove like dirty clothes” [13:12]?
- How can you “clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus” [13:14]?
- According to Romans 14, How are we to act if we disagree on a non-essential matter? What common ground do we have?
- Why is peacemaking so important?

With Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- How does the truth that God has placed the people of authority in your life [13:1] influence the way you treat them?
- Jesus explains that the commandments are built on this premise - love God and love people. Paul echo's Jesus by saying “the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” How does this influence your relationship with others?

- Romans 14:17 says “For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” How does this influence the way you live?
- What does it mean to be of “one mind”? What does it not mean?
- How can you champion those around you to honor the Lord with their lives?

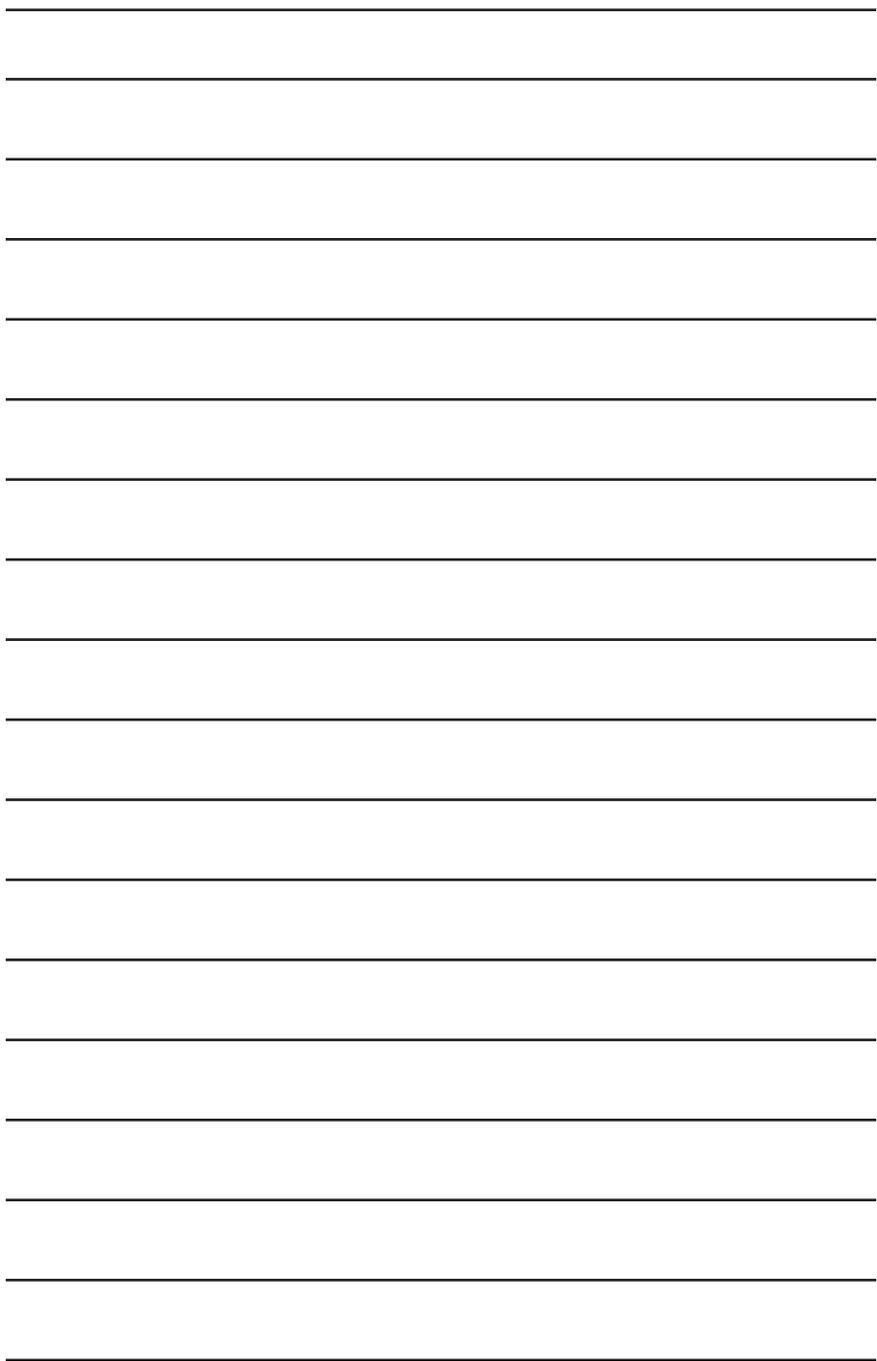
Pray With Your Life Group ::

Read Romans 15:13.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. [NIV]

This verse shows us that we overflow with hope as we trust in Him. Is there anywhere in your life where you are not feeling hopeful? We cannot overflow on our own effort or strength - we can only overflow after we have received from God.

Ask God to reveal to you any distrust. Then, walk into surrender and say “I trust you with_____.” Break off into groups of two-three and pray for each other.



WEEK ELEVEN

On Your Own ::

Read Romans 15:14-16:27.

- What was Paul's mission?
- Do I need to interact or be in community with those I may disagree with about certain technicalities? [15:7]
- What do I do with people who are constantly causing division or causing others to stumble in faith? [16:17-18]
- What are we to do when faced with temptation? [16:19]
- What is the mystery that Paul refers to? [16:25]
- How is the mystery now revealed? [16:26]
- According to Romans 16:27 where does obedience come from? How does this convict or encourage you?
- What is the objective of the Gospel?

With Your Life Group ::

- How were you encouraged in this chapter of Romans?
- How were you challenged in this chapter of Romans?
- What was Paul convinced the church could do for one another in Romans 15:14? How have you participated in that this week?
- Paul was encouraging / praising the people who had been on the journey with him. Who can you encourage? What does this do for the Church?
- How has the Gospel driven your actions this week?

Pray With Your Life Group ::

Read Romans 16:17-20.

One final word of counsel, friends. Keep a sharp eye out for those who take bits and pieces of the teaching that you learned and then use them to make trouble. Give these people a wide berth. They have no intention of living for our Master Christ. They're only in this for what they can get out of it, and aren't above using pious sweet talk to dupe unsuspecting innocents. And so while there has never been any question about your honesty in these matters—I couldn't be more proud of you!—I want you also to be smart, making sure every "good" thing is the *real* thing. Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus! [MSG]

- Ask God for sharp eyes to see the spiritual battle around you.
- Ask God for discernment to know His truth from anything else.
- Thank God for sending people around you who speak and remind you of the Truth.
- Ask God to reveal places in your life where you aren't living a life for the Master. Surrender those places in faith that He has your best in mind. [Romans 8:28]
- Ask God to reveal any *good* things in your life that aren't the *real* things. Ask for courage to get rid of the *good* for the *real*.
- Give praise to God that He is victorious - and because of His victory, you have victory.
- Declare the truth that we as followers of Jesus were meant to ENJOY HIM! If you are, thank Him, if you're not, ask Him to reveal what a life of enjoying Him looks like.

