FALL 2026 // WEEK 9

Life Group Questions

Romans – The Gospel is_____ // November 7/8, 2026

For Everyone // Romans 16:1-27

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you (or someone you know) regularly watches (or rewatches) the sermon online, we wanted to let you know that next weekend (Nov. 14/15), the worship services will not be broadcast online because of security concerns. Our pastors from the work in Southeast Asia will be sharing during the message and putting that on the internet would put them, their families and the work of Christ in that region at risk. In addition, there will not be a transcript, audio or video file uploaded to the website at a later time because of the same security concerns. If someone would like a transcript of the services, you can request one by emailing the church at hello@lincolnberean.org. We also encourage you to make every effort to attend the services in person.

Introduction

In this final closing chapter, Paul lists people he wants to commend and greet. The list is diverse -- women and men, Gentiles and Jews, poor and rich -- which underscores Paul's commitment to unity and love among God's people.

Study Questions *(to complete on your own)*

Not only has our series in Romans been deeply theological, but it has also been intentionally practical. Paul has taken us to the core of gospel belief as we've learned to be followers of Jesus who exemplify love and sacrifice for others.

1) Set aside an hour or so to read the book of Romans from start to finish, meditating on what God has taught you.

2) Pray that God would firmly establish these truths in your heart so you can walk in a manner worthy of the gospel.

Discussion Questions *(with your group)*

1) Paul has emphasized the importance of unity among God's people throughout Romans, and he closes with a diverse list of people – rich/poor, men/women, slaves/free, Jews/Gentiles -- whom he calls "fellow workers". What does this example show us about the gospel's impact?

2) Read verses 3–16, paying close attention to the words Paul uses to describe the people he's greeting and the way he feels about them. What can we learn about the qualities of faithful disciples?

If you could write a note of commendation to people in your faith community (Life Group, ministry leaders, those you serve with at church, missionaries you support), what qualities would you highlight?

As you look around at the people in your Life Group, take time to commend each other on the qualities of faithful discipleship you see.

3) In verses 17-20, Paul uses firm language to encourage the church to be on guard against those who would sow division and create obstacles to belief. He says to "avoid such people," because they "do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites." What are some of the essential issues that divide people today? (For a refresher on our Key Beliefs, find them here on the website: Key Beliefs – Lincoln Berean)

How strongly do you strive to avoid these divisions and the people who sow them?

What does it look like for you to be "wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil"? If possible, share about a time when you lived this out.

4) Paul closes out Romans by reiterating that the gospel was made known in order to bring about the "obedience of faith". Read and compare Romans 1:1-5 to Romans 16:25-27. How would you describe in your own words what is meant by the "obedience of faith"?

What makes Paul's benediction in Romans 16:25-27 a fitting close to this study in Romans?

Personal Spiritual Exercises

Just like physical exercises help strengthen and stretch our bodies for healthy living, these spiritual exercises are meant to move us spiritually in ways that may be new so that we might experience inner growth. Since God longs for us to experience Him with our whole selves—mind, body, spirit— we invite you to strengthen your souls with exercises that challenge and stretch you in new ways. Choose one and commit to repeating it until you gain strength in that area.

1) Scripture Reading: to listen and soak in the Word as an experience of the words washing over you. Read or listen to chapters 13-16 of Romans at least twice/week. As you take it in, resist the impulse to study and parse the details. The point is not to gain "head knowledge" but a stirring in the heart as the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life in you.

2) Memorization to internalize God's Word. A key passage for this session is ***Romans 15:4-6***. Commit to memorize it yourself and encourage others in your group to do it with you.

3) Walk & Pray: to actively engage with the scripture passage. Write out the memory verse above (in #2) on a card to take with you while you walk. As you walk and think on the scripture, take time to ask God, "Is there anything I need to know about my life related to these verses?"

4) Journal Reflection: to practice remembering what God has done. Make time in your schedule to put down in writing the feelings and thoughts that are stirring as you interact with the Word of God.

5) Self-control Exercise: to help you come to stillness from a busy or hurried pace of life. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Sit upright but comfortably in a chair with your palms open and upward on your lap. Focus on a word or short phrase about the character of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. When your thoughts wander to the things on your to-do list or other people's needs, redirect them back to the character of God. When the 10 minutes is up, close in a short prayer of gratitude.

Prayer

Praying together in a group is different than praying alone with God. It's a conversation that can help you grow closer to each other as you are in God's presence. One way to pray follows this often-used pattern in scripture – acknowledge who God is, recognize the need we have for Him, and ask to partner with Him on behalf of others. When possible, use the passage of scripture from this week's sermon as your starting point, then form a prayer that follows this pattern:

God, our Father, this week we learned that you are _____ and _____ .

As I looked into your Word, I understood how I need you to _____. Help me to be faithful to _____ in the week ahead.

Other people are on my heart, and I trust that you have put them there for a reason. I ask for your will to be accomplished in their life as they _____. Help me to know how to respond well to the needs of _____, even as my first step is in praying for them right now.

Each group engages in prayer differently. Some groups go around and allow anyone to pray who desires to do so. Other groups have several people pray or maybe 1 person closes the group in prayer. Still other groups split into smaller groups of 2-3 people, and those people pray for each other. How you choose to engage in prayer is dependent on your group and your choice to ENGAGE! We learn to pray by praying and by listening and praying with others!