

# Romans

what Christ's death and resurrection mean for all people

a Navigator Bible Study Community at NAU



[naunavs.org](http://naunavs.org)

# **Welcome to this Bible Study Community!**

We are so glad you are going to study the book of Romans with The Navigators! We are praying that you make real friendships with each other and that you encounter Jesus deeply!

Take a minute to read through the following pages so you'll know what to expect:

**How to get the most from a Bible Study Community / Leader's Guide**

**What is an Inductive Bible Study?**

**How to do an Inductive Bible Study (IBS)**

# How to get the most from a Bible Study Community

## Openness

- To God & His Word (wanting to hear from and obey God)
- To one another (be honest with each other; listen to others)

## Time

- The key “study tool” is TIME. Preparation time = Impact on your life.
- The best motivation is not self-discipline, but **value for God's Word**.
- **Invest the time** you need in preparation each week, probably 60-90 minutes if you want to really benefit from this study. This is very doable in 2-3 chunks / week. This also will begin building a lifelong pattern of regular time in God's Word. You won't regret it.
- You might try meeting up with someone from your group to **prep together!**

## Participation

- The best Bible studies have **everyone's participation**. If you've spoken up a few times, give others a chance. Some quiet ones need a little time or gentle encouragement to share their thoughts. If you are a quiet one, please speak up so others can benefit from your input!

## Be a community!

- Each week, try to do **something fun together** outside the study.
- Ideas: Eat in the dining hall, frisbee golf, coffee & board games, do a prayer walk, workout in the HLC, see a movie, go to church and grab lunch afterwards, etc.
- The leader does not plan all of these. Instead, each of you will take turns initiating this hangout time each week.

## Leader's Guide:

### Coach, don't teach.

- Your main role each week in the study is to encourage each person to participate.
- Deflect questions to the group; find answers together in the book you are studying. (i.e. *“How do you guys think Paul would answer that question?”*)
- It's ok to leave some questions unanswered.

**Rabbit trails** happen. Steer discussion back to the study.

Start on **time**, end on time.

**Pray** for the people in your group.

## What is an Inductive Bible Study?

Sherlock Holmes is a great example of the inductive technique. He **observes** people and situations in all their detail until he can **understand** what happened. At the end of each story, he knows how to **respond** to the evidence.

### Observe > Understand > Respond

In an inductive Bible study, we spend time to **observe** what is there. We try to notice everything in our passage or text. As we read and re-read it, we begin to **understand** what is being said and what it means. Finally, we **respond** appropriately to what we have been studying.

**Observe:** *The more **time** you spend “living in the text,” the more you will observe.*

**Understand:** *As we study and meditate on a passage, **God helps us** understand.*

**Respond:** *The goal of any Bible study is to **respond to God** personally.*

# How to do an Inductive Bible Study (IBS)

## How to do your study prep each week

We will use this basic process: (1) observe, (2) understand, (3) respond.

### (1) Observe

**Pray** for God to speak to you. Ask Him to help you be open to Him and His Word.

**Read** the passage at least once during the week. The more times you can read it, the better. Use a different translation once in a while.

**Listen** to the passage in a Bible app, maybe while walking to class or during exercise.

**Mark** up the Bible text provided in this study guide. Figure out your own system so that it makes sense to you. Use color & symbols to make it visual. Some of the things to mark include:

- **Repeated words or themes**
- **Commands**
- **Logical connection words** (therefore, but, if, because, however, also,...)
- **Quotations** of Old Testament passages or of other parts of Scripture.
- **People** and place names.
- **Core ideas and phrases** in each paragraph
- **Whatever** stands out to you.

**Look up** words you don't immediately understand.

**Note the atmosphere** or tone of the passage.

### (2) Understand

**Cross-references:** For one or more key verses in each section, look up a cross-reference or two. How do those other passages help you understand this one?

**Questions:** Write down any questions you would like to ask your group. Maybe you can figure out the answers together.

**Trace the flow of thought** through the passage. Use symbols, colors or words to capture the flow of thought.

**Title** each paragraph in 5 words or less. This can be hard work, but is extremely useful in clarifying our understanding of passages.

**Paraphrase** your understanding of the paragraph or section. That means to write it in your own words.

### **(3) Respond**

Each week, after you have done your study take some time to **pray** and **journal** about what it all means in your life. Use the pages at the back of the study guide to write down some prayers or thoughts in each of these areas:

- You and **God**
- You and **Yourself**
- You and **Others**

# A Typical Week

## Prep for the coming week's discussion

*60-90 minutes, best done in 2-3 chunks*

Pray	Ask God to apply His Word to your life.
Read	Read the passage for the week.
Study	Use <b>How to do an IBS</b> page as a guide for your prep.
Journal	Journal about three areas of relationships (w/ God, self, others).

## Discuss

*90 minutes*

*This is one way your discussion time might go. Modify this to serve your group.*

Connect (10 min)	Share 1 highlight, 1 lowlight from your week
Pray (2-3 min)	Let a different person pray each week.
Discuss (45 min)	Discuss your observations, questions and your journal entries.
Pray (10 min)	Pray in pairs or all together.
Decide (10 min)	A <b>different person picks</b> something fun for the group each week. <b>Decide now</b> (details/time/place) so everyone can put it on their calendar.

## Have fun together!

*Do something fun outside the study.*

# Schedule

Week 1:	Intros: Bible Study Community, each other, Romans
Week 2:	Romans 1-16 What is the big picture of Romans?
Week 3:	Romans 1:1-3:20 Why we need the gospel
Week 4:	Romans 1:1-3:20 Why we need the gospel
Week 5:	Romans 3:21-4:25 How Christ meets our need (part 1)
Week 6:	Romans 3:21-4:25 How Christ meets our need (part 2)
Week 7:	Romans 5-8 Our new life: in relationship with God and ourselves (part 1)
Week 8:	Romans 5-8 Our new life: in relationship with God and ourselves (part 2)
Week 9:	Romans 9-11 What about Israel?
Week 10:	Romans 12-16 Our new life: in relationship with others (part 1)
Week 11:	Romans 12-16 Our new life: in relationship with others (part 2)
Week 12:	Wrap-up How is Jesus' death and resurrection impacting your life?

## Week 1: Getting to know each other Intro to the Bible study

- Connect (20'): Let's get to know who's here. Maybe share something like:
1. Name, hometown, dorm, favorite fast food
  2. What is a story you love and why? (from a book, movie, real life...)
- Pray (2-3') Someone open the study in prayer. Next week, someone else prays.
- Discuss (40')
- Intro to Bible Study Community (10 min)
- How is a community different than a study group?
  - What helps community grow? What hinders it?
  - What do you hope to gain from studying Romans?
  - Read through "*How to get the most from a Bible Study Community*" page (you can skip the "Leaders Guide" section)
- Intro to Romans (30 min)
- Read Romans 1:1-15
    1. How long has God been planning the gospel?
    2. Who does Paul say that the gospel is intended for?
    3. What outcomes is the gospel supposed to have in our lives?
    4. In light of these points, how might we describe God's character and values? How might your life be impacted as you see God in that way?
- Pray (5-7') Pray together in pairs or as a group.
- Decide (5') Have **one person pick** what you'll do together this week as a fun, social activity. **Decide details now** (event/time/place) so everyone can put it on their calendar. Make sure to get each other's phone numbers.

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- Look ahead
- Glance at next week's study. Notice what you'll be doing to prepare before next time.
- (1) Read Rom. 1-16 (1-2 sittings)
  - (2) Study – write down key words, themes, questions
  - (3) Journal on the 3 relationship pages at the end of the study guide

\* This first week will **take some time**. Be sure to **start early in the week** to get a good start in understanding Romans.

## **Study Prep before Week 2 discussion**

### **Chaps 1-16 :: What is the big picture of Romans?**

Read through the book in 1-2 sittings. Note key themes and repeated words. What emotions are stirred up as you read? What questions would you like to ask your group?

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 3 discussion**

**1:1 – 3:20 :: Why we need the gospel**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 4 discussion**

**1:1 – 3:20 :: Why we need the gospel**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 5 discussion**

**3:21 – 4:25 :: How Christ meets our need**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 6 discussion**

**3:21 – 4:25 :: How Christ meets our need**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 7 discussion**

**5:1 – 8:39 :: Our new life: in relationship with God and with ourselves**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 8 discussion**

**5:1 – 8:39 :: Our new life: in relationship with God and with ourselves**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## Study Prep before Week 9 discussion

9:1 – 11:36 :: What about Israel?

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 10 discussion**

**12:1 – 16:27 :: Our new life: in relationship with others**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 11 discussion**

**12:1 – 16:27 :: Our new life: in relationship with others**

you will spend 2 weeks on this crucial section of Scripture

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Study Prep before Week 12 discussion**

**1:1 – 16:27 :: How does Jesus' death and resurrection impact us?**

Use this week's prep to review the whole book. What did you learn? How has God been speaking to you throughout? Are there any themes in your journal entries?

- Remember to journal about God, you and others at the end of the study guide.

## **Journal :: You and God**

What are you learning about God's character, values, promises, purposes? Are there particular things you have been learning about God the Father? About Jesus? About the Holy Spirit? Is God upsetting or challenging you? How do you feel toward God after studying this section of His Word? Are there sins that are hindering your pursuit of Jesus? Is God urging you to be open to Him in new ways?





## **Journal :: You and Yourself**

What are you learning about yourself? This might include things that God says are true of all people, or ways in which you find yourself reacting to God's Word. Did this week's study make you upset or confused? Did you find yourself feeling joy or hope? Write out your prayer to God about how you are feeling as well as what you are learning from your study.





## **Journal :: You and Others**

Has anyone in particular been coming to mind as you have been studying? Think about significant people in your life: what is God saying is true about them? Do those friends, family, or others know the truths you have been learning? Is God nudging you to say, do or pray anything in particular regarding any people in your life? Do you need to talk with anyone about what you are learning?





## **Final Thoughts from Your Study of Romans**