



Series Overview and Guides

2019-2020 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 6

APRIL-JUNE 2020

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That we are continually shaped by belief in truth.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."

—Romans 12:1-2

"As with every aspect of our sanctification, the renewal of the mind may be painful and difficult. It requires hard work and discipline, inspired by a sacrificial love for Christ and a burning desire to build up His body, the Church. Developing a Christian worldview means submitting our entire self to God, in an act of devotion and service to Him."

—Nancy Pearcey
*Total Truth: Liberating Christianity
from its Cultural Captivity*

Premise

why we are studying this

Christians can and should be shaped and shaping each other in imitation of Jesus.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another."

—Romans 14:19

"When man is made right with his Maker, he needs to know what difference this makes in his relations with his fellowmen. He needs to know what is expected of him and how to apply his new resources to all the situations confronting him. This last main section of the Epistle is designed to meet those needs."

—Everett F. Harrison
Romans

Theme

what the study is about

Paul writes to the believers in Rome to encourage them to live out the Christian life. This living incorporates what we today call good citizenship and is exemplified through:

- Sanctified thought – the great, ongoing, holy conversation with God.
- Sanctified action – the unique transformed behavior of Christians.
- Sanctified confidence – the certain and pleasant trust in God's will.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

—Romans 14:7-8

"The legalist says something like, 'Do these things and you will live,' but Paul is saying, 'Live and you will do these things.' Only when the power of sin is broken by what God did in Christ can ethical admonitions be effective and not simply increase [sin.]"

—Leon Morris
Romans



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a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:1-2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The main principle is here displayed – that the believer lives out this perfect will of God via submission to Him. This is the third “therefore” transition in the text (Romans 5:1, 8:1, 12:1) Justification is followed by sanctification, which involves consecration to God.

OBJECTIVE

That we would present ourselves as living sacrifices to the Lord.

MERCIES OF GOD

Let us call to mind these mercies of which Paul speaks:

1. Justification
2. Identification
3. Under Grace, Not Law
4. The Spirit Indwelling
5. Help in Infirmary
6. Divine Election
7. Coming Glory
8. No Separation Possible
9. Confidence in God’s Faithfulness

—William R. Newell
Romans Verse-by-Verse

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we be transformed for the glory of God.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: Transform!

1. Read the Theme, Premise, and Objective of this study (on page 1).
 - What is your greatest challenge in striving for sanctified thought, action, and confidence?
 - Does your day-to-day mindset lean more toward “Do these things and you will live” or “Live and you will do these things”? Why?
 - Why is our Father worthy of our complete devotion, body and mind?
2. Paul uses “therefore” at three major transitions in this letter. Read each of the following and discuss how Paul’s argument builds to this final section.
 - Romans 1:16-17, then Romans 5:1
 - Romans 8:1-4
 - Romans 12:1-2
3. Since we are not sinlessly perfect, how can our living sacrifice be holy and acceptable to God?
4. What are the two alternatives in Romans 12:2?
 - How does conformance to the world happen?
 - Where do you feel the most pressure to be or stay conformed to the world?
 - Where does transformation start, and how does it happen? Compare Ephesians 4:20-24 and Colossians 3:1-3.
5. What is the benefit of presenting our bodies holy to the Lord and having our minds renewed?
 - Why are these conditions prerequisite to having such discernment?
 - Looking again at verse 1, how is any of this possible?
6. Why are these two verses the necessary starting point for the rest of Romans 12-15?



2. Read Romans 12:3-5 together.
 3. Read Romans 12:3-5 together.

SERIES 6 | SESSION 2



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:3-11

KEY IDEAS

THEME

We are to live out who we are, just as the members of a body function together under the direction of the head. We don't serve **IN** the body, like office mates taking our turn to make the coffee. We serve **AS** the body. This is what we do.

OBJECTIVE

We would each and all serve as the body of Christ.

LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR

"To love our neighbor as ourselves is such a truth for regulating human society, that by that alone one might determine all the cases in social morality."

—John Locke
17th-century philosopher

SERVE THE BODY

"...each member functions to serve the body, not the body to serve the members."

—John A. Witmer
The Man with Two Countries

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we love and honor one another as we serve our Lord.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 2: Serve!

1. Read Romans 12:3-5 together.

- Why is it difficult to evaluate yourself objectively?
- What does the Bible say about who you are, as a human and as a believer?
- What does Paul say about who we are together as believers?
- Why is it important to keep God's word as the basis of our self-opinions as we serve?

2. Read Romans 12:6-8.

- What are some ways the people in your group serve in your church?
- What are some ways you have served, or could serve, your neighbors or community?
- Why is it important that we as believers are known for serving as the body of Christ?
- Frisco Bible has a spiritual gifts assessment named MyFit. If you have never completed such an assessment, ask your group leader or a pastor for more information.

3. Read Romans 12:9-11.

- What truth is inherent in verse 9 that many postmodern people today deny?
- How is love, honor, and service portrayed in these verses?
- Why is this behavior only possible for those who have obeyed verses 1-2?
- How does God's love in you enable you to lovingly reach out and help others?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:1-10

KEY IDEAS

THEME

This is a rather singular theme in the Pauline corpus, though it has parallels in Mark 12 & 1 Peter 2. The concept of obedience to government is important to God who establishes rulers.

OBJECTIVE

We pay to all what is due them.

HUMAN DIGNITY

"America will always stand firm for the non-negotiable demands of human dignity: the rule of law, limits on the power of the state, respect for women, private property, free speech, equal justice, and religious tolerance."

—George W. Bush
State of the Union - January 29, 2002

HONOR OUR LEADERS

"God has established government to be His servant to all people in all places at all times... These leaders, pagan though they may be, become God's servants to maintain law and order in a sinful world... As Christians, we are to submit to them since they have authority delegated from God Himself."

—Gene Getz
Life Essentials Study Bible

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we are diligent to stand in the gap for our leaders.

Session 3: Honor!

1. Read Romans 13:1-2.
 - What are the two authorities over every Christian? Compare Luke 20:22-25.
 - When in contradiction, which authority has priority?
 - On what fact is our submission to earthly government based?
2. Read Romans 13:3-7 together.
 - What is the biblically acceptable attitude of believers to their earthly government?
 - What two reasons does Paul give for this attitude? See verse 5.
 - Why does Paul say, "be in subjection" and not simply "obey"? Compare Acts 5:27-32.
3. Discuss the examples of being in subjection that Paul gives in verses 6-7.
 - How were these obligations more difficult for Paul's original audience than they are for you?
 - Where are these obligations more difficult today than where you live?
 - How does the discipline of Romans 12:1-2 enable those under oppressive governments to be in subjection?
 - How does the truth of Romans 8:28 help us all?
4. Discuss Romans 13:8-10. What is the Christian's motivation for this "fulfilling of the law"? See Romans 5:8.
5. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. Close your session together by praying for the earthly authorities over you.



SERIES 6 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:12-21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

This section reads as if my mother wrote it. These are all the basic truths of wise citizenship extolled as the means of overcoming evil with good. Running through the entire section is the idea of patience, deference, and waiting.

OBJECTIVE

We would overcome evil with good by virtue of God's blessings.

THE BEST WAY TO OVERCOME

"Being overcome by evil means giving in to the temptation to pay back evil for evil. When people do wrong, they expect to receive evil from those they have wronged. When they receive kindness instead, their hard hearts often become softer. The best way to get rid of an enemy is to turn him or her into a friend."

—F.F. Bruce

The Letter of Paul to the Romans

SEEK THOSE IN NEED

"...one is not just to wait and take the stranger in, if he actually presents himself at the door, but to go out and look for those to whom one can show hospitality."

—C.E.B. Cranfield

A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we live according to our new nature in Christ.

Session 4: Overcome!

1. What advice did your parents give that was intended to help you "be good"?
 - Give an example of this that you have seen or experienced.
 - How can we accomplish this consistently? Review 12:1-2.
 - How does this exhortation mirror what God has done for us?
3. Discuss the specific directions given by the Holy Spirit through Paul.
 - What are some practical ways to accomplish verses 13 and 15?
 - What is to be our attitude toward our enemies? (vv. 14, 17-21)
 - How should we treat others who are "higher" or "lower" than we are? (v. 16) Why? Compare Colossians 3:8-11.
 - Do you more naturally live in peace with others, or simply "keep the peace"? Which should we do?
 - Why must we avoid seeking revenge when we are wronged?
4. Review the three specific instructions in verse 12.
 - Which is most needed today?
 - Which do you find the most difficult to do consistently?
5. What are the two enabling truths in this section? (vv. 12 and 19)



SERIES 6 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:11-14

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The narrative example of Acts 19:18-20 is here codified. Carousing happens in the night, while we are to be people of the light. This is figurative, applying to both eschatology (return of Jesus) and hamartiology (sin). The most wasteful believers are really asleep at the wheel of their soul. However, there is a literal aspect that transcends cultures – the most wicked sinfulness does occur in the physical night.

OBJECTIVE

We would wake up and get dressed spiritually.

OUR BLESSED HOPE

“Christ’s return is the next event in God’s plan; Paul knew it could take place at any time and sought to prepare Christians—both in his generation and in ours—for that ‘blessed hope.’”

—Douglas J. Moo
The Epistle to the Romans

“The need for alertness is because our [ultimate] salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. Each passing day in the faith brings final salvation closer.”

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we live wakefully watching for our Lord’s imminent return.

Session 5: Wake!

1. Describe a time in your life when you knew you had to make a change. How did you know it was time, and how did you make the change?
2. Read Romans 13:11 together. What does Paul say we should do, and why?
3. In his letters, Paul uses “salvation” variously to refer to justification, sanctification, or glorification.
 - Define these three concepts.
 - Which one is meant here, and how can you tell from the context of this section?
4. Read verses 12-14. Discuss what Paul says should be changed.
 - How should our mindset be changed?
 - How should our behaviors be changed?
 - How should our attitude toward our desires be changed?
5. What two things does Paul say we should put on? (verses 12 and 14)
 - How do we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”? Read Galatians 3:25-29 and Romans 6:6-13.
 - Why is it fitting in this section to refer to our spiritual armor as “the armor of light”?
6. Read Paul’s similar passage to the church in Thessalonica: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.
 - How can we encourage one another to live as those who belong to the day?
 - How does this relate to our annual theme, *No Stone Unturned*? Review Colossians 3:16.



SERIES 6 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:1-9

KEY IDEAS

THEME

On debatable issues, Christians are unconditionally to accept each other. This toleration is not easy; but is nonetheless commanded and it is to be without condescension.

OBJECTIVE

We would tolerate each other as belonging to the Lord.

THE CHRISTIAN MAN

"A Christian man is a most free lord of all, subject to none; the Christian man is a most dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

—Martin Luther

THE DIVERSITY OF THE CHURCH

"To have faith before God, secretly, hiding it from the weaker brother, *for his sake*, until he becomes stronger, is not easy: it requires walking *in love*, which is always costly to the one loving!"

—William R. Newell
Romans Verse-by-Verse

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we honor the Lord in everything, and allow other believers to do the same.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 6: Tolerate!

1. Read Romans 14:1-5. What are the two differences of opinion that Paul discusses?
 - Why do Christians quarrel over opinions?
 - What does the qualifier "weak in faith" (verse 1) mean? Why does it matter?
 - Not everyone who appears to be "weak in faith" is actually a weaker brother? How do we tell the difference?
2. Have you ever known a believer who held a strong behavior conviction or opinion that you did not share?
 - How did you respond to those differences?
 - What are some other differences that are common among believers today?
 - What should we do instead of quarreling?
3. What is our primary individual responsibility? (see verse 5)
4. Read Romans 14:6-9.
 - How does it honor the Lord when we tolerate the choices of other believers?
 - How does it honor the Lord when we make up our own minds?
 - Why is it important to agree to disagree?



SERIES 4 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 14:10-15:4

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The overarching theme is that we should yield – by trusting God, and through Him yield to our brethren. With our self-sufficient tendencies, this is very rare and difficult.

BUT, it is not impossible! It is very doable because of the example of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit who empowers us.

OBJECTIVE

We yield.

PRECEPTS AND PRIVILEGES

The imperatives and indicatives divide this long passage into three parts:

Precept (Imperative)		Privilege (Indicative)
Do not place obstacles.	→	God will judge and reward.
Unsure? Don't eat.	→	God has given you a conscience.
Please your neighbor.	→	Even Jesus didn't please Himself.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we yield to one another in the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 7: Yield!

- Read Romans 14:10-12.
 - When you stand before the judgment seat of God, for whom will you have to give account?
 - How should this fact influence your attitude and behavior toward your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- Read Romans 14:13-21.
 - What two things are we encouraged to do in verse 13?
 - In verse 21 (also review verses 5-6), what kinds of actions can become stumbling blocks to others? What are other possible examples from our time and culture?
 - How do you avoid being a stumbling block to a fellow believer? At the same time, how do you avoid judging those who exercise more freedom than you can in good conscience?
 - According to verses 17-19, what really matters in God's kingdom? What doesn't matter?
- In Romans 14:22-23, who is the one who is blessed, and why?
- Read Romans 15:1-3.
 - In areas where you have stronger faith than a fellow believer, what is your responsibility?
 - How is this in keeping with Christ's example? Compare Philippians 2:1-4.
 - How do you distinguish between "people-pleasing" and pleasing your fellow believer to build him or her up?
- In 15:4, what does Paul say are the benefits to us of studying the Old Testament?



SERIES 4 | SESSION 8

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2019-2020

LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 15:5-13

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus came to serve the Jews by proving the promises and to serve the Gentiles by extending the mercy of God. They respond by hoping in Jesus and following Him.

OBJECTIVE

In imitation of Jesus we would be hopeful, joyful, unified believers.

ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER

“Paul concluded his commands with ‘Accept one another’ (15:7). Significantly, this is the same command in 14:1. The model of acceptance for Christians is the Lord Jesus, who accepted us. The Lord received believers when they were not only powerless (5:6), but also ungodly (5:6), sinners (5:8), and enemies (5:10). Certainly, Christians can receive others who differ with them on nonessential matters. Jesus Christ received them so that they can bring praise to God, which is the purpose of Christian unity (15:6).”

—John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck
The Bible Knowledge Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week using Paul’s prayers in Romans 15:5-6 and 13.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 8: Imitate!

1. Read Romans 15:5-7.

- What is the goal for us in Paul’s prayer? What are the means of attaining the goal?
- How do we imitate Christ toward this end?
- Why does living in harmony require patience and encouragement?
- How can you keep aiming for the goal when other believers let you down?

2. Read verse 8.

- Why did Christ become a servant to the Jews?
- How does this give us an example to follow?

3. Read verses 9-12.

- What was God’s purpose toward the Gentiles?
- How does this give us an example to follow?

4. How do verses 8-12 reinforce what Paul wrote in verse 4?

5. Read Paul’s prayer in verse 13.

- What is the goal for us in this prayer? What are the means of attaining the goal?
- How does this Holy Spirit-empowered hope enable us to live in harmony?



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