



NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

— A Study of Romans —

Dear Women of the Word,

Welcome to our study of the book of Romans!

Romans is filled with truths that are foundational to our Christian faith and to understanding the gospel—the good news that God saves sinners. Whether you are new to the Bible or a seasoned follower of Jesus, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the truths in this book will deepen your awareness and gratitude for God’s astounding grace displayed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and just what that means for your life today.

There are a few things you need to know as you begin this study:

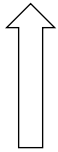
The study is designed to spend a little bit of time each day (for 5 days) in God’s word. This is how you will get the most out of the study and build the habit of intentionally meeting with God daily. Of course, there are times when we just don’t make this happen for whatever reason. If you don’t get your study done don’t let that stop you from coming to Bible study! We want you to be here—you will benefit from hearing the teaching and being together with your group. But our hope and prayer is that you will make time to be in God’s word in some way during the week. If you don’t get the study done make sure and read through the passage (Day 1) or listen to the passage on your phone as you are driving or doing the dishes.

The **Digging Deeper** questions in the study take you to a different part of the Bible and will give added understanding to the subject at hand. If you are running short on time these are the questions you can skip.

The **Heart** questions require some inner examination and reflection. They help you apply God’s word to your own life.

The **Scholar’s Notes** and **Picture and Ponder** help to clarify and deepen understanding and application.

For Discussion are questions that connect the passage to our lives, our theology, our culture, or our world and benefit from multiple perspectives. The answers aren’t found directly in the passage but relate to it.



Each year my fervent prayer for you is that this study will not only be an intellectual exercise, but that it will be devotional—that it will engage your heart as well as your mind. The whole point of Bible study is to know God more fully, love him more deeply and follow him more closely! This involves our mind and our heart. Growing in our relationship with God involves two-way conversation. As God speaks to us through his word, he invites us to respond to him through prayer. So, interspersed throughout the study are boxes with arrows pointing up, prompting us to respond to God in praise, thanksgiving, confession and requests. Make these prayers your own or use them as a reminder to respond to what God is speaking to you.

Bible translations: All Scripture quoted is ESV (English Standard Version) unless otherwise noted. The questions are also based on the ESV unless noted. Your notebook includes NLT (New Living Translation) and CEV (Contemporary English Version) and your scripture journal is ESV.

Throughout the study I have included definitions of many of the theological words we encounter as we read Romans. The definitions are included in the study as we come across them, but I have also compiled all of them in the front of your notebook so that it is easier to refer back to them.

One last bit of information that will hopefully make life a little easier. If you are absent on a day we hand out lessons, you can go to my website and print off the lesson you need at Inhimallthings.org

Lastly, we are praying this year that we *may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith* (Romans 1:12). So remember, the aim of our study is not to get every answer perfect, but to think, learn, discuss, and search God's word together, all in order to help each other know and love God. Your questions about what we are studying help others in your group to learn as well, so ask away—this is one way we can encourage each other's faith! Our great God is deep and complex and infinitely wise and good, so we should expect that studying his word and understanding his ways is hard; it takes effort, time, perseverance, and community, and he is so incredibly worth it!

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. (Rom. 11:36)

Holly