

Parent's Guide

For Main Study 1: *A Study in Romans*

Lesson 1: **Crash Course**

Memory Verses: **Romans 1:16-17**

IN A NUTSHELL

Paul wrote the book of Romans so we as Christians can fully understand the gospel he preached.

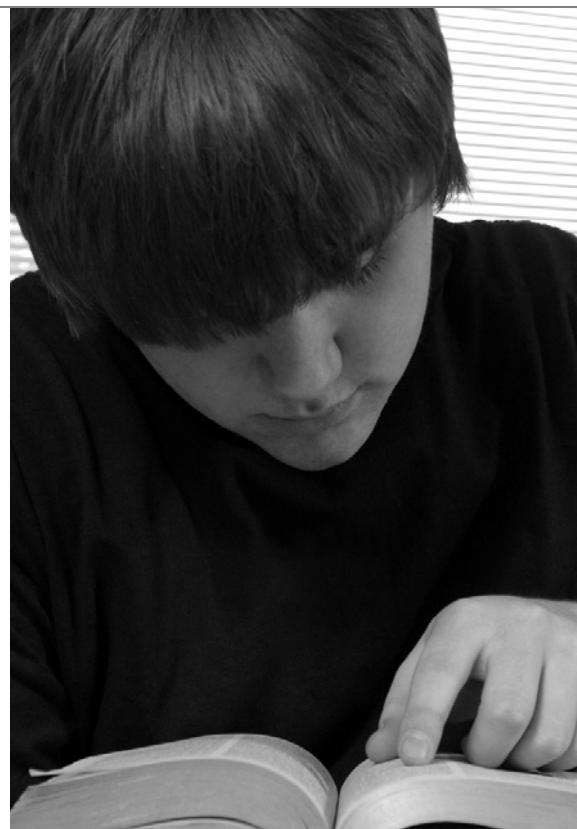
SUMMARY

Believers in Jesus Christ who moved to Rome, the capital city of the Roman Empire, had started a church. Paul wanted to give them an understanding of doctrine to make their faith strong, but he was unable to visit them in person. He wrote them a letter (the book of Romans), the theme of which is the righteousness of God and man's inability to please Him on his own. Paul was a credible witness to this truth, an educated Jew who carefully followed the law. But he realized his need for salvation when Jesus Christ appeared to him on the road to Damascus. The Lord gave Paul a new message, one for both Jews and Gentiles, that included four distinctives:

1. Justification is by faith (Romans 3:2-4:25).
2. A believer gains a new identity with Christ through His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5).
3. Believers are saved by grace (Romans 3:24-26, 5:2, 11:6, 12:6).
4. The church will be raptured and believers will be resurrected (Romans 8:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

THE NEXT STEP

- There is a strong emphasis today on application – making biblical truths relevant to life situations. And that's great. But it is as important (and maybe more so) for teenagers to understand the doctrines behind the applications so they can figure out truth for themselves when situations come along (and they will) that they didn't anticipate. Circumstances change – God's truth doesn't. Encourage your teenager to dig into God's Word. Ask why he made the choices he made and what his biblical support is. You can advise him, but make him think on his own, because you won't always be around.
- If your teenager asks you a doctrinal question and you don't know the answer, say so. Then study the Bible (with the assistance of other resources) with your teenager until you find the answer.
- When your teenager is facing difficulties in any area, respond with the Bible's solution. Remember, faith comes from the Bible (Romans 10:17), and challenges to faith make faith stronger (Romans 5:3-5 – "hope," in these verses, is faith in the future).



REVIEW IT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Or where they can be found in your teenager's Journey manual, anyway; you didn't expect us to do all the work for you, did you?)

1. The key verses of Romans are:
(the answer is found in the lesson under The Theme and Key Verses.)
2. Describe the city of Rome in A.D. 57.
(The answer is covered briefly under The City and The Church.)
3. Why did Paul desire to visit Rome?
(The answer can be found under The Problem and also in Romans 1:11.)
4. Fill in the blanks. The theme of Romans is the _____ of _____.
(The answer can be found under The Theme and Key Verses.)
5. True or False. The letter to the Romans is specifically for the Jews.
(The answer can be found under The Theme and Key Verses.)
6. What are three impressive credentials of the apostle Paul?
(Five of Paul's credentials can be found under The Author and also in Philippians 3:5.)
7. True or False. God describes our righteousness as "good tries."
(The answer can be found under The Theme and Key Verses.)
8. What are four distinctives of Paul's message?
(The answer can be found under What's Distinctive About Paul's Message? and earlier in this e-mail.)
9. How did the Roman church get started?
(The answer is covered briefly under The City and The Church.)
10. Fill in the blanks. A strong foundation prevents us from becoming _____ in our faith.
(The answer can be found under What's Distinctive About Paul's Message?)