

# A Five-Day Devotional Taking Sunday's Message Into the Week

Mercy Hill Church —

# Day 1: We're in This Together

# "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another" (Romans 15:14).

There's something really encouraging, even beautiful in the way Paul speaks to the church in Rome here.

He's not just giving them instructions—he's cheering them on. He's saying, "I see the good in you. You've got wisdom. And you've got what it takes to help each other grow in Christ."

That's a big deal. It shows us that spiritual growth isn't just something that happens through formal teaching by "ministry leaders"—it can happen informally among Christians in conversations, over coffee, in the car ride home, during late-night texts and random check-ins.

"Instructing one another" might sound formal at first, but it's really about everyday moments where we share what we've learned, offer encouragement, or gently speak truth when someone needs it.

It's about walking alongside each other and keeping Jesus at the center of our relationships.

We all have something to offer, and we all need help sometimes. That's what makes the church more than just a crowd of individuals—it's a family. A community where people actually care, actually listen, and actually point each other to Jesus. It's about walking alongside each other and keeping Jesus at the center of our relationships.

So take heart—whether you're new in your faith or have been walking with Jesus for a long time, God can use you to encourage someone today. And someone else might have just the word you need too.

# **Reflection:**

Who has encouraged you in your walk with Jesus? Can you think of a time when someone spoke into your life in a way that helped you grow?

Now flip the question—who might need a kind word, a listening ear, or a reminder of God's truth from you today?

# Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the people You've placed in my life who have helped me grow in faith. Thank You for reminding me that we don't walk this road alone. Help me to be open to both giving and receiving encouragement. Give me the courage to speak truth in love and the humility to learn from others. Make me more aware of moments where You want to use me to lift someone else up. Let our community be one where Jesus is seen clearly in how we care for each other. Amen.

# Day 2: It's Not About Having All The Answers

# "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another" (Romans 15:14).

Let's be real—when we hear the word "instruct," we might picture someone with a theology degree, a well-worn Bible full of color-coded highlights, and a knack for quoting Scripture at just the right moment.

And while there's nothing wrong with deep knowledge or strong teaching gifts, that's not the only way God grows His people.

Paul isn't writing just to the pastors, elders, or "super spiritual" folks in Rome. He's talking to everyday believers—regular people who love Jesus and are doing life in community.

He says they're "full of goodness" and "able to instruct one another."

That's actually kind of amazing. He's not saying they are perfect and know everything there is to know. He's simply reminding them that discipleship doesn't require perfection or a platform. It just requires presence, sincerity, and a heart that cares enough to share what you've received.

Think about it: Maybe you've been through a hard season, and God carried you through. That experience might be exactly what someone else needs to hear about.

Or maybe you've been studying a passage of Scripture that gave you a new perspective. That insight could help someone else see Jesus more clearly. The Holy Spirit uses imperfect people like us to encourage, teach, and challenge one another in love.

And the best part? You don't have to have it all figured out. You just have to be willing to show up for one another and be real with what God has taught you.

### **Reflection:**

What holds you back from speaking up or offering encouragement to others? Are you waiting until you "know more" or "get it all together"?

What's one small way you could take a step toward encouraging someone in your life this week?

#### **Prayer:**

Father, thank You for reminding me that You can use me right where I am. I don't have to be perfect or have all the answers to be part of what You're doing in the lives of others. Help me to trust that You've given me something worth sharing—whether it's a lesson I've learned, a word of encouragement, or simply a listening ear. Make me bold and kind, and teach me to see the people around me the way You do. Amen.

# Day 3: Gentle Correction is a Gift

# "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another" (Romans 15:14).

Let's talk about the part of instructing one another that's a little trickier—correction.

We all love encouragement. Who doesn't like being cheered on or reminded that God is at work in them? But correction? That's where things get a little uncomfortable.

Correction can be hard to hear, and honestly, it can be hard to give. But when it's done in love and humility, correction is one of the most powerful gifts we can offer each other.

Paul trusted the Roman believers not just to support each other, but to challenge each other when needed. Not in a harsh or holier-than-thou way, but with kindness and grace.

Because the goal isn't to shame or control-it's to help each other stay close to Jesus.

We all have blind spots. We all mess up. And sometimes we need a friend who loves us enough to say, "Hey, I love you and I'm for you—but I think you might be off track here."

That kind of honesty, when it's rooted in care and truth, can lead to real growth and healing.

The key is to stay centered on the gospel. Correction isn't about being right—it's about helping each other walk in step with Jesus.

And if you're on the receiving end, don't forget: being corrected doesn't mean you're failing—it means someone believes in who you're becoming. And we're all on the path to becoming more like the Lord Jesus Christ. The key is to stay centered on the gospel. Correction isn't about being right—it's about helping each other walk in step with Jesus.

# **Reflection:**

Has someone ever lovingly corrected you in a way that helped you grow?

Is there someone in your life who might need gentle encouragement—or even correction—from you right now? How can you approach that conversation with humility, grace, and love?

### Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for the people who have spoken truth into my life, even when it was hard to hear. Give me a heart that's open to correction and a spirit that stays teachable. And if You want to use me to help someone else course-correct, help me to do it gently and with love. Remind me that growth often comes through challenge, and that we need each other to stay rooted in You. Keep our community honest, kind, and anchored in grace. Amen.

# Day 4: Wisdom in the Everyday

# "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another" (Romans 15:14).

Sometimes we think wisdom has to sound fancy—like it should come with big words, deep theology, or a perfectly quoted Bible verse.

But honestly? So much of the wisdom that shapes us shows up in the simplest, most ordinary conversations.

- A friend reminding you that God hasn't forgotten you.
- Someone texting a verse just when you needed it.
- An older believer saying, "I've been there too-and here's what helped me."

This is the kind of wisdom Paul's talking about. It doesn't have to be flashy. It just has to be real and rooted in the goodness of God.

He says the Roman believers are "filled with all knowledge," but that doesn't mean they know everything—it means they know enough of what matters: the love of Jesus, the truth of the gospel, and the value of walking with one another in love.

You don't have to wait until you feel "spiritually qualified" to offer wisdom. If you've been with Jesus—if you've tasted His grace and seen His faithfulness—you already have something valuable to share. Your story, your lessons, your faith in the everyday that's wisdom that helps others grow.

So keep your eyes open. You might not even realize how much your words, your presence, or your simple act of kindness could mean to someone today. If you've been with Jesus—if you've tasted His grace and seen His faithfulness —you already have something valuable to share.

### **Reflection:**

Where have you seen God's wisdom show up in the "ordinary" moments of life? Is there someone in your life who could benefit from a piece of wisdom you've learned along the way?

### Prayer:

God, thank You that Your wisdom isn't reserved for the super spiritual—it's available to all of us who walk with You. Help me to recognize the ways You've been shaping me, and give me the courage to share what I've learned with others. Teach me to see the value in small moments, quiet encouragements, and honest conversations. Use my ordinary life to speak Your extraordinary love. Amen.

### Day 5: From "Me" to "We"

# "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another" (Romans 15:14).

This verse doesn't just highlight individual strengths—it paints a picture of a community. The Apostle is telling these followers of Jesus, "You all have what it takes to build each other up."

And we need what they needed: A shift in perspective. It's a shift from "me" to "we" — from personal growth to shared discipleship.

That's one of the most beautiful things about following Jesus: we don't do it alone.

Yes, personal faith matters. But God designed us to grow in community—learning from one another, carrying each other's burdens, and helping each other stay rooted in grace.

We each bring something different to the table. Your story might be what someone else needs to hear. Their encouragement might be exactly what you need to keep going.

When we engage in this kind of mutual instruction —when we speak truth, give grace, and point each other to Jesus—we become something more than just a group of individuals. We become the church.

It's not always easy. Community can be messy. But it's worth it.

Because when we commit to doing life together with Jesus at the center, something beautiful happens: we grow, we heal, and we reflect the love of Christ in a way that draws others in. When we engage in this kind of mutual instruction – when we speak truth, give grace, and point each other to Jesus – we become something more than just a group of individuals. We become the church.

So let's keep showing up for each other. Let's keep

pointing one another back to the gospel. Let's be the kind of community Paul saw in the Roman believers—a community full of goodness, grounded in truth, and willing to walk together in faith.

### **Reflection:**

How has your community—your church, your small group, your close circle—helped you grow in your faith?

What's one way you can lean into your role in the community and help make it stronger?

### Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for calling me into something bigger than myself. Thank You for the gift of community—for people who encourage, challenge, and walk with me in this journey of faith. Help me to show up with humility, grace, and a heart that's ready to serve. Grow in me a deeper love for Your people, and teach me to see the beauty in our differences and our shared purpose. Let our community be one that reflects Your goodness and invites others into life with You. Amen.