

The Unveiling

righteousness,
redemption,
and hope
in Romans

HOME GROUP STUDY
Week 5



"LET'S GET THIS STARTED!"

Welcome to our Home Group companion study for the teaching series The Unveiling: Righteousness, Redemption, and Hope in Romans. Throughout the coming year, we will be making our way through Romans, with some breaks along the way.

This study is designed as a companion to Crosspoint's weekend teaching. It will help you to discuss and apply the content from the message. It also provides an option for you to dig deeper into the Word of God. You will find it uses the same core text from the sermon.

We encourage you to prayerfully read through this study before your meeting. Make changes as you see fit. You know your Home Group better than we do, so adjustments and alterations to the questions are inevitable. There is no perfect curriculum that perfectly matches every group's needs and journey.

As always, we welcome and appreciate your feedback on this curriculum. Be prepared to share your insights at the next Home Group leaders huddle, or email us.



A BASIC AGENDA



These are the basic elements in every Home Group meeting. You have the option of doing either the "message reflection" or the "deeper in the Word" sections. You likely won't have time to do both, especially if your group likes to share. Remember, the goal of your group is to build transformed lives, not to keep an agenda. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is doing. If you need to change things up, go for it.

ICEBREAKER

Take ten minutes to reconnect and get to know each other.

MESSAGE DISCUSSION

Discuss the teaching from the Sunday message. Hopefully, you've all seen it!

DEEPER IN THE WORD

Dig into the core scripture passage from the weekend teaching.

REFLECTION

Talk about the meaning of the text and how it personally applies.

PRAYER

Set aside time to share needs and pray for group members.

CORE TEXT

ROMANS 3:1-20 (ESV)

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. 3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? 4 By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." 5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just. 9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands;
no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one."

13 "Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."

14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

**IF PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCHES GRADUATE
FROM THE GOSPEL, THEY ARE NOT
ADVANCING TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY BUT
RATHER TO LIFELESS RELIGION,
MORALISTIC SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, OR
PERFORMANCE-BASED FAITH
INACCURATELY CALLED CHRISTIAN. ONLY
JESUS HAS THE POWER TO MELT OUR
HEARTS; THUS THERE IS NO
TRANSFORMATION APART FROM THE
TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.**

GEIGER, KELLEY, AND NATION
TRANSFORMATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP



ICEBREAKER

If your group doesn't know each other well, or if you've been apart for a while, an icebreaker is a great way to assist you in getting reacquainted. Icebreakers also 'break the ice' and help people engage in conversation.

When you share information about yourself with others, and they accept you for who you are, it builds trust. This trust leads to greater transparency and openness. If you want some icebreaker ideas, check out the resources at the end of this book.

IF I TRUST YOU WITH MY STORY, YOU MIGHT TRUST ME WITH YOURS.

WEEKEND MESSAGE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have one or more people read the text out loud.

1. Why would a first-century, Jewish Christian in Rome have problems with what Paul has said so far in Romans?
2. What is the 'righteousness of God'? Why do you think it is so important that Paul explain how the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel?
3. Do people today question the righteousness of God? How is this similar or different from the questions those in Rome were asking?
4. What objections might people have to the idea that the whole world is "under sin?" How would you respond to those objections?
5. Rob explained a number of "self-salvation" strategies that we use to justify ourselves before God (comparison, rationalization, outweighing). Which of these do you sometimes use? Are there other strategies you have used?
6. "People are the problem. God himself became the solution." When we consider God's gracious response to our guilt, how should we respond? How might it change your affections? Your behaviour? Your relationships?
7. Have someone read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 1 Peter 2:24. Spend some time in worship and thanksgiving for God's grace.

DEEPER IN THE WORD

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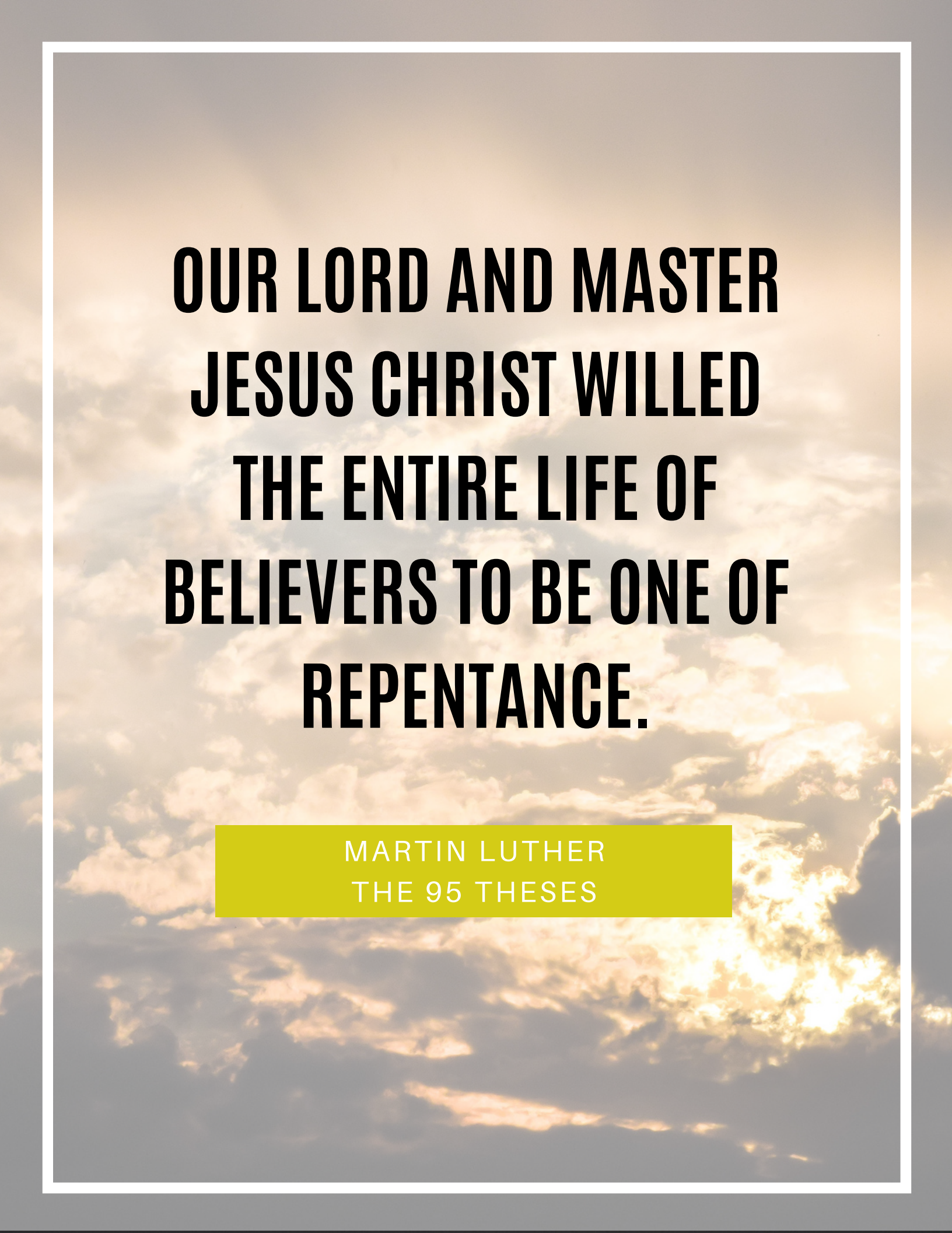
DEEPER IN THE WORD, PT. 1

ROMANS 3:1-20

Have one or more people read the text out loud before you start.

NOTE: In these verses, when Paul speaks about the "law" he is referring to the Torah. This was the Law given to Israel at Mount Sinai, which showed them how to live faithfully within the covenant.

1. In the previous chapter, Paul explained that having the Law or being circumcised would not guarantee that a Jew would be in right standing with God. What advantage then do Jews have according to verses 1-2?
2. What do we learn about God's faithfulness in verses 3-4? How are you encouraged by this?
3. In verses 5-8 Paul dispels a ridiculous argument against God's righteousness. What's the argument and how does Paul respond?
4. What do you think Paul meant when he said that "we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks are under sin" (v.9)? How is being under sin different from practicing sin (See also Romans 6:6,12)? Why do you think Paul uses the legal term "charged"?
5. In verses 9-18 Paul demonstrates the totality of sin's controlling influence. Look through these verses and identify how sin touches our lives in various ways. Why did Paul call upon the Jewish Scriptures to prosecute humanity?
6. The phrase, "that every mouth may be stopped" (v.19) comes from first-century law court proceedings. A defendant was allowed to speak in her own defence. When they were finished, they would cover their mouth with their hand as a sign that they were finished. If they continued talking, when clearly they were guilty, a court official would hit them in the mouth so that they would stop speaking. What point is Paul making about the Law when he says that every mouth may be stopped?
7. What role does the Law play according to verse 20? What are the benefits of this? The drawbacks?



**OUR LORD AND MASTER
JESUS CHRIST WILLED
THE ENTIRE LIFE OF
BELIEVERS TO BE ONE OF
REPENTANCE.**

MARTIN LUTHER
THE 95 THESES



SUBMERGED IN ROMANS

1

Watch the Bible Project's "Romans" video on YouTube. Check out the first of two videos [here](#).

2

Read "Paul for Everyone: Romans, Part One" by N.T. Wright as you go through the series. Order it [here](#).

3

Take the free Biblical Training online course with biblical scholar Douglas Moo. Sign up [here](#).

4

Read and pray through Romans in 31 days. A helpful guide is [here](#). They don't need to be consecutive days!

5

Read through the entire book of Romans. In fact, we encourage you to do it a few times, in different translations. Access more translations [here](#).

49 ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS

1. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
2. If I gave you \$10,000, what would you spend it on?
3. What has been a recent high point and low point in your life?
4. If you could watch your favourite movie now, what would it be?
5. If you could talk to anyone in the world, who would it be?
6. If you could wish one thing to come true this year, what would it be?
7. What are you thankful for today?
8. If you could live in any period of history, when would it be?
9. If you could change anything about yourself, what would you change?
10. Describe your past week in weather terms. (Was it stormy, cloudy, foggy, mostly sunny or what?)
11. If you could be someone else, who would you be?
12. If you could have any question answered, what would it be?
13. What is one thing you are looking forward to?
14. If you could watch your favourite TV show now, what would it be?
15. Name one thing you really like about yourself.
16. If you could have any kind of pet, what would you have?
17. When did God become more than a word to you?
18. If you could do your dream job 10 years from now, what would it be?
19. What is a challenge you are facing right now? (How could we help you?)
20. If you had to be allergic to something, what would it be?
21. If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?
22. What is one thing you are really good at?
23. If money and time was no object, what would you be doing right now?
24. One fact about me that might surprise you is...
25. If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick?

ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS

26. If you could eat your favourite food now, what would it be?
27. If you could learn any skill, what would it be?
28. What is one thing you like to do when you have free time?
29. Do you have a pet? If not, what sort of pet would you like?
30. If you were sent to live on a space station for three months and only allowed to bring three personal items with you, what would they be?
31. If you could buy a car right now, what would you buy?
32. If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in the future or in history would you visit?
33. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
34. If your house was burning down, what three objects would you try and save?
35. If you could talk to any one person now living, who would it be and why?
36. If you HAD to give up one of your senses (hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling, tasting) which would it be and why?
37. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about God?
38. If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
39. Name a gift you will never forget?
40. What's your favourite thing to do in the summer?
41. Who's your favourite cartoon character, and why?
42. Does your name have a special meaning and or were you named after someone special?
43. What is the hardest thing you have ever done?
44. If you are at a friend's or relative's house for dinner and you find a dead insect in your salad, what would you do?
45. What was the best thing that happened to you this past week?
46. If you had this week over again what would you do differently?
47. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
48. If you could ask Christ to change one problem in the world today, what would you like him to change?
49. What book, movie or video have you seen/read recently you would recommend?