

# Session 1: Gospel.

## How can we become more confident in our faith?

ROMANS 1.1-17

**KEY VERSE:**

**'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ...'**

ROMANS 1.16 (ESV)

## Part I: The back story

ROMANS 16

**WHO WROTE ROMANS?**

'Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God ...'

ROMANS 1.1 (NIV)

**WHO WAS ROMANS WRITTEN TO?**

Paul's greetings at the end of the letter (Romans 16) describe a close-knit and diverse community of Christians. They met in several house churches in ancient Rome.

**WHO BROUGHT THE LETTER TO ROME?**

'I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord ...'

ROMANS 16.1-2 (ESV)

**WHAT'S THE UNDERLYING MESSAGE OF ROMANS?**

Two main concerns pulsate through the letter: unity and mission. Paul wants to unite Jewish and Gentile Christians around the gospel so they can play their part in God's mission.

'Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you ...'

ROMANS 15.7 (NIV)



## Discussion time

READ ROMANS 16.1-16

1. What strikes you about the list of names and greetings in general?
2. What phrases capture the quality of their relationships together? What specific attributes and contributions does Paul mention?
3. Imagine these early Christians meeting in a house together ... what might it have been like? How does this help us reimagine what church is really all about?

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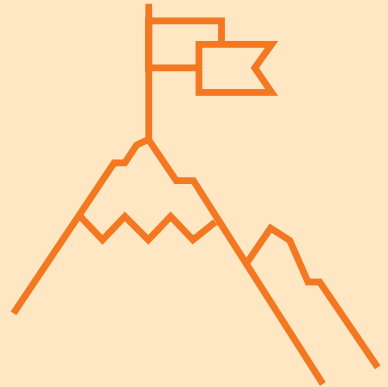
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## Part II: The power of the gospel

**‘So I am eager to preach the gospel  
to you also who are in Rome.’**

ROMANS 1.15 (ESV)

How confident are you in the relevance and power of the gospel today?



### **The gospel is good news that fulfils a bigger story**

‘... the gospel [God] promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David ...’

ROMANS 1.2–3 (NIV)

### **The gospel welcomes everyone who believes**

‘... [the gospel] is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed ...’

ROMANS 1.16–17 (NIV)

## Part II: Reflection time

READ ROMANS 1.16–17

A COUPLE OF TIMES

Why is the gospel still good news that is relevant today?

On the scale of 1–5, how confident are you in the gospel? What holds you back from sharing it? In what ways has this session helped?



PRAYER

Pray that our confidence in the gospel will grow as we journey through Romans together.

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READING  
ROMANS:

Before the next session, read the following passages in Romans:

- READING 1:  
**Romans 1.1–17**
- READING 2:  
**Romans 1.18–32**
- READING 3:  
**Romans 2.1–16**
- READING 4:  
**Romans 2.17–29**
- READING 5:  
**Romans 3.1–20**



READING  
SUGGESTIONS:

- Chapter 1 of  
*Romans: A Letter That  
Makes Sense of Life*  
by Andrew Ollerton