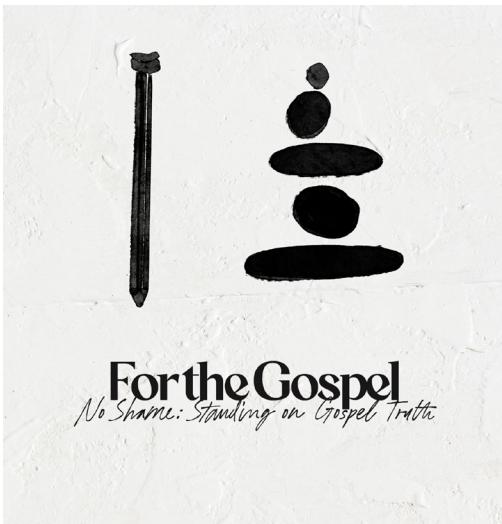


# Sermon Growth Guide

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## For the Gospel | Romans 1:1-12

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**Key Verse:** "That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:12

**Big Idea:** Introduction to the Book of Romans.

### Foundations

Happy New Year, church family! From now until Christ the King Sunday (November 22), the various sermon series will be taking us on a deep dive into the book of Romans. So this growth guide is little different. Instead of a diving into the verses along with the sermon, this is an invitation to get ready!

Romans is a beautiful and complex look at the Gospel, focusing particularly on the relationship between Jewish and Gentile Christians through faith in Jesus. While the book of Romans is often rightly used to the present the Gospel for the first time, it was written to believers. It clarifies that those who are in Christ are called to the "obedience of faith." (1:5, ESV) Through the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, God in Christ is able to do what the law could not: move us from death to life, from slavery to sin to slavery to righteousness (see Romans 6 and 8). This is an exciting opportunity for our church family to grow in maturity in Christ!

As we begin, please consider reading the book of Romans all the way through. Understanding the book as whole sheds light on the beautiful and difficult passages that are often taken out of context and allows us to understand God's Word more deeply. Discipleship will also be offering opportunities and resources to help us think more deeply about this book in the coming year. Our prayers are with you as we embark on this exciting journey.

### Understanding God's Word

Read Romans 1:1-12 together. What do we learn about Paul himself and his purpose in writing to the Romans from these verses? Does anything surprise you in Paul's description of the Gospel in verses 1-6?

### Applying God's Word

Although we are not all apostles, we are all "set apart for the Gospel." What do you think that means in your own life? Later on (in verse 16) Paul says he "is not ashamed of the Gospel." Are you ever ashamed of the Gospel? Why or why not? Paul says he prays constantly for the church in Rome. How often do you pray for other churches? How might you encourage people in other churches?

### Witnessing God's Word

Belonging to Christ makes us witnesses to God's saving work through Jesus Christ in both word and deed. However, it is easy to misunderstand the Gospel, even when we are in Christ. As we work through the book of Romans this year, allow God's Word to shape your understanding of the Gospel. May we be a church who both lives and preaches the Gospel clearly!