

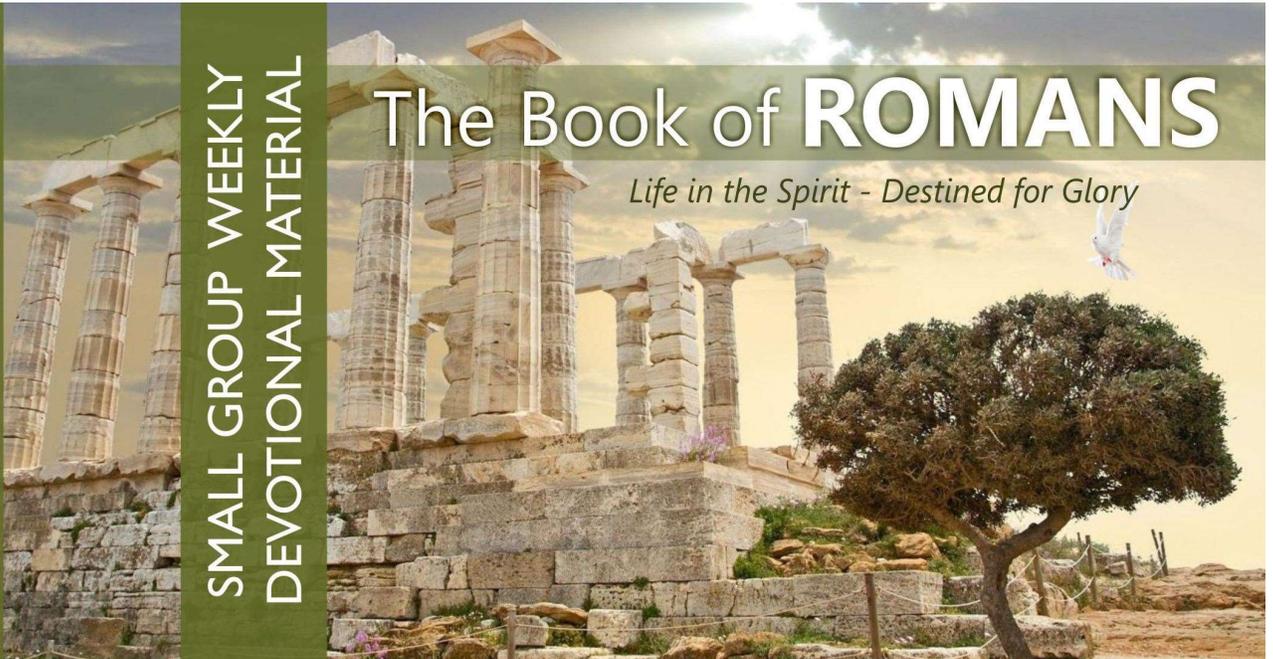


Week 6
24 - 30 July 2022

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

The Book of ROMANS

Life in the Spirit - Destined for Glory



CONTENT:

Weekly	Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time
Daily	Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Coming out of the season of Pentecost which is contextually articulated as the season of the birth of the church. God who calls us to his kingdom and to participate in her mission is aware and has full knowledge that Christians cannot in their own strength and power pursue the work without the assistance of the Spirit. The Spirit is generally understood as the embodied power that enables us to do things we cannot do on our own. Followers of Christ will face many difficulties, challenges, conflicts, and trials. On their own they cannot overcome these without the empowerment of the Spirit. To transcend the inner conflicts, the struggles, weaknesses we need the power of the Spirit to empower us.



Week 6: Transforming power of the spirit

Communities of faith embody giftings, values, and principles that drive how things are done. Any culture that promotes evil of violence, hatred, racism, and injustice and does not permit the community to edify and glorify God does not deserve transformation.

Week 7: The Spirit enhances churches missional work

The main purpose of the church's existence is to make Christ known to the world and participate in God's mission. Sharing Christ with others, creating work opportunities for others, and carrying each other's burden.

Week 6: SUNDAY 24 JULY



Praise and Worship: The Goodness of God:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y81yloI3o8>

TOPIC OF THE WEEK: TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE SPIRIT

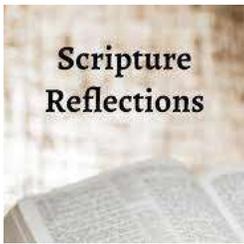


Bible Reading:
Romans 12: 9 -21
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10
Psalms: Psalm 128:1-5

Romans 12:9-21

New International Version - UK

Love in action ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.



WRITTEN BY: KEAGILE MOLOABI

Dear sisters and brothers, at the time when Paul wrote this letter, the church in Rome was divided as there were Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians, and the Gentile Christians were the ones running the church and its affairs. This created divisions as Jews had certain beliefs and practices that they observed that the Gentiles didn't, so there were tensions within the church because of this.

Paul therefore writes this letter in an effort to try and address these issues, this he does by teaching them the Gospel. In the verses which we have read, Paul is particularly concerned about how the church in Rome work out their faith within society and within the church and gives them guidance, or what other authors call "Christian Ethics". He wants them to leave together in Love and embrace each other's differences as they are all part of the body of Christ.

We, sisters and brothers are a very multifaceted and diverse community at BMC, culturally and otherwise. We are therefore encouraged to accept each other with all our differences and to embrace each other as Brothers and Sisters in Christ and to Love one another just as God loved us through his son Jesus Christ. As a community of faith, we need to be there for each other, supporting, advising, being hospitable and praying for each other. We should always seek to bring out the best in each other and to treat each other with care.

Small Group Questions:

1. What is your understanding of living together in Love?
2. How would you describe the community of BMC and what sets them apart?
3. Do you feel that you are part of a community of faith, why or why not?
4. What are the things that can be done to make this community closer knit?

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



Monday,

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

PRAYER: Dear God, I pray that you fill me with your Holy Spirit that, in my daily life and dealings with your people, I may be more a reflection of You and always show love, kindness and mercy, that other may see your glory through me, in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Tuesday,

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

PRAYER: Father God, please help me to always be in tune with you so I can discern what your will is for my life, and to always do what is good and pleasing in your sight, in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Wednesday,

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 13 “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have **love**, I gain nothing. ...”

PRAYER: Dear Loving God, I pray that as I make my way through life and through this world, love should always be my guiding light. Make me a beacon of hope, joy and love to those around me and those I cross paths with, in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Thursday,

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 1:9 “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,”

PRAYER: Father God, I pray that as I grow in Spirit and in Faith, I also learn to appreciate all the goodness you have put in the world and see your hand and love in all things. Help me so I can love everyone as my brothers and sisters, to appreciate the sounds of the birds in sky, the sunsets, beautiful flowers, the air we breathe, and know that they all come from your love, in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Friday,

MEMORY VERSE: Psalms 5:11 “But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.”

PRAYER: I pray for your everlasting protection dear God, over me and the community of faith around me, through your Holy Spirit. I pray that I can overcome all trials and tribulations I face, that I may always rejoice on your goodness.

Saturday,

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 3:3 “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”

PRAYER: Father God, I pray that you fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit and guide me, so I always walk in the path that you have prepared for me. Help me to always remember the love you showed us through your Son Jesus Christ, and to always be thankful and faithful to you and the community of faith I live amongst, in Jesus' name, **Amen.**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN’S PASTOR
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Sunday 24 July

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-21.

Activity/Family Moment:

1) **Read the scripture** together: **Romans 12:9-21**. The important thing is that you're reading scripture together! If you're looking for different ways to involve your children while reading, here are some fun and different ways to read scripture as a family

- Every reader takes a verse
- Ask each child to pick two words they don't understand to talk about after you read it. (For longer scriptures and younger children, you may need to split up the reading in order to do this)
- Draw a picture of what you read
- Act it out as a family
- Sing it!
- Use Legos or dolls to tell the story

2) **Tell your children** that today's Bible story is from the Book of Romans. The apostle (teacher) Paul wrote it. He lists instructions and ideas for a group of people called the Romans.

3) **Discussion Questions** (pick and choose which questions you'd like to discuss):

- What do you think it means to love?
- What do you think it means to love without pretending? Is it real Love if you're pretending?
- What is something you're enthusiastic or really excited about? How do you show your enthusiasm?
- Do you and how do you show your enthusiasm for God?
- Have you ever felt you're better than someone else? What does that feel like in your body? How do you think the other person would feel if they knew?
- If someone hurts you, do you feel like hurting them back? (It is normal to want to. Our job is to not hurt them back.)
- Paul says to defeat evil with good. What do you think this means?
- Have you ever been kind to someone, after they were mean to you? How did they respond? (If someone continues to be unkind or unsafe to you, it is ok to give yourself space from this person, or do what you need to do to be safe)

Sometimes people are mean because someone else is cruel to them. We can be an example of God's love to them – sometimes that is by being nice back to them, sometimes it is by taking our space from them, sometimes it means standing up for ourselves without hurting them back, sometimes it is by asking them how you can help them, if you can, and sometimes it is by praying for them.

4) **Close in Prayer:** *Dear God, thank you for Bible stories that continue to teach us, even thousands of years later! Thank you for giving us the strength to choose the good, true way – Your way. Even when it's really hard to do that! Give us wisdom to know what to do when someone is mean to us, and to not be cruel back. Fill us with enthusiasm for You! We want to share this enthusiasm with the world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*