



Group Discussion Guide

Romans 1:1-15

For groups meeting January 5 evening through January 12 morning.

As Paul begins this letter, he immediately introduces himself as “a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God ...” (v. 1). Paul understood that Jesus was his master and that he had called Paul to be an apostle (one who was sent with delegated authority). While Paul was not sent during Christ’s earthly ministry, he received his calling as an apostle when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:4-6) and Ananias received details from God about his mission to reach the Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16). He was to dedicate his life to living and sharing the Gospel: the good news about salvation through faith in Jesus.

In the next three verses, Paul expounds on the Gospel. He writes that this good news was prophesied by men who had received revelation from God (v. 2). The Gospel was given through God’s Son, who Paul said was descended from David (v. 3). The primary evidence of Christ’s identity as the Son of God was his resurrection from the dead, which was accomplished by the Holy Spirit (v. 4). It is through Jesus that Paul and others received God’s grace and His calling upon their lives, and this led them to live out their faith and glorify Him by reaching other nations with the Gospel (v. 5). This included the recipients of this letter, who were “called to belong to Jesus” and “called to be saints,” (vs. 6-7).

Paul wanted the believers in Rome to know how much they meant to him. In this next section he writes that he thanks God for them because their faith is a witness to others, he prays for them constantly and he desires to come and visit them in person (vs. 8-10). While he believes he can minister to these believers and strengthen them, he also believes they can strengthen him as well (vs. 11-12). He ensures his readers that he wants to come to them to preach the Gospel and see more people in their region trust in Christ (vs. 13-15).

Discussion Questions

1. What are some key truths God showed you in our walk through Acts and our journey through the Advent season? How has He been leading you to apply these to your life?
2. Consider how Paul identifies himself (v. 1), and how he describes those to whom he is writing (vs. 6-7). What do you think it means to be a servant of Christ, and to belong to him? How does this affect our mindset and the way we live?
3. Paul uses the word “called” three times in the opening of this letter: once he refers to himself and twice he refers to the believers in Rome. What does it mean to be “called”? From what you read this week, who is it that God “calls” and what does He “call” them to? Do you believe you are “called”? Why or why not?
4. What are the basic truths of the Gospel that Paul writes about in verses 2-4? Why is it important that we have a clear understanding of these, and that we accept them fully?
5. According to Paul, what was the result of the Gospel and the power of Christ in his life (v. 5)? How does this apply to our lives?
6. Why is Paul thankful for the believers in Rome (v. 8)? Who are you thankful for because of their faith? Do you think others are thankful to God for your faith? Why or why not?
7. How can we encourage one another as Paul describes in verses 9-12?
8. Paul was passionate about fulfilling his calling (vs. 13-15). What are you passionate about? Have you found that your desire to fulfill God’s calling on your life has faded? Why or why not? How can we ignite that passion in our hearts once again?