



Lesson 9 ~ "The Roman Road"

Various Verses from Romans

Discussion Starter

- Has anyone ever sat down with you and explained the gospel? Who? When? What happened?
- Have you ever tried to share the gospel with someone? How did it go? What did you learn?

Introduction

What if someone asked you why you believe in Jesus or asked you what you believed? What would you say? If you are praying for someone you love to say "yes" to Jesus, are you prepared and ready to be the answer to that prayer by knowing how to explain God's wonderful plan of salvation?

Many have found a method called *The Roman Road* an effective tool in explaining the gospel to others. In Paul's day, the Romans built thousands of miles of straight, sturdy roads to connect the Empire to Rome. "All roads lead to Rome," it was said. Whenever possible, the

Romans built their roads straight – the shortest distance between two points. *The Roman Road* is a method that moves systematically through key verses in *Romans*, explaining the main points of how to establish a relationship with God. Just like the straight roads that the Romans built, it straight-forward and easy to use.

This lesson will be a little different from the other lessons in this study of *Romans*. It is interactive, designed to acquaint you with *The Roman Road* and encourage you to prepare and be ready to share your faith as God gives you opportunity.

Questions

1. If you were to share the *gospel* with someone, you would need to present it in a orderly, logical way so that it could be easily understood. Sometimes, however, it is hard to know where to begin and what to include! Below are seven verses from *Romans*, in random order, each containing an essential truth about the *gospel*. Carefully read each verse and then number the verses **1 through 7**, putting them into what you think is a logical order that would help someone understand the *good news* of Jesus Christ.

Number	Verse
	Romans 10:13 - Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
	Romans 3:23 For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.
	Romans 10:9-10 - For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.
	Romans 1:20-21 - From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused.
	Romans 5:8 - But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
	Romans 12:1-2 - And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.
	Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ♥ Explain to your small group why the order you chose seems logical to you. Discuss other possibilities with your group and come to a group consensus as to a good order to present these truths.
 - ♥ Discuss with your small group why each of the truths presented is an important part of the gospel message. In other words, what would be lost if any of the verses were left out?
 - ♥ How confident are you about sharing with someone about how they can be saved. What fears and anxieties do you have? Why?
2. If we want to effectively share the good news with someone, it is important that we understand what we are talking about and not just parroting words and phrases we have heard or memorized. Write a short phrase or sentence beside each Scripture that captures or summarizes the essential truth presented in the verse(s) that a seeker would need to see and understand.

Romans 1:20-21 _____

- ♥ What, exactly, does everyone automatically know about God? Why do we know these things? How should a person respond to this knowledge?
- ♥ What are the consequences of our ignoring what we intuitively know about God? How might this explain the suffering we see in our world?
- ♥ What might you say to the person who says they don't believe in God or that God is who we each make him to be?

Romans 3:23 _____

- ♥ Why does everyone need a Savior? How does this verse explain what sin is?
- ♥ What might you say to the person who claims not to be a sinner or not as bad as other people?
- ♥ What can you share from your own story that would help someone understand the truth of this verse?

Romans 5:8 _____

- ♥ How does this verse demonstrate that God loves people because of who God is, not because of who we are? Why is this important?
- ♥ Why do you think Jesus died for us *while we were still sinners*?
- ♥ What can you share from your own story that would help someone understand the truth of this verse?

Romans 6:23 _____

- ♥ What does everyone earn as payment for their sins? What three kinds of death does the Bible mention (**Philippians 1:21** and **Hebrews 9:27**; **Ephesians 2:1-5**; **Revelation 20:14, 6** and **21:8**)? Which of these deaths comes as a result of sin?
- ♥ What does salvation cost God (**5:8**)? What does salvation cost us? Why do you think God made salvation a free gift? Is a gift given automatically a gift received? Why or why not?
- ♥ What is eternal life and when does it begin (**John 17:3**)?

Romans 10:9-10, 13 _____

- ♥ What are the simple instructions Paul gives regarding personal salvation? How do these instructions involve a decision?
- ♥ Why is both *confessing with the mouth* and *believing in the heart* important for salvation? Who are you talking to when you *confess with the mouth*? When you *call upon the name of the Lord*? Why are both important?
- ♥ Many non-Christians may have heard the word "saved," but probably don't really understand what it means. Saved means "to be rescued." Read **Romans 10:9-10, 13**, substituting the word *rescued* for *saved*. Would this substitution better help you explain these verses to someone? Why or why not?

Romans 12:1-2 _____

- ♥ What should follow the decision to accept the salvation found in Christ? Why is this important?
- ♥ What can we do to develop a relationship with God? How is your relationship with God like your human relationships? How is it different?

3. A person who wants to accept God's free gift of salvation needs to "call upon the name of the Lord." In other words, a person needs to verbalize to God their decision to turn from sin and accept his gift. Review the main truths from each of the verses listed in question 2 and write a short, simple prayer that you could help someone pray confirming their decision to accept God's free gift of salvation.

- ♥ Could *The Roman Road* be used to lead a child to Christ? Discuss with your group how the truths of each verse in *The Roman Road* could be creatively explained in a way that a child could understand it.
4. **1 Peter 3:15** says, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .*" **Preparing yourself** to be ready to give an answer is not only *obedience*, but it is also an exercise in *faith*. As you make yourself ready, you will begin to believe that God will give you opportunities to share – perhaps with someone who is close to you that you are concerned about. If you choose not to prepare yourself, there is no reason to assume that the Holy Spirit will open doors of opportunity for you!

The Roman Road is a way to share the path to salvation using only your Bible. There is **great value** in taking a person directly to Scripture to show them God's plan of salvation, reading the verses together. You may want to *write a map of this plan right in your Bible*. To do this, open your Bible to *Romans* and follow these simple steps: At the beginning of the book of Romans, write the first reference for the Roman Road – **Romans 1:20-21**. In the margin beside this reference (**1:20-21**), write the next reference – **Romans 3:23**, and beside **3:23**, write Romans **5:8**, etc. until you get through all the references. Making a map by marking these verses will not only help you to be prepared to share your faith as God gives you opportunities, but it will also help you remember each verse!

- ♥ Can you think of some specific advantages for explaining salvation to someone using Scripture rather than using your own words?
5. Read **1 Peter 3:15-16**. What are some specific things Christ-followers are commanded to do?
- ♥ How are all these commands related to sharing your faith? What specific steps can you take to fulfill these commands?
- ♥ To whom are we to give an answer to for the reason of our faith? Does this mean we don't share unless asked? Why or why not?
6. Read **Mark 4:26-29** – *The Parable of the Growing Seed*. What is our role in sharing the good news? What is God's role?
- ♥ How do we sometimes get our role and God's role confused? What is the result?
- ♥ Whose "rescue" or "salvation" are you praying for? What is **God's desire** for the ones you love but who have not accepted God's gift of salvation (**2 Peter 3:9**)? How does knowing this encourage you?
- ♥ If you have never accepted God's gift of salvation, would you like to? *Tell God what is on your heart* and then tell another Christ-follower about the decision you have made!

Practice Makes Perfect – Using the "map" you made in your Bible, role-play sharing *The Roman Road* with someone in your small group. Assume that your "listener" is interested and has asked you about the hope you have in Christ.

Response

What is *your* story? The most powerful way to tell someone about Jesus is to share with them what Jesus has done for you. Write a one page "testimony" (the story of your faith journey). Share your stories with each other in your small group. Below are some questions that might help you get started:

- What does Jesus mean to you? What difference has he made in your life? How is your life different now from before the time you knew Jesus as your personal Savior from the consequences of sin?
- How and when did you become a child of God?
- What are some of the milestones in your faith journey? When have you been aware of God pursuing you? How did you respond to His advances? What were the results?