

JOURNEY THROUGH **ROMANS**

A Bible Study & Prayer Journal



Jordan Mitchell & Stacy Farrell

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Sample

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*“Do your best to present yourself to God
as one approved, a worker who has
no need to be ashamed,
rightly handling the word of truth.”*

2 Timothy 2:15

HOW IT CAME TO BE

Introduction by Jordan

I learned years ago that if chaos smacks me in the face first thing in the morning, I turn into a grouch.

That's when I instituted a morning quiet time, but I quickly discovered a significant truth: the devil doesn't want us to invest in quiet time—and neither does our flesh.

When I tried to commit to quiet time, it seemed like everything turned against me:

- The clock (Time flew faster than ever.)
- The bed (Sleep had never been so enticing.)
- My "To Do" list (I could get an extra load of laundry done instead.)

Eventually, it hit me that "quiet time" requires the same sacrifices as everything else that's worthwhile.

I had to plan for it, invest in it, and fight for it.

JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

A VISION FORMS ...

My morning time with the Lord needed to be non-negotiable. To position myself for success, I needed focus, structure, and accountability, but I wasn't sure how to achieve them.

After praying, I decided a "daily assignment" is what I needed.

There are many wonderful "Daily Devotionals" available, but too many emphasize the author's interpretation of Scripture rather than allowing Scripture to speak for itself.

As I contemplated my ideal format, a vision formed. I wanted a book that would:

- Exalt God's Word above all else.
- Facilitate verse-by-verse study.
- Provide daily structure & accountability.
- Provoke thought with prompts.
- Supply a built-in areas for notes.

The format would not influence my reading of Scripture with outside interpretations, nor water down hard truths. It wouldn't fill my mornings with feel-good stories.

It was the "meat" of God's Word that I craved most.

A PROMISING DISCOVERY

While searching for such a resource, I encountered many devotions focused on motherhood and being a godly wife. They

HOW IT CAME TO BE

looked nice, and such resources certainly have their place, but none of them fulfilled my vision.

However, I did stumble upon a verse-by-verse study method known as “verse mapping.” I loved the Scripture-centric nature of this method and how it incorporated journaling aspects into Bible study. But ... it lacked structure, guidance, and prompting.

PLEASING THE FATHER

Ultimately, I ended my search empty-handed.

- Was I being too picky?
- Should I just settle for a decent devotional because having something is better than having nothing?

That’s when the Lord stirred in my heart the desire to bring this vision to life. I shared it with Stacy, and she wholeheartedly supported it. We teamed up to produce *Journey Through Romans* together.

In Hebrews 11:6, we learn the following truths:

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

We want to please Him. We imagine you do, too. To do that, we need faith—and faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

Just like a muscle, faith needs to be exercised. We pray that this resource exercises your faith with focused time in God's Word each day.

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Psalm 119:162

NINE SIMPLE STEPS

As with any resource, you should use this one in a way that serves you best. Personally, I use this as a daily devotional during my morning quiet time.

This resource is designed to walk you through Romans, verse-by-verse, in 60 days. Each day's assignment is laid out in nine steps:

1. Read

You will start by reading. Most days include 7-10 verses. Though you will dig deeper into specific verses each day, it's important to read surrounding verses for context.

2. Write

Penning verses on paper is a wonderful way to jumpstart the process of writing God's Word on your heart. Built-in lines are provided in this section.

3. Study

For each daily reading, we've selected a verse as the "key thought." From that verse, we chose one or two words and provided the Greek words and definitions for them.

JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

We purposefully created this resource to be used with any Bible translation. However, it was impossible to select words for the Word Study that appeared the same in all translations. Therefore, we selected words that, for the most part, appear the same in both the KJV and ESV.

If they differ, we provide the alternative word or phrase in parentheses. For example:

English Word	Greek Word	Definition(s)	Other Occurrences
debtor (or "under obligation")	<i>ofeiletēs</i>	one who owes; is obligated; guilty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romans 8:12• Romans 15:27
Barbarians	<i>barbaros</i>	non-Greek; foreign; someone who speaks an unintelligible language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Cor. 14:11• Colossians 3:11

In the "Other Occurrences" column, you can find where that word was used elsewhere in Scripture so that you gain a better understanding of its meaning.

4. Understand

Word studies often lead to greater understanding of the passage as a whole. We encourage you to jot down any notes or thoughts that flow from your findings.

5. Cross-Reference

On this page, you will find 3-4 passages of Scripture that correspond to the day's reading. By cross-referencing related

NINE SIMPLE STEPS

portions of Scripture, you can begin to connect the dots regarding the topic or principle addressed—unlocking further comprehension. Journal lines are provided for you to record your thoughts.

6. Observe

Here, you are encouraged to highlight verses in your Bible that state a promise, issue a command, reveal the character of God, and more.

We provided a color-coded box but, of course, this is optional. The colors are as follows:

- Yellow = God's promises (*e.g. - eternal salvation*)
- Orange = God's commands (*e.g. - Do not fear.*)
- Pink or Red = Principles to live by (*e.g. - Be kind.*)
- Blue = Qualities of God (*e.g. - long-suffering, loving, just*)
- Green = Compare or contrast (*e.g. - Sin leads to death, but the gift of God is eternal life*)
- Purple = Cause and effect (*e.g. - If we don't adhere to God's truth, we risk being given over to a debased, or reprobate, mind.*)

7. Apply

Apply what you just read to your life. A list of prompts and space to write your thoughts is provided.

This is, perhaps, the most important section. In James 1:22, we are warned to be "... doers of the word, and not hearers only."

JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

If the Word of God never makes its way past our eyes and ears and into our hearts, we forfeit its blessings and benefits.

Take time to ponder how these verses apply to your life. Be specific, and be honest with yourself.

Remember, God rewards those who diligently seek Him!
(Hebrews 11:6)

8. Clarify

Organize your thoughts and record biblical truths using the Cornell notetaking method—a notes system originally designed to help college students capture information from lectures:

- Read the day's passage once more with this note page open.
- In the right-hand column, take notes as you read.
- When you're finished, analyze your notes, focus on the most important topic(s) discussed in the passage, and write them in the left-hand column.
- Finally, summarize the key thought(s) of the passage in your own words.

9. Pray

Close your time in God's Word with prayer. (You can journal your prayers in the space provided.)

SHOW ME, PLEASE

We created a set of daily pages that give you an example of what a completed day might look like.

Of course, thoughts and answers will vary for each individual.

That's the beauty of forging a personal relationship with Jesus—it's unlike any other!

READ

Romans 1:8-14

WRITE

Romans 1:14

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians;
both to the wise, and to the unwise.

STUDY

Romans 1:14

English Word	Greek Word	Definition(s)	Other Occurrences
debtor <i>(or "under obligation")</i>	<i>opheiletēs</i>	one who owes; is obligated; guilty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 8:12 • Romans 15:27
Barbarians	<i>barbaros</i>	non-Greek; foreign; someone who speaks an unintelligible language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor. 14:11 • Colossians 3:11

UNDERSTAND

How do the definitions and other occurrences help you better understand the verses?

Barbarian doesn't mean "savage" like we use it today, but simply a person from a different culture.

CROSS-REFERENCE

Read the following cross-references for Romans 1:14.
Note anything that catches your attention
or that you'd like to remember.

Mark 16:15-16

Romans 13:8

Acts 26:16-18

1 Cor. 9:16-22

We are compelled to tell everyone about Jesus.

Paul felt himself a debtor not because he owed the Jews or Greeks anything, but because he was compelled by the debt that was paid for him by Jesus.

Rom. 13:8 - We shouldn't be in debt to others, but we owe one another love. It's owed because it's a command—not necessarily because the person "deserves" it.

OBSERVE

In Romans 1:8-14, is there...

...a promise given?

...a quality of God?

...a command to obey?

...a compare or contrast?

...a principle to live by?

...a cause and effect?

vs 9-10 - make a habit of including others in my prayers.

Paul longed to visit these believers but was hindered from doing so for quite a while. He wanted to visit them to teach and impart spiritual gifts. That's a good thing!

So why did God allow Paul to be hindered from visiting them?

We won't always understand God's will. We're encouraged to make our requests, but we need to trust Him when the outcome differs from that request.

APPLY

How can you apply these verses to your life?
Use the following prompts if needed.

How can I praise God because of this passage?
Is there anything I need to confess?
Is there a habit or quality I need to cultivate?
How can I encourage myself with this passage?
Is there an example to follow?
Is there a truth to believe?

I need to follow Paul's example and view myself as a debtor. If I'm a debtor to someone, I'm under obligation to fulfill that debt. It's not a matter of if I feel like it or if it's convenient. I must.

Judging by the verses that follow this portion, I can tell the debt, or obligation, is to proclaim the Gospel— and not just to people I'm familiar with, but to all the world.

SHOW ME, PLEASE

Here's a picture of my Bible showing how I highlighted a verse using the color coding recommended in the Observe section:

<p>CHAPTER 1.</p> <p><i>Introduction</i> (vs. 1-15); <i>theme</i> (vs. 16, 17).</p> <p>L, a ^aservant of Jesus Christ, <i>led to be</i> an apostle, separated into the gospel of God, which he had promised afore prophets in the ^choly scriptures concerning his Son Jesus Christ, ^dwhich was made of the David according to the <i>declared to be</i> the ^fSon of power, according to the holiness, by the resurrection the dead: whom we have received</p>	<p>A.D. 60.</p> <p>^a <i>bondman.</i> Acts 7.58; 1 Tim. 1.12.</p> <p>^b <i>through.</i></p> <p>^c <i>Sanctify, holy (things)</i> (N.T.). Rom. 7.12. (Mt. 4.5; Rev. 22.11.)</p> <p>^d <i>who was born.</i></p> <p>^e See, on the Davidic descent of Christ, Lk. 3.23, <i>note.</i></p> <p>^f Acts 9.20; Heb. 1.2.</p> <p>^g <i>Holy Spirit.</i> Rom. 5.5. (Mt. 1.18; Acts 2.4.)</p> <p>^h <i>Or, of such as were dead.</i></p> <p>ⁱ <i>through.</i></p> <p>^j <i>unto obedience to faith, i.e. faith as a principle, or</i></p>	<p>8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, ^kthat your faith is spoken of throughout the whole ^lworld.</p> <p>9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;</p> <p>10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey ^mby the will of God to come unto you.</p> <p>11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift to the end ye may be established</p> <p>12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me</p> <p>13 Now I would not have ye</p>
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MEET PAUL

WHO?

Romans was written by Paul, who wrote at least 13 of the 27 New Testament books.

Chronologically, it is the sixth book that he wrote. He penned the book while still in Corinth in anticipation of his visit to the church in Rome. This means he had not yet met the people he was addressing, which explains the detailed introduction of himself in Chapter 1.

Paul's life up to this point was a fascinating one. It's not beyond the realm of reason to suggest that some Christians in Rome were still suspicious of Paul.

Before he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul was known as Saul of Tarsus—a staunch Pharisee who studied under the Jewish rabbi, Gamaliel.

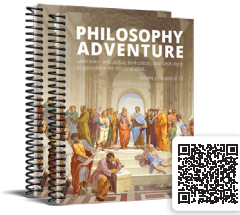
Saul was so fervent in his religious beliefs that he was among those who persecuted the early church and actively sought to imprison Christians. In fact, Saul was one of the reasons why the early church scattered abroad as they fled persecution. Nevertheless, God used the persecution to spread the Gospel even further (Acts 8:1-4).

DAILY PAGES

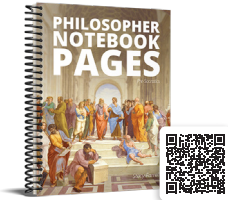
Jesus is not only found in the Bible—He is the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

So, if we are to cultivate a closer relationship with Him, we must dig into the Word of God. May *Journey Through Romans* help you dig deep!

Homeschool Adventure Resources



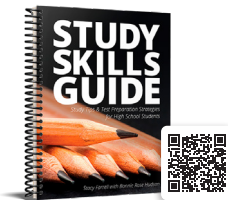
Philosophy Adventure is designed to help students 6th-12th grade cultivate and defend a biblical worldview by teaching them how to write skillfully, think critically, and speak articulately as they explore the history of ideas. If you need to teach advanced writing ... if you want your students equipped to discern truth ... if you wonder how to strengthen them academically ... **PHILOSOPHY ADVENTURE MAY BE YOUR SOLUTION!**



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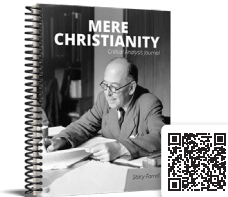
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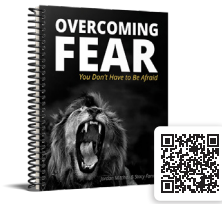
NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY. Don't let the title deceive you—this elegant fable is not for women only. It captivates boys and men as well. *The Wise Woman* enchants readers while it contrasts the ugliness of pride, selfishness and conceit with the beauty of humility, sacrifice, and compassion. It's an unforgettable family read-aloud (or an independent study for your teen.)



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SHOP



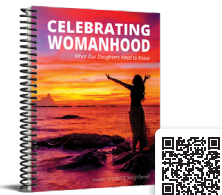
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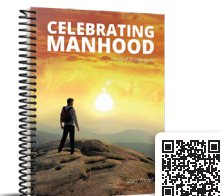
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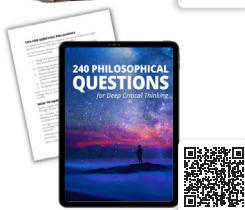
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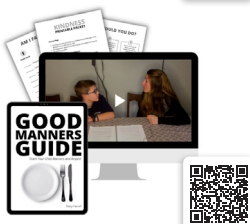
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SHOP