

JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS

A Bible Study Adventure



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

THE ELEPHANT

Introduction by Jordan

Do you sometimes find that reading the Bible is boring? (Oops ... are we allowed to say that out loud?)

It's the elephant in the room (that no one likes to acknowledge), but we've all experienced it. You're not a bad person for feeling that way, and God doesn't think any less of you.

Thankfully, God's promises supersede our feelings. When I was a teen—when boredom struck, I quoted Isaiah 55:11:

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Rest assured, every time you read your Bible, God is doing something with it in your life—whether it's obvious at the moment or not. I once heard a young preacher put it this way:

When the Bible feels dull and dry, remember that you are filling up a well that the Lord can refresh you with in the future. It's much easier for the Lord to speak to you if His words are already tucked inside.

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And it's the anticipation of hearing from the Lord that transforms Bible reading from bland to breathtaking!

WHY THIS BOOK?

I'll never forget the introduction to George Mueller's book, *The Life of Trust*. As the vision for this resource came into focus and the work began, I thought of Mueller's introduction repeatedly.

A famous Christian evangelist, Mueller was known for his prayerful trust in God to supply all his needs, including those of the many orphanages he founded. And he was not disappointed.

In one particularly dire situation, his orphanage ran out of food, so he prayed. Within minutes, there was a knock on the door with enough bread and milk to feed 300 children.

Initially, he *didn't* want to write *The Life of Trust* for the same reason we *did* write the book you now hold in your hands:

My great dislike to increasing the number of religious books would ... have been sufficient to keep me forever from it, had I not cherished the hope of ... leading some ... to value the Holy Scriptures more, and to judge by the standard of the Word of God the principles on which they act.

But that which weighed more with me than anything was ... from what I have seen among the children of God, that many of their trials arise either from want of confidence in the Lord as regards temporal things, or from carrying on their business in an unscriptural way.

THE ELEPHANT

On account, therefore, of the remarkable way in which the Lord has dealt with me as to temporal things, I feel that I am a debtor to the church of Christ ... to make known the way in which he has led me.

Elsewhere in the book, Mr. Mueller states:

I fell into the snare, into which so many young believers fall, the reading of religious books in preference to the Scriptures.

There are wonderful Christian books and daily devotionals available, but God's Word deserves our time and attention above all. No other book can:

- birth faith (Romans 10:17),
- cleanse you (Ephesians 5:26),
- sustain you (Matthew 4:4),
- or connect you with Jesus (John 1:14)

... like the Bible can.

Still, it can be intimidating to study God's Word on your own.

I'm convinced that studying the Bible is a lot like studying for school—in that, we're told to do it, but not necessarily shown how.

By the time you finish *Journey Through Romans*, you will have learned a simple, structured way to move through God's Word verse by verse.

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OWN YOUR FAITH

You may be knowledgeable about the Bible. You may have heard more sermons than you can count. But do you know Jesus? Do you have a personal relationship with Him? Do you invest in that relationship daily?

The way we develop a closer relationship with Jesus is by spending time in His Word each day. This requires discipline. If there's one thing that makes this discipline easier, it's habit formation.

As we developed this resource, we wanted it to also function as a habit-development tool that helps you exercise your faith and grow closer to your Savior on a daily basis.

SEVEN SIMPLE STEPS

As with any resource, you should use this one in a way that serves you best. Personally, my family will use this as a daily devotional.

The flow of each day allows you to work through the study independently. Each day's assignment is laid out in seven steps:

1. Read

Each day is assigned a portion of Scripture to read. 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.

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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>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

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

Oftentimes, conducting word studies—as in the previous step—leads 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

By cross-referencing related portions of Scripture, you can begin to connect the dots regarding the topic or principle addressed.

On this page, you will find 3-4 passages of Scripture that correspond to the day's reading. Like word studies, cross-referencing can unlock further comprehension. Additional 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.*)

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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."

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)

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 (vs. 1-15); theme (vs. 16, 17).</i></p> <p><i>L, a ^aservant of Jesus Christ, called to be 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 declared to be the ^fSon of power, according to the holiness, by the resurrection the dead: whom we have received</i></p>	<p>A.D. 60.</p> <p><i>^a bondman. Acts 7.58; 1 Tim.1.12.</i></p> <p><i>^b through.</i></p> <p><i>^c Sanctify, holy (things) (N.T.). Rom.7.12. (Mt.4.5; Rev.22.11.)</i></p> <p><i>^d who was born.</i></p> <p><i>^e See, on the Davidic descent of Christ, Lk.3.23, note.</i></p> <p><i>^f Acts 9.20; Heb. 1.2.</i></p> <p><i>^g Holy Spirit. Rom.5.5. (Mt.1.18; Acts 2.4.)</i></p> <p><i>^h Or, of such as were dead.</i></p> <p><i>ⁱ through.</i></p> <p><i>^j 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 you</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).

You shouldn't feel lost, bored or intimidated when you open your Bible.

The Word of God gives life and light and hope—even through the darkest trials—and you don't have to attend seminary to study it.

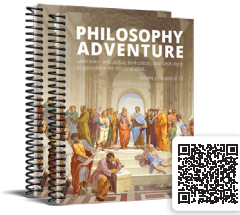
Journey Through Romans: A Bible Study Adventure guides you verse-by-verse using seven simple steps:

1. **READ:** Safeguard against misinterpretation by studying verses within their surrounding text.
2. **WRITE:** Copy verses onto paper as an effective way to kickstart memorization.
3. **WORD STUDY:** Examine key words or phrases in their original language to unlock greater understanding of the passage.
4. **UNDERSTAND:** Ponder and meditate on God's Word and record what you learn from your word study.
5. **CROSS REFERENCE:** Gain insight as you cross-reference verses with other topically relevant Scriptures.
6. **OBSERVE:** Make connections and discoveries as you color-code God's promises, principles, and commands.
7. **APPLY:** God's Word becomes more personal as you apply what you've learned and allow it to influence how you live.

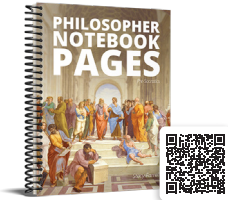
Begin the adventure that will increase your understanding of Scripture and the stunning gift of salvation as you *Journey Through Romans* verse by verse!



Homeschool Adventure Resources



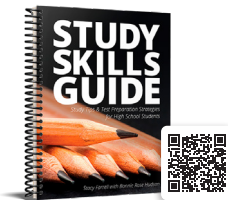
Philosophy Adventure is designed to help students 6th-12th grade cultivate and defend a biblical worldview by teaching them how to write skillfully, think critically, and speak articulately as they explore the history of ideas. If you need to teach advanced writing ... if you want your students equipped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



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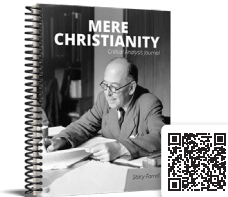
COMBAT A CULTURE OF RUDENESS WITH CLEAR ACTION STEPS & CHARACTER-BUILDING INSIGHTS. The *Good Manners Guide* contains 50+ pages of actionable strategies and thought-provoking lessons to help families display respect, kindness, self-control, and more in an increasingly godless culture.



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HAVE WE FORGOTTEN WHOSE WE ARE? In this "Age of Tolerance," Christians are in danger of forgetting (or never learning) what distinguishes a Christian worldview from other worldviews. The *Mere Christianity Critical Analysis Journal* is a powerful tool to strengthen critical thinking while cultivating a biblical worldview.



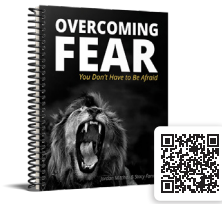
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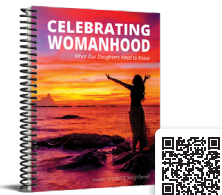
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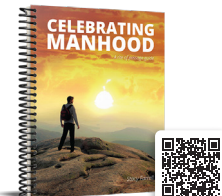
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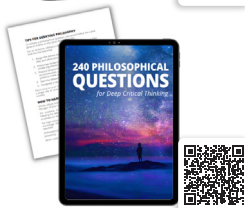
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