
Question-based Bible Study Guide

Romans

Good Questions Have
Small Groups Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups
Talking Talking

By Josh Hunt

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Romans, Lesson #1
Romans 1

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Note: if you are following the Standard outline, you might notice that I am emphasizing different verses. I hope this does not create a problem for you.

Here is a good challenge for your folks: challenge them to read through the entire book of Romans each week during this study. Nothing like a well-informed, read-up, studied-up group to have a discussion with. In addition, I'd encourage your people to get a good Study Bible. This week, ask them to read the introduction to Romans.

Romans 1:16-23, 28-32

OPEN

What is your name and one thing you are grateful for this week?

DIG

1. Introduction. What year is Paul writing?

In what order did Paul probably write his epistles?

Paul probably wrote his epistles in the following order: Galatians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking Philemon, Colossians, 1 Timothy, Titus, 2 Timothy.

When did Paul write Romans?

Paul wrote Romans in Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking A.D. 57 when he was in Greece (Acts 20:3–6), more specifically in Corinth. Paul was living with Gaius (Rom. 16:23, 1 Cor. 1:14), and mentions Erastus, the treasurer of Corinth (Rom. 16:23). — Elmer Towns, *Bible Answers for Almost All Your Questions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

2. Why is the book of Romans placed first among Paul's writings?

Obviously Romans was not the first letter that Paul wrote, but it was considered his greatest work and is placed first among his Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking letters because of its doctrinal

prominence. — Elmer Towns, *Bible Answers for Almost All Your Questions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

3. What is the main thrust of the book of Romans?

The book of Romans has the most systematic presentation of doctrine of any book in the Bible. Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking But it is not just a theology book; it gives a Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking logical examination of sin and an exposition of the death of Christ, His justification of sinners, and man's response. The book also includes practical exhortations. The message of Jesus Christ is more than theology or a set of facts one must believe; it is the life of Jesus Christ, to be lived in godly holiness. — Elmer Towns, *Bible Answers for Almost All Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking Your Questions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

4. Who founded the church at Rome?

Paul did not plant the church at Rome. Tradition says Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking that Peter was its founder, but this is contrary to evidence. Some think that Jews who were converted at Pentecost (Acts 2:10) returned to Rome and began the church. Others think that the church began when Christians from other churches moved to Rome, since by the time Paul wrote to the church of Rome, it Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking was predominately Gentile (see the Gentile names mentioned in Romans 16:11, 15–16). However, even though Gentile names were prominent, there were some Jewish believers. — Elmer Towns, *Bible Answers for Almost All Your Questions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

5. Romans 1.1. How does Paul describe himself in the opening verse? Look at it in several translations.

Bondservant means Question Based Bible Study Guide -- Romans: Good Questions Have Groups Talking “slave.” Paul is talking about a slavery undertaken voluntarily out of love (see Ex. 21:1–6), unlike the forced slavery well known to many in the Roman Empire. Paul emphasizes his personal subjection to Jesus Christ. By calling himself an apostle, Paul places himself on the level of the twelve apostles and claims authority from God for His work. — *The NKJV Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007), Ro 1:1.

6. Some versions have “slave,” while others have “servant.” What is the difference?

The Roman institution of being a “bondservant” (Gk. *doulos*; see ESV footnote) was different from the institution of slavery in North America during the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. Slaves generally were permitted to work for pay and to save enough to buy their freedom (see Matt. 25:15 where the “servants” [again Gk. *doulos*] were entrusted with immense amounts of money and responsibility). The NT assumes that trafficking in human beings is a sin (1 Tim. 1:10; Rev. 18:11–13), and Paul urges Christian slaves who can gain ... freedom to do so. The released slave was officially designated a “freedman” and frequently continued to work for his former master. Many extant inscriptions from freedmen indicate the tendency to adopt the family name of their former master (now their “patron”) and to continue honoring them. — *Crossway Bibles, The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2201.

7. How was Paul’s slavery to Christ different from any other slave’s relationship to his master?

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