Romans Reviewed

Companion Study Guide

Our Storybook Fairy-Tale Reality of the Kingdom of God

A 16-session journey through Paul’s letter to the Romans

With Scripture questions, practical application,
and guidance for living in the Kingdom of God now

Designed for personal reflection, Bible-study groups,
churches, and classrooms

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A free gift from Laurie Kay Rodriguez to those who want to teach Romans Reviewed

A guide for reading, studying, and living in the Kingdom

This free companion guide follows the sixteen-chapter journey in Romans Reviewed. Each session pairs one chapter of the book with the corresponding chapter of Paul's letter, then offers questions for conversation, a Kingdom-living truth, personal application, and prayer.

What does the tagline mean?

Our Storybook Fairy-Tale Reality of the Kingdom of God does not mean that God's Kingdom is imaginary. It points to a greater reality: Jesus is the true King, His people belong to His Kingdom, and the story God is writing is more lasting than the world we can see. The pictures of a King and His Kingdom help us understand the spiritual reality Paul describes.

We enter God's Kingdom through faith in Jesus, and we learn to live under His loving rule now—through truth, righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit, mercy, obedience, love, and hope—while awaiting the day His Kingdom is fully revealed.

A simple group rhythm

- Read the assigned chapter of Romans aloud or quietly before the meeting.
- Read the matching chapter in Romans Reviewed.
- Begin with the opening question, then discuss the Scripture questions. Invite everyone to share; passing is always welcome.
- Read the Living in the Kingdom box. Discuss how the truth becomes visible in everyday life.
- Choose one practical response and close with the prayer prompt. A 45–60 minute meeting is usually enough for one session.

For leaders and teachers

Keep the Bible passage at the center of discussion. Let participants point to what they see in the text before moving to interpretation or application. These questions are invitations, not a test. For classroom use, adapt personal prompts to protect students' privacy. When a topic is difficult, make room for careful questions, different experiences, and respectful conversation.

The guide adds a small-group path; it does not replace the teaching and reflection in the book.

Session 01 | Living the Truth

READ Romans 1 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 1

Paul begins with the power of the gospel and shows how turning from God distorts worship and life.

Begin together

When has a truth from Scripture helped you see a situation more clearly?

Look closely and discuss

1. In Romans 1:16–17, what does Paul say the gospel does, and who is it for?
2. What repeated pattern do you notice in Romans 1:18–25 when people turn from the Creator?
3. How can gratitude protect our hearts from treating created things as more important than God?
4. What does it look like to live openly and humbly by the truth of the gospel in ordinary life?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Jesus is the King, and His gospel brings us under His saving rule. Kingdom living begins when we worship the Creator, receive His truth, and let gratitude reorder our loves.

Kingdom question: What choice this week would show that Jesus—not fear, approval, or desire—is your King?

Put the message into practice

Name one place where you want the gospel to shape your choices this week.

Close in prayer

Ask God to keep your heart grateful, truthful, and centered on Him.

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Session 02 | Living Without Judgment

READ Romans 2 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 2

Paul warns against condemning others while ignoring our own need for God's mercy.

Begin together

Why is it easier to notice another person's faults than our own?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does Romans 2:1–4 teach about judgment, God's kindness, and repentance?
2. How does the reminder that God is impartial challenge favoritism or double standards?
3. What is the difference between recognizing that an action is wrong and acting as though we are the judge of another person's heart?
4. How can honest self-examination make us more compassionate without making us excuse sin?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Citizens of the Kingdom remember that the King alone judges perfectly. Because His kindness leads us to repentance, we tell the truth about sin while extending the mercy we have received.

Kingdom question: Who needs mercy from you, and how can you offer it without abandoning truth?

Put the message into practice

Before criticizing someone, pause to ask God to show you your own heart and your next loving step.

Close in prayer

Thank God for His patience with you and ask for a humble, merciful spirit.

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Session 03 | The King’s Gift of Righteousness

READ Romans 3 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 3

All people need grace; God makes people right with Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

Begin together

What makes it hard for people to receive a gift they cannot earn?

Look closely and discuss

1. According to Romans 3:9–20, what problem do all people share?
2. What can the law reveal, and what can it not do for us?
3. Read Romans 3:21–26. What do you learn about God's justice and His grace?
4. Why does receiving righteousness by faith leave no room for boasting?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

We do not earn a place in the Kingdom. The King gives righteousness through faith in Jesus. We live there with gratitude, humility, and confidence in Christ rather than confidence in our performance.

Kingdom question: How would receiving righteousness as the King’s gift change the way you see yourself and other people?

Put the message into practice

Where are you tempted to measure your standing with God by performance? What would it mean to rest in Christ's gift?

Close in prayer

Thank Jesus for doing for you what you could not do for yourself.

Notes

Session 04 | Living by Faith

READ Romans 4 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 4

Abraham's story shows that righteousness is received by trusting God's promise, not earned by achievement.

Begin together

What helps you trust a promise when you cannot yet see the outcome?

Look closely and discuss

1. How does Paul use Abraham's faith in Romans 4:1–8 to explain grace?
2. Why does Paul point out that Abraham was counted righteous before circumcision?
3. What do Abraham and David teach about faith, failure, and God's promise?
4. How is biblical faith different from pretending that a difficult situation is easy?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom is lived by faith in the trustworthy King. Faith does not deny what is difficult; it obeys God and rests in His character before the answer can be seen.

Kingdom question: What promise of God can you trust and act upon even though you cannot yet see the outcome?

Put the message into practice

Bring one unresolved concern to God. Write a promise or truth from Scripture that helps you trust Him while you wait.

Close in prayer

Ask for faith that rests on God's character when the outcome is not clear.

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Session 05 | Living in Hope

READ Romans 5 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 5

Because of Jesus, believers have peace with God and hope rooted in God's love and faithfulness.

Begin together

What is the difference between wishful thinking and hope grounded in God?

Look closely and discuss

1. What gifts flow from being justified by faith, according to Romans 5:1–5?
2. How does Romans 5:6–11 describe God's love for people who could not rescue themselves?
3. What does Paul say suffering can produce, and how can we discuss this without minimizing someone's pain?
4. How does the contrast between Adam and Christ in Romans 5:12–21 deepen your understanding of grace?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Kingdom hope is not wishful thinking. It grows from peace with God, the love poured into our hearts, and confidence that our King remains faithful even in suffering.

Kingdom question: How can you carry the King’s hope into one painful or uncertain situation?

Put the message into practice

Where do you need to remember that your hope rests on God's faithfulness rather than changing circumstances?

Close in prayer

Ask God to strengthen your hope and help you care gently for people who are suffering.

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Session 06 | Living a New Life

READ Romans 6 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 6

Grace unites believers with Christ and calls them to live as people made alive to God.

Begin together

What can make a new beginning feel possible after a failure or hard season?

Look closely and discuss

1. How does Romans 6 answer the idea that grace gives us permission to keep sinning?
2. What does baptism picture in Romans 6:3–11?
3. What does it mean to present yourself to God rather than to sin?
4. Paul describes people as serving either sin or obedience. What everyday choices can shape the direction of a life?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

The King's grace does more than forgive the past; it frees us to live a new life. Kingdom citizens present themselves to God and practice obedience one choice at a time.

Kingdom question: What old master must you refuse, and what new act of obedience will show that you belong to God?

Put the message into practice

Choose one habit, response, or relationship where you can take a concrete step toward the new life Christ gives.

Close in prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live as someone who belongs to God.

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Session 07 | Living in Freedom

READ Romans 7 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 7

The law is good, but it cannot free us from sin; our hope is in Jesus Christ.

Begin together

What kinds of inner struggles do people often hide from one another?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does Paul say the law can show us in Romans 7?
2. How does this chapter describe the conflict between wanting to do good and still struggling with sin?
3. Why is it important to read Romans 7 alongside Paul's answer in Romans 8?
4. What is the difference between honest confession and giving up hope?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Kingdom freedom is not pretending that struggle has disappeared. It is bringing our struggle into the light and trusting Jesus, our Deliverer, to lead us beyond condemnation and defeat.

Kingdom question: What struggle can you surrender honestly to the King instead of hiding or fighting it alone?

Put the message into practice

If you are facing a repeated struggle, identify one person or spiritual practice that can help you seek support and walk toward freedom.

Close in prayer

Thank Jesus for being our deliverer, and ask for courage to bring struggles into His light.

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Session 08 | Living in the Spirit

READ Romans 8 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 8

The Spirit assures believers of belonging to God, helps them in weakness, and anchors their hope in His love.

Begin together

Which truth about God's presence has helped you in a difficult time?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does “no condemnation” mean in Romans 8:1, and what does it not mean?
2. How does the Spirit help believers understand their identity as God's children?
3. How does Romans 8 hold suffering and future hope together?
4. Which promise in Romans 8:26–39 gives you courage, and why?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

The Spirit makes Kingdom life personal and present. He assures us that we are God’s children, helps us in weakness, renews our minds, and anchors us in the King’s unbreakable love.

Kingdom question: How would you respond today if you truly remembered that you are a beloved child of the King?

Put the message into practice

When you feel weak or uncertain this week, pause and remember that you are not separated from God's love in Christ.

Close in prayer

Ask the Spirit to help you trust God in weakness and to encourage someone who feels alone.

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Session 09 | Living in Faith Part Two

READ Romans 9 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 9

Paul wrestles with God's promises and mercy, inviting readers to approach difficult questions with humility.

Begin together

How do you respond when a passage of Scripture raises a question you cannot quickly answer?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does Paul's grief for his fellow Israelites reveal about his heart?
2. How does Romans 9 speak about God's promise, mercy, and sovereignty?
3. What questions does the image of the potter and clay raise, and what does the chapter say about God's character?
4. How can we study a difficult passage carefully without becoming proud or careless toward other people?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Kingdom citizens do not need to master every mystery. We can hold difficult questions with humility because the King is wise, merciful, and faithful to His promises.

Kingdom question: What difficult question can you place in the King’s hands while continuing to seek truth with humility?

Put the message into practice

Write down one question you still have. Read the chapter again slowly and note what it clearly says before deciding what remains unresolved.

Close in prayer

Ask God for humility, compassion, and trust as you study difficult truths.

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Session 10 | Living a Question

READ Romans 10 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 10

Paul points to righteousness through faith and the importance of hearing and sharing the good news.

Begin together

Who first helped you understand the good news about Jesus?

Look closely and discuss

1. What concern for Israel does Paul express in Romans 10:1–4?
2. How does Romans 10:8–13 describe the response of faith?
3. Why does Paul connect sending, speaking, hearing, and believing in verses 14–17?
4. How can Christians speak about Jesus with clarity and gentleness rather than pressure?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom advances as people hear, believe, call on Jesus, and carry His good news to others. We represent the King best when truth is spoken clearly, naturally, and with love.

Kingdom question: Whom might the King be asking you to encourage or gently tell about Jesus?

Put the message into practice

Think of one person with whom you could share a word of encouragement or your story of faith in a natural, respectful way.

Close in prayer

Pray for people who have not yet heard or understood the good news, and ask for wisdom in your own words.

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Session 11 | Living in Understanding

READ Romans 11 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 11

Paul teaches humility, hope, and gratitude for God's continuing mercy and faithfulness.

Begin together

When have you discovered that you did not have the whole picture?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does the image of a remnant tell us about God's faithfulness?
2. Why does Paul warn Gentile believers against boasting over the branches?
3. How does Romans 11:25–32 keep God's mercy and human responsibility in view?
4. What does Paul's praise at the end of the chapter teach us about responding to truths beyond our full understanding?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

No citizen has reason to boast. We stand by mercy, so Kingdom living honors God’s faithfulness, receives His kindness with gratitude, and remains teachable before mysteries larger than ourselves.

Kingdom question: Where is the King asking you to exchange pride or certainty for gratitude and a teachable heart?

Put the message into practice

Where might God be inviting you to replace pride or certainty with gratitude and a teachable heart?

Close in prayer

Praise God for the depth of His wisdom and for His mercy toward all who call on Him.

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Session 12 | Living on the Altar

READ Romans 12 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 12

In view of God's mercy, believers offer their lives to Him and serve one another with love and humility.

Begin together

What ordinary part of life can become an offering to God?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does it mean to present your body as a living sacrifice?
2. How do renewal of the mind and discernment connect in Romans 12:1–2?
3. What does Paul teach about different gifts and one body?
4. Which instructions in Romans 12:9–21 are most challenging to practice when relationships are strained?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

We live in the Kingdom by placing our whole lives before the King. Renewed minds, humble service, sincere love, generosity, forgiveness, and peacemaking turn ordinary moments into worship.

Kingdom question: What ordinary act can become an offering to the King this week?

Put the message into practice

Choose one act of sincere love, service, or peace-making to practice this week.

Close in prayer

Ask God to renew your mind and show you how to use your gifts to bless others.

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Session 13 | Living Under the King’s Authority

READ Romans 13 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 13

Paul calls believers to act responsibly, love their neighbors, and live as people awake to God's purposes.

Begin together

What helps Christians respond wisely when public authority or civic life feels difficult?

Look closely and discuss

1. What responsibilities toward governing authorities does Romans 13:1–7 describe?
2. How does the command to love your neighbor summarize the law in verses 8–10?
3. What does Paul mean by waking from sleep and putting on Christ?
4. How can believers honor authority while remembering that their ultimate allegiance belongs to God?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Earthly authorities have a limited place, but Jesus holds our highest allegiance. Kingdom citizens act responsibly, love their neighbors, pray for leaders, and refuse compromise when human demands oppose the King.

Kingdom question: How can you show integrity and neighbor-love while keeping Jesus as your highest authority?

Put the message into practice

Identify one way to show neighbor-love in your home, workplace, church, or community this week.

Close in prayer

Pray for public leaders and ask God to help you live with integrity, love, and wisdom.

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Session 14 | Living in Kingdom Freedom

READ Romans 14 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 14

Believers should welcome one another and use their freedom in ways that serve peace and strengthen others.

Begin together

What makes disagreement among sincere Christians especially hard?

Look closely and discuss

1. What differences are discussed in Romans 14, and what does Paul tell believers to do with them?
2. What does it mean that each person gives an account of himself or herself to God?
3. How can someone use freedom in a way that becomes a stumbling block to another person?
4. What might it look like to pursue what makes for peace and mutual strengthening in your church or group?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). Kingdom freedom does not insist on its own way; it protects conscience, pursues peace, and builds others up.

Kingdom question: What choice would put righteousness, peace, and another person's good ahead of proving your point?

Put the message into practice

Consider one disagreement. What could you do to show respect while keeping your conscience before God?

Close in prayer

Ask God to help your group welcome one another and seek peace without pretending every difference is unimportant.

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Session 15 | Living Together as Citizens of the Kingdom

READ Romans 15 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 15

Paul calls strong believers to bear with others, pursue unity, and join God's work of hope and service.

Begin together

Who has strengthened you by patiently walking with you?

Look closely and discuss

1. What does Romans 15:1–7 say about pleasing others and welcoming one another?
2. How do Scripture and the Holy Spirit supply endurance, encouragement, and hope?
3. What does Paul's ministry journey teach about using gifts and opportunities to serve beyond ourselves?
4. How can a church or study group honor different backgrounds while remaining united in Christ?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

Citizens of the Kingdom do not live for themselves alone. We bear burdens, welcome one another as Christ welcomed us, and use our strength and gifts to help the whole family flourish in hope.

Kingdom question: Whose burden can you help carry so that your life reflects the welcome of the King?

Put the message into practice

Encourage or support one person who may need patience, welcome, or practical help.

Close in prayer

Pray for unity across the church and for those carrying the good news to others.

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Session 16 | Known in Heaven

READ Romans 16 • Romans Reviewed, Chapter 16

Paul's many greetings show that the gospel forms a real family of faithful people who serve together.

Begin together

Whose faithful service has made a difference in your spiritual life?

Look closely and discuss

1. What do Paul's greetings in Romans 16 reveal about the people and relationships behind the early church?
2. What kinds of service do you notice among the people Paul names?
3. Why does Paul also warn the church about division and teaching that leads people astray?
4. How can you help people in your church feel seen, valued, and connected to the work of the gospel?

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM

The King knows every faithful name and every quiet act of service. Kingdom life is shared life: honoring people, guarding unity and truth, welcoming coworkers, and serving together for the gospel.

Kingdom question: Whom can you see, include, thank, or honor as a valued member of the King's family?

Put the message into practice

Name one person you can thank, encourage, or include this week.

Close in prayer

Thank God for the people who serve beside you, and ask Him to keep your community faithful and united.

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Keep your eyes on the King

Romans is both a letter to understand and an invitation to live by the good news of Jesus. God's Kingdom is not a distant idea. Wherever the King is trusted and obeyed, His truth begins to shape real life.

- What truth about the King do you want to remember?
- What has changed in how you understand grace, faith, freedom, or life together?
- Where have you learned to recognize the Kingdom of God in ordinary life?
- What is one next step you will take to live under the King's loving rule?

"Let's keep our eyes on the King—and live as citizens of His Kingdom."

Thank you for studying Romans with me.

— Laurie Kay Rodriguez

For more information about the book and its editions, visit RomansReviewed.com.