

EIGHT SESSIONS



ROMANS

— LIVE WITH CLARITY —

— STUDY GUIDE + STREAMING VIDEO —

JADA EDWARDS



ROMANS

➤ *LIVE WITH CLARITY* ➤

STUDY GUIDE • EIGHT SESSIONS

JADA EDWARDS

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Romans Beautiful Word Bible Study Guide

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WELCOME



ROMANS

➤ **LIVE WITH CLARITY** ➤

SOMETIMES the Bible can seem overwhelming. Where do you go for words of comfort when you're feeling overwhelmed, lost, or frustrated in life? What book of the Bible do you turn to for wisdom about the situation you find yourself in?

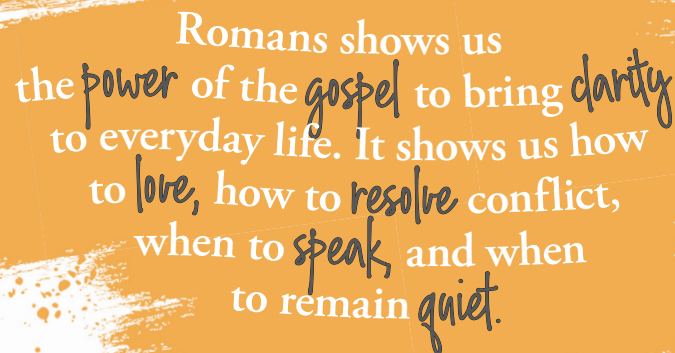
The Beautiful Word Bible Study series makes the Bible come alive in such a way that you know where to turn no matter where you find yourself on your spiritual journey.

The author of Romans, Paul, persecuted Christians at every opportunity. Then, on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), he had a life-changing encounter with Jesus that transformed everything. The scales fell from his eyes, and for the first time, he saw things clearly. With new clarity, he went from persecuting Christians to becoming one and building the church everywhere he traveled.

Before Paul wrote Romans, around 49 AD, the emperor Claudius decided to expel all the Jews from Rome. This edict remained for five years until the emperor died and his ruling expired. Paul addresses a shift in Rome, in which the Christian Jews are trickling back into the empire. This created a cultural clash for Gentile Christian churches who had been nurturing their congregations without Jewish leadership or input for years. Paul addresses the conflicts erupting from this change.

Romans shows us the power of the gospel to bring clarity to everyday life. It shows us how to love, how to resolve conflict, when to speak, and when to remain quiet. Paul provides a comprehensive overview of God's plan for salvation and gives us something that's like his own Damascus experience.

By diving into this beautiful book, you'll discover the great gifts of the gospel—the forgiveness of sin, the removal of guilt, the promise of salvation, the wonder of grace, the strength of forgiveness, the power of the resurrection, and the guide for walking with greater clarity through life.



Romans shows us
the power of the gospel to bring clarity
to everyday life. It shows us how
to love, how to resolve conflict,
when to speak, and when
to remain quiet.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Group Size

The Beautiful Word *Romans* video curriculum is designed to be experienced in a group setting such as a Bible study, small group, or during a weekend retreat. After watching each video session, you and the members of your group will participate in a time of discussion and reflection on what you're learning. If you have a larger group (more than twelve people), consider breaking up into smaller groups during the discussion time.

Materials Needed

Each participant should have their own study guide, which includes video outline notes, group discussion questions, a personal study section, Beautiful Word coloring pages, and Scripture memory cards to deepen learning between sessions.

Timing

The timing notations—for example, 20 minutes—indicate the length of the video segments and the suggested times for each activity or discussion. Within your allotted time, you may not get to all the discussion questions. Remember that the *quantity* of questions addressed isn't as important as the *quality* of the discussion.

Facilitation

Each group should appoint a facilitator who is responsible for starting the video and keeping track of time during the activities and discussion. Facilitators may also read questions aloud, monitor discussions, prompt participants to respond, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Opening Group Activity

Depending on the amount of time you have to meet and the resources available, you'll want to begin the session with the group activity. You will find these activities on the group page that begins each session. The interactive icebreaker is designed to be a catalyst for group engagement and help participants move toward the ideas explored in the video teaching. The leader will want to read ahead to the following week's activity to see what will be needed and how participants may be able to contribute by bringing supplies or refreshments.





THE MOST POWERFUL LENS

ROMANS

Opening Group Activity [10-15 MINUTES]

What you'll need:

- ▶ Sheet of blank paper for each person
- ▶ Pens, markers, and/or watercolors

1. Use the paper and drawing/writing tools to draw a line down the center of the page. Then create a picture on each side using words or images. On one side portray an area of life where you feel you have the most clarity and on the other an area where you feel you have the least clarity. Consider professionally, emotionally, relationally, spiritually, etc.
2. Share your images with each other as you discuss the following questions:
 - Where in life do you feel like you have the most clarity? What helped in providing clarity to this area?
 - Where in life do you feel like you have the least clarity? What has hindered finding clarity in this area?
 - Reflecting on the two images, which is harder to trust God with? Why?

Session One Video [24:30 MINUTES]

NOTES: *As you watch, take notes on anything that stands out to you.*

» **Romans walks us through four big categories: the righteousness God required, the righteousness God provided, the righteousness God planned, and the righteousness God expects from us every day.**

» **Paul uses many arguments to address the tension that he knows is happening between Christian Jews and Christian Gentiles.**

» Throughout this letter, Paul points us back to the Old Testament, because it's going to be important for the Jews to see that their God is consistent.

» The gospel was planned and promised beforehand through the prophets and Holy Scriptures.

» Paul says that even with our wrestling and struggles, and though we haven't figured it all out, our faith *is* changing the world.

» We all need gospel clarity to stay encouraged, live well, love others, and serve God.

SCRIPTURE COVERED IN THIS SESSION:


ROMANS 1:1–15

Group Discussion Questions [30–45 MINUTES]

1. Reflecting on your culture, country, and world, what has contributed to the confusion and lack of clarity in our world? When have you unintentionally contributed to the confusion and lack of clarity?
2. Read Romans 1:1. Where does Paul find his identity? What tempts you to find your identity in things other than Christ? Reflecting on today's culture and world, where does your personal or political identity battle with your Christian identity? What do you need to strip away to make Christ your number one identity?
3. Read Romans 1:2–6. What is the gospel according to Paul? What are the benefits of the gospel (v. 5)? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being high, how bold are you in sharing the gospel? What makes you hesitant to share the gospel with others? Who is one person you can share the gospel with this week?
4. Jada teaches,



"The gospel is the perfect lens we need for everything. The danger is that sometimes we treat the gospel like I treat my glasses. We take it off when it's inconvenient; we put it on when it seems to serve our purpose."



What helps you see life through the lens of the gospel? When do you forget to look at situations and people through the lens of the gospel? What can you do to remind yourself?

5. Jada says,

“When we first fell in the garden, God knew right then that there would be a time where man would be reconciled and redeemed completely. Our God is not moment to moment trying to figure out what to do. God is watching his plan unfold. That gives us a blessed assurance.”

When do you have the most confidence in God’s redeeming plan? Where are you struggling to trust in God’s redeeming plan right now? What practices help you rest in the blessed assurance of God’s redemptive plan for yourself and those you love?

6. Read Romans 1:8–12. How does Paul express his affection and encouragement? What does it mean to be mutually encouraged by others’ faith? When have you been most encouraged by someone’s faith recently? What was the result? On a scale of 1 to 10, how intentional are you at building relationships where you can mutually encourage each other in the faith? How can you increase your investment in these relationships in the upcoming weeks?

Close in Prayer

Consider the following prompts as you pray together for:

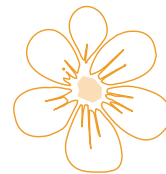
- ▶ Clarity in every area of your life
- ▶ Gospel opportunities to share about Jesus
- ▶ New friendships to encourage each other in faith




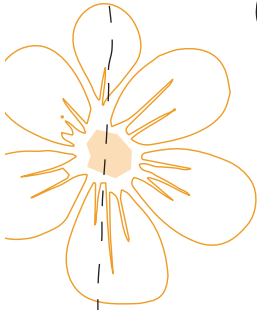

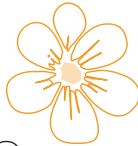


If you don’t
understand
the
grace
you’ve been
given,
you’ll be
stingy
in giving
grace.

Preparation

To prepare for the next group session:

1. Read Romans 1:1–15.
2. Tackle the three days of the Session 1 Personal Study.
3. Memorize this week's passage using the Beautiful Word Scripture memory coloring page.
As a bonus, look up the Scripture memory passage in different translations and take note of the variations.
4. If you've agreed to bring something for the next session's Opening Group Activity, get it ready.





"Through him we
received grace and
apostleship to call
all the Gentiles to
the obedience that
comes from faith for his
name's sake."

—Romans 1:5



SESSION

1

PERSONAL STUDY TIME

DIGGING INTO THE



ROMANS

THE MOST POWERFUL LENS

Paul uses the Greek word **apostolos** (apostle) to describe himself. The word means messenger, and it's often used throughout the New Testament to refer to someone appointed by Christ for a **special function** in the church.

DAY 1

Romans 1:1

When Paul penned Romans, he had already spent the last decade spreading the news of Jesus through Greece, Macedonia, and Asia Minor. The fledgling churches he planted were growing, and he sensed God calling him toward Spain (Romans 15:23–24).

Like many of the New Testament letters, Romans opens by identifying the author. Before his encounter on the road to Damascus, Paul was known as Saul. The name “Saul” shifts when he encounters a Roman official in Acts 13.

1. Read Romans 1:1. The apostle could have chosen to use his Jewish name, Saul, or his Roman name, Paul, to introduce himself. Why did he choose Paul?
2. How does choosing a Roman name to reach a Roman audience reflect Paul's desire to effectively reach these people?
3. Read Acts 13:6–13. Up until this point in Acts, Paul uses his Jewish name, Saul. What happens in this story between Saul and the Roman official?

4. When have you adjusted your attitudes, actions, or attire to share the love of Jesus more effectively? Describe the circumstance. What was the result?

5. Reflecting on Romans 1:1, what are three characteristics Paul uses to identify himself?

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6. If you were writing a letter as Paul did, what three characteristics would you use to describe yourself in relationship to God? Why would you choose these?

•

•

•

7. From the opening verse of Romans, Paul has clarity in both who he is and who he belongs to. In what area of your life do you most need clarity of who you are and who you belong to? Write a prayer in the space below asking God to give you that clarity.

DAY 2

Romans 1:2–7

From the opening of Romans, Paul declares the letter he is writing is all about the gospel of God (1:1) which is the proclamation of the good news of Jesus.

1. **Read Romans 1:2–5. What names are used to describe and identify Jesus in this passage? How do each of these names and descriptions provide clarity as to Jesus' identity?**

Paul wants the Romans—both Jew and Gentile—to know right off the bat that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament expectation for a savior. Throughout the remaining chapters, Paul will draw on oodles of Old Testament texts to illustrate this profound truth to Jewish readers.

2. **How do the following passages point to Jesus as being part of the lineage of King David?**

- Isaiah 9:6–7:
- Jeremiah 23:5:
- Matthew 1:1:
- Luke 1:32:

3. **Read Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:18. How do these passages point to Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises and good news?**

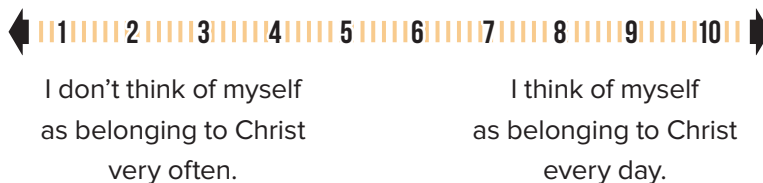
Throughout Romans, Paul uses several phrases or words with high frequency. One of those words is *called*.

4. Read Romans 1:5–7. What two things are you called to according to this passage?

-
-

God doesn't just call you to these, *he equips you* for them through Jesus. God is the one who calls, and God is the one who will provide everything you need to fulfill the calling.

5. On the continuum below, how often do you think of yourself as belonging to Christ? How does remembering you belong to Christ above all else give you clarity in life?



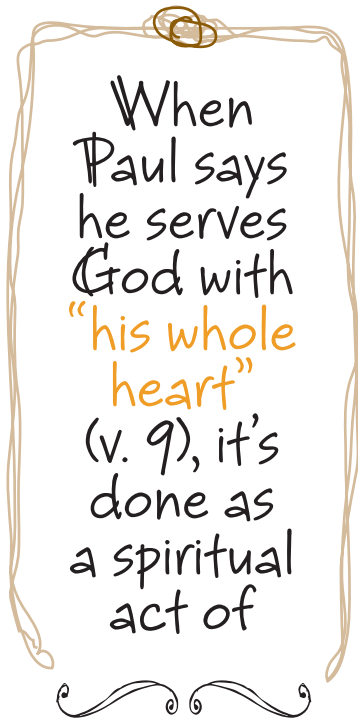
After introducing himself and identifying the recipients, Paul delivers a greeting that appears in thirteen of his letters: *grace and peace* (v. 7).

6. When you find yourself overwhelmed or uncertain, what role does grace play in helping you see clearly? What role does peace play in helping you see clearly?

7. Take a moment to pray Romans 1:7 over your life. Replace “all who are in Rome” with your name:

To _____ who *is* loved by God and called to be his holy people: grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace
(charis)
is the
unmerited
favor
of God
based in
relentless love,
and
peace
(shalom)
is a
deep
wellness
and
completeness.



worship.



DAY 3

Romans 1:8-15

Paul continues his introduction and greeting by expressing gratitude and prayers for his recipients.

1. Write out Romans 1:8.

What is of top importance to Paul in this passage?

2. What role does gratitude play in your relational life? How can practicing gratitude affect your relationships?

3. In the space below, make a list of four people you're thankful to God for right now.

-
-
-
-

Paul’s thankfulness compels him toward prayer and intercession.

4. Read Romans 1:9–10. Reflecting on the four names you listed on the previous page, write a prayer for each person in the chart below. How does praying for others expand your capacity for compassion and care toward others?

PERSON’S NAME	LOVING PRAYER FOR THE PERSON

5. Reflecting on Romans 1:8–10, which of Paul’s words are most endearing to you? Why?

6. Read Romans 1:11–15. What compels Paul to want to come to Rome? How will the visit benefit Paul? How will the visit benefit the Romans?

7. What do the following verses reveal about the importance of faith-filled friends?

Proverbs 13:20:

Proverbs 27:17:

Galatians 6:2:

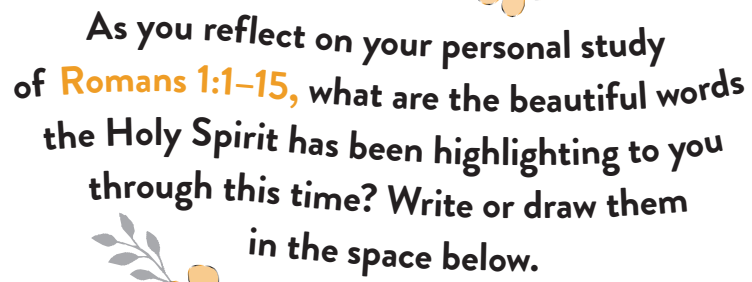
Hebrews 10:24–25:

8. Describe a time when you've been encouraged in faith by someone else. In the space below, write down three tactics you can implement to nurture more of these relationships.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jada Edwards is an experienced Bible teacher, author, and speaker who has committed her life to equipping women of all ages with practical, biblical truth. Alongside her husband, Conway Edwards, the Senior Pastor, she serves as the Women's Pastor and Director of Creative Services at One Community Church in Plano, Texas. Jada teaches women's Bible study, is the author of multiple books, a contributing teacher in the Known by Name Bible study series, and author of *Galatians: Accepted and Free*. She and her husband have a son, Joah, and a daughter, Chloe.



Discover the Beauty of God's Word

The Beautiful Word™ Bible Study Series helps you connect God's Word to your daily life through vibrant video teaching, group discussion, and deep personal study that includes verse-by-verse reading, Scripture memory, coloring pages, and encouragement to receive your own beautiful Word from God.

In each study, a central theme—a beautiful word—threads throughout the book, helps you connect and apply each book of the Bible to your daily life today, and forever.

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You Are Significant. You Are Qualified. You Are Enough. YOU ARE KNOWN BY NAME

Each study in the Known by Name series explores a complex woman in the Bible and her struggles with tough questions through three lenses: a counselor (Kasey), and Bible teacher (Jada), and a dramatist (Nicole). Designed to engage all learning styles, these studies are deep and powerful, yet they do not assume participants have a lot of Bible knowledge or have done Bible studies in the past, making them ideal for new believers and seasoned Christians alike.



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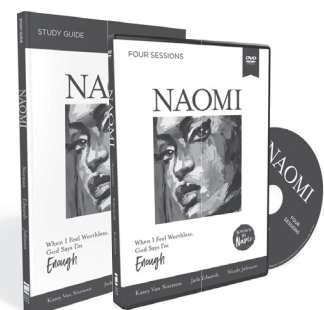


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Kasey **VAN NORMAN** is a licensed counselor who teaches and writes about the love that redeemed her from past abuse, addiction, infidelity, and the fear of a life-threatening cancer diagnosis.

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