## **Session 10: Mission.** How can we be ambitious with the gospel?

Welcome to Session 10 of our teaching series on Romans. In this session you will find worship song suggestions, a sermon outline and a written prayer.

#### KEY VERSE:

'Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel ... to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.'

#### ROMANS 16.25,27 (NIV)

#### BIBLE READINGS:

Romans 15–16

MAIN QUESTIOS:

What's next?

#### MAIN THEMES:

Unity, mission, promises fulfilled, gospel, evangelism, pioneering In these final chapters of Romans, Paul shares his desire to visit the church in Rome, and he greets his friends there. We know from the final chapters of Acts that Paul did indeed make it to Rome, but perhaps not in the way he expected. However, none of this stopped Paul from sharing the gospel – which shows how deeply he believed and lived out the truths he proclaimed in his letters.

#### **Summary:**

**Context:** 

Paul ends his letter by reminding the church in Rome about their mission, their motivation, and their means by which to share the gospel with others. He uses his own call to mission as an example and calls others to continue in this work. In light of God's mercy, we too can proclaim the mysteries of God, to his glory.

WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS:• To The Ends Of The Earth • For The Sake Of The World • Hope Of The Nations • Take It To The Streets• Never Once • Build Your Kingdom Here • Holy Is The Lord • And Can It Be (Amazing Low • The Church's One Foundation)
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## **Reflections:**

Paul's passion for mission was unrelenting and it shows in these final chapters of Romans. Moving from deep theological teaching and practical advice on Christian living, Paul expands on the details around his mission and his hopes to visit the church in Rome. Paul's deeply relational heart is revealed in his greetings to people in Rome, whom he considered to be brothers and sisters in the faith.

This final session is your chance to summarise the entirety of Romans! If there have been any themes that stood out for you and your congregation, do include reminders of them. You can use this section to repeat challenges and come with final encouragements, just as Paul does in these concluding chapters.

Paul's aim has been to inspire us with steep climbs and stunning views of the gospel. As a result, he expects the church in Rome to live in the light of these truths, and stand united in their mission. He wants all the glory to be given to God.

NOTES

### Suggested sermon outline

#### INTRODUCTION

It is the end of the journey! Or is it just the beginning? Use an anecdote or story to illustrate the point that although the series in Romans has ended, this is not the end of the journey.

#### **KEY POINTS: THREE HARD TRUTHS**

NOTES

#### **Our mission**

- In Romans 15 Paul reveals his ambitious plans for further mission. He will visit Rome and then head to Western Europe (Spain).

Despite his life not going to plan and facing many challenges en route (see Acts 27–28), Paul never stopped sharing the gospel. Now we are called into the same mission. Even when life is tough and our plans fall apart, there are surprising opportunities to play our part in God's great mission. How can we keep our heads up and eyes open for mission?

#### **2** Our motivation

- In Romans 15 Paul cites several Old Testament texts and anchors his motivations in God's promises to Israel and the hope that the Gentiles will be part of God's people. This is a great opportunity to remind hearers of some of the ways in which Paul has argued for equal access to the promises of God for Gentile believers. The unity of the church has been a huge theme in the letter, and Paul anchors it back in the Old Testament one last time. He explains how this is part of his personal calling. Paul's ultimate motivation for mission was to bring all nations to Jesus as a united and multicultural family of faith. How can this same gospel motivate us beyond our fears, complacency or feelings of inadequacy?

# **3** Our means – deeds of kindness, signs and wonders, words of truth

 In Romans 15.17–20, Paul describes details of his ministry and gives reasons why he can be trusted as a servant of Jesus. He mentions words and actions (verse 18), signs and wonders (verse 19) and words of truth proclaimed (verse 19). He sees it as his duty to share the gospel with all peoples and to fulfil his calling.

Does your church have the same passion for sharing the good news of Jesus? How can you stir people up to not keep the gospel message to themselves, but to share it? Does your church have a particular focus on any of these areas: signs and wonders/words/actions? How can you make sure there is a good balance between all of them?

#### NOTES


#### **CONCLUSION** How do we live in the light of this?

#### Below are some suggested points of application. Feel free to select a couple of points which are most appropriate to your setting.

- Paul ends his letter by addressing a long list of individual believers in the church – Jews and Gentiles, men and women, slaves and free. This helps us to understand that we are part of the story, regardless of our background. We are called to continue in Paul's mission to proclaim the mysteries of Christ, to the glory of God.
- How can you end this series in Romans with a call to action? Are there specific ways in which your church can respond, and how can you continue to equip them to share this good news? How can your church, in everything they say and do, proclaim the mysteries of God, to his glory?



- Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life by Andrew Ollerton
- *The Message of Romans* by John Stott
- *Romans* 8–16 *For You* by Timothy Keller



Lord Jesus, thank you for this incredible journey through the letter of Romans. Thank you for all we have discovered together. As this letter has inspired countless people through the centuries, may it also continue to inspire us. Thank you for the good news of your great mercy and love we have to share. Help us to serve you well in the world and to share the love of God with everyone we meet. Amen.