

# Session 7: Mystery.

## If God is sovereign, what is our role?

Welcome to Session 7 of our teaching series on Romans. In this session you will find worship song suggestions, a sermon outline and a written prayer.

### KEY VERSE:

**‘How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?  
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never  
heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?  
And how are they to preach unless they are sent?’**

ROMANS 10.14–15 (ESV)

### BIBLE READINGS:

Romans 10.9–15

### MAIN QUESTIONS:

How are people around us going to hear the gospel?  
And what role do we have to play in that?

### MAIN THEMES:

Gospel, election, inheritance, salvation, evangelism, faith

### Context:

In Romans 9–11, Paul grapples with many big questions about God’s sovereignty and his plan of salvation. But at the heart of it is a simple message that we are called to be those who extend God’s call to those around us.

### Summary:

Having celebrated the power of the gospel and God’s plan to restore us and all of Creation, Paul now begins to look at the difference that makes to the early church in Rome. In particular, he considers how Jews and Gentiles are equally called into God’s family, and then given the task of calling others to join them.

### WORSHIP SONG SUGGESTIONS:

- King Of Kings
- At The Cross (Love Ran Red)
- Man Of Sorrows
- O Sacred King
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing
- Shine Jesus Shine
- Hope Of The Nations





Christian household, it's easy to miss the radical nature of what it means to call Jesus Lord. You may want to unpack the background to this idea – that Caesar himself was known as Lord, or Kyrios in Greek. To declare that Jesus is Lord is to say that Caesar isn't; a radical and costly claim. Who or what are the 'lords' in our society, demanding our allegiance and worship? What might we need to renounce, in order to make Jesus the only Lord of our lives?

## NOTES

## 2 Calling out the name (Romans 10.14–15)

- **If people can't experience salvation through deeds or DNA, but only through calling on Jesus' name, then what about those who have never heard the gospel?**

Paul doesn't address this directly – it's one of the secret things that belongs to God (Deuteronomy 29.29) – but he does say that we have a role to play in taking the gospel to others. We are sent as heralds – calling out the name of Jesus, and the news of what he has done, so that many can be saved. Do you have a story that illustrates the point of verses 14–15a? How did you come to hear the gospel personally? Who were the heralds who shared it with you? Name them and describe how they shared the gospel with you, showing that sharing the gospel can be a natural and straightforward thing to do. Invite your listeners to remember and be thankful for the people who first shared the good news with them. Isn't it amazing that we have the privilege of doing that for others?

- **In Romans 9.1–5, Paul expresses his love for his fellow Jews. His passion for sharing the gospel with them is not motivated by a sense of duty, but love.**

We will be most motivated and effective in sharing the gospel when we are driven by love. Ask your listeners: who are the people you are most passionate about reaching with the gospel? And if you don't feel like there are any particular people, why not ask God to give you a deep compassion for others, and help you to see them as he does.

- **Paul quotes Isaiah 52.7, 'how beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news' (Romans 10.15). What is the significance of our feet?**

The feet of the herald of good news is an important idea for Paul. He draws it from Isaiah, but also uses a similar idea in Ephesians 6.15. Part of the picture is that feet carry the herald to different places, where their message is to be proclaimed. Ask your listeners: where will your feet carry you this week? And what difference would it make to know that you are there as a herald of the most beautiful news?

**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.

- Identify the people you love most dearly, who do not yet know the gospel. Ask God to give you a deep compassion for them, like Paul expressed for his fellow Jews in Romans 9.1–5.
- Identify a few people who don't know Jesus (say three) and commit to praying for them regularly – whether that's every day, or once a week. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the good news with them.
- List all the places your 'feet' take you in a week: your workplace, your neighbourhood, shops, public transport, clubs and hobbies, etc. What difference would it make to see yourself as a herald in those spaces? Ask God to give you opportunities to speak about him in some or all of those settings over the coming weeks.
- Set yourself a goal to speak about Jesus to at least one person this week. It might be as simple as having a conversation at work tomorrow where you mention that you went to church on Sunday, or offering to pray for someone who is going through a difficult time. Notice, though, that you can do both of those things without actually speaking about Jesus or sharing the gospel. We all need to start somewhere, but it's good to assess whether we are sharing the gospel or just dropping hints that we are Christians, go to church and believe in Jesus. Let's pray for opportunities to take the conversation further and truly share the good news.

**READING SUGGESTIONS:**

- *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

**WRITTEN PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, thank you that as we call on your name and ask you to be Lord of our lives, we receive the wonderful gift of salvation. We recognise that we don't deserve this and that we have done nothing to earn this; it is a free gift of your grace. Wherever we go this week, help us to be bearers of the good news of the gospel, sharing it with others in our words and actions. Please give us the courage to speak about you when the opportunity arises so others may come to know you. Amen.