

# Preaching through Romans

## How to use the sermon series resource

These notes are intended to help you prepare a sermon series that will give your congregation an overview of the book of Romans. The sermon series works in tandem with *The Romans Course for small groups* and the **series book on Romans**. Together, they enable the whole church to experience the message of Romans on Sundays, in small groups and individually. The sermon notes include the basics of what you need to know as a preacher and they signpost to other resources for further reading, watching and listening. In particular, the series book by Andrew Ollerton will help you prepare each message, one chapter at a time: *Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life (Hodder, 2023)*.

You are free to use as many or as few of our ideas as you would like. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you prepare something that is relevant and life-transforming for your congregation. Please don't feel constrained by these sermon notes. They are a guide to help you on your way as you prepare something relevant for your context at this specific moment in time.

### KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AS YOU PLAN THE SERIES:

- How might preaching through Romans help your church to become more confident in the gospel and more united in mission?
- What are the issues faced by people in your church – in their work, or home, or elsewhere – which Romans might address?
- How might the key themes of Romans be applicable to the situations members of your congregation find themselves in at home, at work and in the community?
- How can you pray for your congregation in the light of what Paul teaches in Romans, and how can you encourage everyone to engage with the message of Romans for themselves?

## Setting the context for each sermon

### - Showing the wider context

The historical context of the text is important as you prepare your sermon, though not always something you will need to include in detail. However, it may be helpful early in the sermon to remind the congregation of where you are in your series, especially for those who might not have heard previous sermons. The [mountain image](#) is a great way to visualise the big picture of Romans and to highlight each section in turn.

### - Reading a passage of Romans

We have tried to keep each reading short, rather than reading a whole chapter of Romans. You could play the dramatised Scripture readings from the beginning of each session video where they match up with the suggested texts (see small group resources). Alternatively, you could read the passage yourself and include surrounding verses as you feel is appropriate.

## What's included in the sermon notes?



### - Summary sentence

Within the sermon notes, we have included a summary sentence to help capture the main point of the passage. Before you look at the sermon notes, you could try to write your own summary sentence and then compare it with ours.



### - Key verse

We have identified a key verse in each passage, in line with the big overview of Romans. This does not mean that other verses are less important – and you might want to focus on a different verse, depending on your own context and aim.



### - Reflections for the preacher

We have included some of our thoughts on the passage to give you a starting point, and suggest some ways in which this passage might apply to different audiences. These reflections are not part of the sermon notes but are designed to help the preacher as they consider the passage and the themes it raises.



### - Sermon outline

We have included a suggested sermon outline. You can use this structure to guide you as you prepare, but feel free to include as much or as little as is helpful. Do make sure to adapt the sermon to fit in with your context.

## OTHER RESOURCES

### PowerPoint slide

- The customisable PowerPoint slide allows you to add the title of the sermon. We suggest you use the PowerPoint as a visual reminder to your congregation that each sermon is part of this series on the book of Romans.

### Video clips

- We have provided video clips from *The Romans Course* which can be played out as part of your sermon if you have the facilities to do this. The personal story films relate themes from the series to everyday life. These powerful stories can be played out at any point during the service.



## PRAYER

Our prayer is that you will find these resources, along with *The Romans Course* and the series book, helpful as you communicate the amazing book of Romans to your congregation.