

## romans

a life of faith



### “THE FIRE INSIDE”

**SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER**

**DATE: JULY 3, 2022**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

### BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

#### ROMANS 1:8-17

Having greeted them, identifying himself, Paul offers his readers a formal introduction in the manner typical of an Ancient Classical letter. These ten verses are densely packed, addressing Paul's gratitude for the faithfulness of the Roman churches and his deep desire to be with them, sharing mutually encouraging ministry. The Apostle also shares his life's mission and his confidence in the Gospel, which he summarizes in the final verses.

This short section is worthy of a series within a series. However, this message focuses on *how* Paul addresses his readers and what motivates this fascinating Jesus Follower.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Do you have any traditions related to observing the Fourth of July? Share with the group.
2. We are in week 2 of studying of Paul's letter to Romans. Anything surprise you, thus far?
3. Alex talked about Paul's fire within. How was that fire expressed- in his words/his work?
4. According to Alex, was that fire something Paul himself kept lit, or did it have another source?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Why was the apostle Paul so thankful for the Roman Christians- whom he had not yet met?
2. Paul earnestly desired to visit Rome. What did he hope to accomplish, when he did so?
3. What does the uniquely transforming power of the gospel pertain to, according to Paul?
4. Romans 1:16-17 summarize the gospel. What do these verses say about righteousness?
5. The phrase “the righteous will live by faith” is a direct quote from the OT (Habakkuk 2:4). What does this indicate regarding the compatibility/consistency of the OT and the NT? Does this surprise you??

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. An obligation may be forced or compelled. Which do you think it was, in Paul's case? (V14)
2. Why might Paul have emphasized being unashamed of the gospel concerning salvation?
3. What power did/does the gospel have in the life of one so advantaged and accomplished?
4. How does Paul convey his respect to his recipients, which would have included men/women, old/young, Jew/Gentile, slave/free, educated/uneducated...? How was/is this counter cultural?

## CONTINUED:

5. How might adopting Paul's manner of communication build bridges in our communities?

**LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. Paul expresses obligation and eager(ness) in one breath. Does this seem contradictory? Why or why not?
2. Paul personally experienced the transforming power of the gospel. Is this true for you?
3. What evidence is there?
4. In what situations do you find yourself ashamed of the gospel's message of salvation? What comes to mind when you hear the term "righteous" or the term "righteousness"?
5. What questions do you yet have about belief, faith, living by faith, and righteousness? Share if you are willing. And, by all means, continue reading Paul's letter to the Romans!

**LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Read the theme of Romans- 1:16-17- aloud every day. Let it sink in as good news for you.
2. Thank God for the power of the gospel on display in your own life. Let it shine everywhere!!