



**FBC Reading Plan**  
April 2020

## Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date April 27th

**Why a Reading Plan:** God speaks to people through His Word. It is what He uses to transform our lives by orienting our minds toward His truth and aligning our heart toward what He loves. The aim of this reading plan is not to merely check a box off a list, but to encourage our church body to spend time hearing from God. Here at FBC we want to provide you with the tools to grow. This reading plan aligns with the Sunday morning message and Life Group times.

**How to use this booklet:** Each week you will start with the passage that the sermon that coming Sunday will be based on. Each week will have a theme and each reading will compliment that theme. The passages are relatively short to encourage you to spend more time thinking through a passage and writing down a few thoughts. We have provided at least one question to give you something to think through. However, we do encourage the H.E.A.R. method. Because the passages are shorter, the reading is the **highlight**. We encourage you to then write a short **explanation** of what the passage is saying and the big idea the author is trying to communicate. We think **application** is a crucial part of a transformation process. In this section, you are writing down how you can apply the truth from this passage to your life. Application should always be done in a spirit of prayer, as you are asking God to reveal to you how it applies. Finally, it is not enough to settle for knowing some truth or how it might apply to your life without a specific response. So we encourage you to write out a **response**. This can be a response to God or a specific action you will take as a result of your time with the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** This year, we want to challenge you to memorize a different passage of Scripture each month. That memory verse is provided on the next page in the ESV, NIV, and NLT versions.

### Application:

How can you endure suffering?

### Response:

In the middle of difficulty, the sole assurance we have of God's love for us is Christ's death and resurrection. Are you confident of God's love for you today?

## Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date April 27th

**Day 5** Highlight: Romans 8

Memory Verse: Luke 6:38

### Explanation:

How can a person please God?

What is the Christian hope? What should we expect before we attain that hope?

### April's Memory Verses

37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

**Luke 6:37-38 (ESV)**

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

**Luke 6:37-38 (NIV)**

37 "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

**Luke 6:37-38 (NLT)**

**Week 1: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 6th

**Day 1** Highlight: Mark 5

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

*Sunday's Message:* Col. 2:11-14; 3:1-4

**Explanation:**

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Describe Jesus' behavior in this chapter. What stands out to you?

Why do the people of the country of the Gerasenes want Jesus to leave?

**Week 4: The Letter to the Romans**  
Starting Date April 27th

**Application:**

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How can you apply this passage in your life today?

**Response:**

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Only when we see our wretchedness and our powerlessness under sin will we rejoice in the deliverance that only Christ can provide. Give thanks to God for that today.

## Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date April 27th

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Romans 7

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

### **Explanation:**

How could God's good law bring about death?

Some people think Paul is speaking here of his experience as a Christian. Others think he is speaking from his experience before his conversion. Which view makes most sense to you based on your reading through Romans?

## Week 1: The Gospel of Mark

Starting Date April 6th

### **Application:**

Jesus cares for everyone, from the demon-possessed to the outcast (the woman with a discharge of blood) to a sick and dying little girl. Is there anyone in your life that you should have more grace or compassion toward?

### **Response:**

What do you need to go to Jesus for today?

**Week 1: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 6th

**Day 2** Highlight: Mark 6

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

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Describe the various responses to Jesus or to his disciples in this chapter.

**Week 4: The Letter to the Romans**  
Starting Date April 27th

**Application:**

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Based on what God teaches us in this chapter, to what extent should we expect professing Christians “to be obedient from the heart” (v. 17) and thus not sin? Do you experience this in your own life?

**Response:**

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To whom or to what are you a slave? What is the fruit you are seeing in your life (vv. 20-23)?

## Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date April 27th

**Day 3**

**Highlight:** Romans 6

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

### **Explanation:**

In answering two slightly different questions (v. 1, 15), Paul essentially says one main thing in this chapter: Christians should not sin. What reasons does Paul give to support this idea?

## Week 1: The Gospel of Mark

Starting Date April 6th

### **Application:**

In what ways are you failing to trust Jesus's teaching, ability to provide, or power today?

### **Response:**

After much activity, Jesus teaches his disciples to rest in order to pray (v. 31). He himself exemplifies this (v. 46). Is this a regular pattern in your own life?

**Week 1: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 6th

**Day 3** Highlight: Mark 7

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

How were the Pharisees hypocrites?

**Week 4: The Letter to the Romans**  
Starting Date April 27th

**Application:**

Where do you see the qualities given in vv. 1-5 in your life? In which are you lacking?

**Response:**

To what extent are you rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God today?



## Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date April 27th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Romans 5

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

### **Explanation:**

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What are the results of being justified by faith?

How is the “free gift” from Christ similar to the “trespass” of Adam? How is the free gift different from the trespass of Adam?

## Week 1: The Gospel of Mark

Starting Date April 6th

### **Application:**

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If a person does evil not because of outside pressure but because he or she desires to do it (actions come “out of the heart of man” v. 21), how do you pay attention to your heart?

### **Response:**

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Pray for a heart of integrity that trusts God and motivates godly living.

**Week 1: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 6th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Mark 8

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

Read vv. 14-16 again. What should the disciples have learned by this point? How does Jesus rebuke them?

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

**Week 4: The Letter to the Romans**  
Starting Date April 27th

**Application:**

About what things do you usually boast? Why do you, if you are justified by faith, have no reason to boast before God?

**Response:**

"In hope Abraham believed against hope" that God could do the impossible. Are you believing that today that God has done the impossible by raising Jesus from the dead and will do the impossible for you by raising you to new resurrected life one day?

## Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date April 27th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Romans 4 *Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 3:21-26

### **Explanation:**

How is Abraham an example of faith? How does his example illustrate Paul's overall point?

## Week 1: The Gospel of Mark

Starting Date April 6th

### **Application:**

Should being a disciple of Jesus be easy or hard? In what ways does following Jesus cost you?

### **Response:**

Our church wants to see Christ-centered, kingdom-focused homes on every block in the Lowell community, and we fulfill this vision through our Discipleship Pathway. How does being involved in a Life Group or a D-Group or leading a D-Group provide opportunity to deny yourself?

**Week 1: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 6th

**Day 5** Highlight: Mark 9

Memory Verse: Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

What is Jesus's significance compared to Moses and Elijah? Why is it significant that this event occurs immediately after 8:27-38?

What does this passage teach you about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Application:**

If you have been freely justified by God's grace alone, how should that affect you on a daily basis?

**Response:**

Give thanks to God for the gracious gift of justification through the cross of Christ.

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Day 5** **Highlight:** Romans 3 *Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

**Explanation:**

Paul here argues that all are under sin, both Jews and Gentiles. But what does the Jewish people's experience under the law reveal about sin or about the human heart?

What is God's response to humanity's condition under sin?

**Week 1: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 6th

**Application:**

Are you as serious about your sin as Jesus is?

**Response:**

What temptations need to be cut out of your life?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Mark 10

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 3:1-8

**Explanation:**

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How did Jesus love the rich man by telling him to sell all of his possessions?

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Application:**

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Paul essentially condemns hypocrisy in vv. 17-24. Why is the human heart so prone to hypocrisy?

**Response:**

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It would seem that a person is often blind to their own hypocrisy. That is why Paul has to reveal it to his readers in this chapter. Who in your life can shed light on ways that your life does not match your beliefs?

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Romans 2 *Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

**Explanation:**

Who can escape the judgment of God? Why?

How is the relationship of Jews to the law different from the relationship of Gentiles to the law?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Application:**

Are you more prone to think about what you deserve or how you can serve? How does Jesus respond to your answer?

**Response:**

For the last few chapters, Jesus has repeatedly shown how difficult it is to be his disciple. What may still be holding you back from following Jesus completely?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Day 2** Highlight: Mark 11

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

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Jesus enters Jerusalem three times in this passage. How do people respond to Jesus while he is there?

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Application:**

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In what things are you trusting rather than God? How does God fulfill the desires you are trying to satisfy with false gods?

**Response:**

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How can you honor God or give thanks to him today?



**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Day 3** **Highlight:** Romans 1 *Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

**Explanation:**

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What is the gospel?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Application:**

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Does Jesus's critique of the temple "cashiers" (vv. 15-19) apply to the Christian church today in any way?

**Response:**

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Whom do you need to forgive so that your own prayers may be heard?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Day 3** Highlight: Mark 12

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

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What stands out to you in this chapter about how Jesus responds to challenges and accusations against him?

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Application:**

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Our situation (and Mark's original audience) in many ways is similar to Mary, Mary, and Salome's experience. We have not seen the resurrected Jesus, and yet we are urged to believe that he rose again. What does this teach us about faith?

**Response:**

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How does believing in a resurrected Lord impact your life today?

### Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans

Starting Date April 20th

**Day 2** Highlight: Mark 16

Memory Verse: Luke 6:38

#### **Explanation:**

As most Bibles recognize, it is highly unlikely that Mark wrote vv. 9-20, and so this book most likely originally ended with v. 8. Why do you think the women were afraid? If the book was meant to end here, how does that affect the way you respond to Mark's gospel as a whole? (For more information on the textual evidence, search for the article "Was Mark 16:9-20 Originally Part of Mark's Gospel?" on The Gospel Coalition's website and "What Do You Do With the Ending of Mark's Gospel?" on The Gospel Coalition Canada's website. Or Pastor Jon or Pastor Andrew would be happy to talk further about it.)

### Week 2: The Gospel of Mark

Starting Date April 13th

#### **Application:**

If the most learned religious scholars in Jesus's day sought to discredit him, what warning can we learn from these stories for us today?

#### **Response:**

Are there ways in which you are rejecting the authority of Jesus in any area of your life?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Mark 13

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

By paying close attention to the text, summarize in your own words what Jesus teaches in this chapter in no more than three sentences.

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Application:**

The centurion's statement in v. 39 is key to understanding Mark's gospel: it is in Jesus's death that he must be recognized as the Son of God. How should you live today if you claim to be a follower of a crucified messiah?

**Response:**

Jesus did this for you. How can you respond to him today for his great love?

**Week 3: Mark's Gospel & Romans**  
Starting Date April 20th

**Day 1** Highlight: Mark 15

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:38

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 3:9-20

**Explanation:**

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What strikes you today after reading Mark's account of the crucifixion?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Application:**

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This passage refers to the destruction of the temple (vv. 1-2). These things were to happen within a generation (v. 30). And the parenthetical note ("let the reader understand") in v. 14 seems to be Mark's way of saying to his original audience, "You have seen these things happen." Yet what Jesus refers to here must be more than the destruction of the temple. What can we apply today from Jesus's teaching here?

**Response:**

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Twice Jesus commands us to be on guard (v. 23, 33) and three times to stay awake (v. 33, 35, 36). Are you doing that?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Day 5** Highlight: Mark 14

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:37

**Explanation:**

Which of Jesus's words or actions in this passage stand out most to you today? Which of the words or actions of his disciples stand out most to you today?

**Week 2: The Gospel of Mark**  
Starting Date April 13th

**Application:**

Jesus commands his disciples to "watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation." How does this chapter show that this is important for your own life?

**Response:**

Jesus loved those who fell away from him by giving himself up for them. How can you respond to that love for you today?