

Romans: Living and Breathing the Gospel
What is the Gospel?
Romans 1:1-17

1. What does the word “gospel” mean? What did it mean to you as you grew up either inside or outside the church? How has your understanding changed?
2. Paul says that he is “not **ashamed** of the gospel.” To be “ashamed” means (1) to be embarrassed or guilty because of one’s actions, characteristics, or associations and (2) to be reluctant to do something through fear of embarrassment or humiliation. What does Paul mean here? Have you ever felt “ashamed” of the gospel in either of the above senses? Why?
3. Read Romans 1:1-6. What are the core truths about Jesus that Paul mentions? Why do these truths matter? Why does Paul say they’re true? What questions do you or others you know have about these core truths?
4. What does it mean to say that the gospel brings about “the obedience of faith”? What does “obedience” even mean? What is the source of obedience? Which of the following best describes your personal experience?
 - I work hard to obey the commands of the Bible out of obligation.
 - I’m afraid to not obey. I want Jesus to accept me.
 - I really don’t think about my obedience too much because I know Jesus will forgive me no matter what I do.
 - I obey because I truly love and want to please Jesus.
 - Other?
5. What is your motivation for sharing (or not sharing) the gospel?
6. Continue to think about thriving in the new year. What step will you take in each of the following areas?
 - **Live and breathe the gospel**—What environments will you commit to in the new year to grow?
 - **Love your church family**—How will you use what you have been given to build up our church?
 - **Lead a friend to Jesus**—Who are you praying for? How will you become a better listener and make time for spiritual conversations? What risks do you need to take?

Jesus,

Help me to understand the truths of your gospel, grow closer to you in my daily experience with you, and share your message of hope with _____. Please give me what I need to take my next step.