SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Romans

Chapter 10

The Word Is Near You

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 10:9

"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Romans 10

Romans 10 opens with Paul praying for the very people who wanted him dead, and it ends with God holding out His hands all day long. In between, Paul makes salvation as near as your own mouth and heart. This week, stop climbing, receive what Christ has already done, and ask God who He is sending you to.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Romans study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Zeal Is Not Enough

READ · ROMANS 10:1–4

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does Paul say about Israel's zeal in verse 2, and what was missing from it? What did they refuse to do in verse 3?

REFLECT

Israel was "seeking to establish their own" righteousness (v. 3). What are you quietly stacking up — good days, clean time, service — to feel acceptable to God?

REFLECT

"Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (v. 4). How would your day feel different if you really believed Jesus has already crossed the finish line for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the one thing you lean on most to feel right with God. Then pray over it: "Jesus, You are my righteousness — not this."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 10:9)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Word Is Near

READ · ROMANS 10:5–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

In verses 6–7 Paul names two impossible trips. What are they, and what does Paul say in parentheses about each one?

REFLECT

"THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (v. 8). Where do you feel far from God right now, and what does this verse say about that distance?

REFLECT

Christ has already come down and already risen (vv. 6–7). What "climbing" are you still doing to reach God that He has already done for you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Wherever you are today — a cell, a truck, a kitchen — say out loud: "Jesus, You came down and You rose. You are near me right here."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 10:9)

DAY 3 OF 5

Mouth and Heart

READ · ROMANS 10:9–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Verse 9 has two parts. What does a man confess with his mouth, and what does he believe in his heart? What does verse 10 say each one results in?

REFLECT

Heart and mouth travel together (v. 10). Where are you keeping your faith private because saying it out loud would cost you something?

REFLECT

"WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED" (v. 13). Who do you secretly think is outside that "whoever" — and what about yourself on your worst day?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person today, in one plain sentence, that Jesus is your Lord.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 10:9)

DAY 4 OF 5

Beautiful Feet

READ · ROMANS 10:14–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Verses 14–15 ask a string of "How…?" questions. Write down the chain they form, from being sent all the way to calling on the Lord.

REFLECT

Someone's feet brought the good news to you (v. 15). Who were they, and what did it cost them to reach you?

REFLECT

Paul says "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (v. 17). How much of His word are you actually hearing in a normal week, and what crowds it out?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God by name for the person who first told you about Jesus. If you can, write or call that person this week and tell him what it meant.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 10:9)

DAY 5 OF 5

Hands Stretched Out

READ · ROMANS 10:18–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

In verse 20, who found God? In verse 21, what has God been doing toward Israel "ALL THE DAY LONG"?

REFLECT

God says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME" (v. 20). When did God find you before you were looking for Him?

REFLECT

God stretched out His hands to a "DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE" (v. 21). Where are you pulling back from Him right now, and what does it tell you that His hands are still open?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray with your hands open in front of you, palms up, and tell God the one area of your life you have been holding back from Him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 10:9)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul's "heart's desire" was the salvation of people who opposed him (v. 1). Who has opposed you, and what would it look like to make his salvation your prayer?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Verse 12 says there is "no distinction between Jew and Greek." What lines do men like us draw — inside and outside, old-timers and new guys — that this verse erases?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Paul admits that "they did not all heed the good news" (v. 16). What is the difference between hearing the gospel many times and heeding it, and how can we help each other heed it this week?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You came down and rose again so I would not have to climb, and the man I want to tell about You is…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 10:9

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;”