SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Romans

Chapter 16

The Names, the Warning, and the Glory

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 16:20

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Romans 16

Romans ends with names — a courier, a couple who risked their necks, men and women who worked hard, a scribe, a host. This week Paul reminds me that the gospel is lived by real people in real houses, that I must watch out for smooth talkers, and that the God of peace will crush Satan under my feet. All the glory goes to Him.

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

Our Sister Phoebe

READ · ROMANS 16:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two titles does Paul give Phoebe in verses 1–2, and what two things does he ask the church in Rome to do for her?

REFLECT

Phoebe had been "a helper of many, and of myself as well" (v. 2). Who has been a Phoebe to you — someone who stood by you when you needed it — and how did God use that person?

REFLECT

Paul put his own name on the line to welcome Phoebe in a strange city (v. 1). Who is the newcomer near you — the man just out, the man fresh from treatment, the visitor nobody knows — that you could receive "in the Lord"?

RESPOND — TODAY

Find the newest man in your group or church this week and ask him plainly, "What do you need?" Then help with one thing he names.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 16:20)

DAY 2 OF 5

Fellow Workers and Fellow Prisoners

READ · ROMANS 16:3–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Prisca and Aquila do for Paul (v. 4), where did a church meet (v. 5), and what three things does Paul say about Andronicus and Junias (v. 7)?

REFLECT

Prisca and Aquila "risked their own necks" for Paul (v. 4), and a church met in their house (v. 5). What would it look like for your home — or your bunk, your table, your truck — to be a place where Christ's people meet and are helped?

REFLECT

Andronicus and Junias were Paul's "fellow prisoners" and were "in Christ before me" (v. 7). Who walked with Christ before you and helped you find your way, and what did you learn from them?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write a short note or message to one person who has been a fellow worker with you in the faith, and tell him or her specifically what God has done through them in your life.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 16:20)

DAY 3 OF 5

Greet Them by Name

READ · ROMANS 16:8–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How many times does the word “Greet” appear in verses 8–16, and which people does Paul say “worked hard” (v. 12)?

REFLECT

The households of Aristobulus and Narcissus are greeted, but the men themselves are not (vv. 10–11). Who in your family is still outside the faith, and how are you praying for them?

REFLECT

Tryphaena, Tryphosa and Persis are in Scripture because they labored, not because they were famous (v. 12). What quiet work are you doing for Christ that nobody sees, and how does it encourage you that God writes it down?

RESPOND — TODAY

Make your own “Romans 16” — write five names of people God has used in your life. Pray for each one by name today, and pray for one family member who does not yet know Christ.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 16:20)

DAY 4 OF 5

Wise in What Is Good

READ · ROMANS 16:17–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

In verses 17–18, what two things does Paul tell us to do about those who cause dissensions, and how do they deceive people? Then, who sends greetings from Corinth in verses 21–23?

REFLECT

They deceive "by their smooth and flattering speech" (v. 18). What smooth voice — a person, a feed, or the voice in your own head saying "one more time won't hurt" — have you been giving a hearing it has not earned?

REFLECT

Paul wants you "wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil" (v. 19). Where do you need to stop studying the counterfeit and fill your mind with the genuine instead?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one smooth voice you will turn away from today (v. 17), and replace it with something good — Scripture, worship, or time with a godly man. When temptation comes, say your memory verse (v. 20) out loud.

❐ READ IT ❐ PRAYED IT ❐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 16:20)

DAY 5 OF 5

To the Only Wise God

READ · ROMANS 16:25–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does verse 25 say God is able to do, and where does verse 27 say the glory goes, and through whom?

REFLECT

God is "able to establish you" (v. 25) — to make you firm so you won't fall. Where in your life do you most need to be established, and how does it help to know the strength is His, not yours?

REFLECT

The gospel "has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith" (v. 26). What is one area where your faith needs to move from hearing into obeying this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Close the book of Romans with worship: read verses 25–27 aloud, then thank God for one truth from Romans that has changed you, and end with "Amen."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 16:20)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul calls more than half the people in this chapter fellow workers, beloved, or hard workers (vv. 3, 5–9, 12). What would it mean for our group to see each man here as a fellow worker rather than a project?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (v. 20). God does the crushing and we do the standing. Where did you see that happen in your life — or a brother's — this week?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The letter ends with glory "to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ" (v. 27). Looking back over all sixteen chapters of Romans, what truth do you most want to carry with you from here on?

MY PRAYER

God of peace, thank You for writing ordinary names in Your Word; crush Satan under my feet today, and…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 16:20

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."