



## Connectivity Romans 1 Small Group Plan

Paul was always thinking about the welfare of the Christians he mentored and the churches he planted. He never married, had no children, and these young Christians were his family:

*To Timothy my true son in the faith:  
Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
— 1 Timothy 1:2 —

*For you know that we dealt with each of you  
as a father deals with his own children.*  
— 1 Thessalonians 2:11 —

*To Titus, my true son in our common faith:  
Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*  
— Titus 1:4 —

Paul also felt “connected” with believers who lived in cities he had never visited, like the Christians at Rome. He was unknown to many of them and yet he wanted them to know of his concern for their welfare. In his expression of love and concern we can find an example for our own.

*To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*  
— Romans 1:7 —

## OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What motivated Paul's love for people he had not met?
- What motivates Christians in a large church today to love each other?

## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### — PAUL WAS THANKFUL FOR THEM —

#### Verse 8

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

- The phrase “all roads lead to Rome” describes the prominence of ancient Rome.
- How did Rome's strategic visibility benefit the Christian movement?

### — PAUL PRAYED FOR THEM —

#### Verse 9-10

<sup>9</sup> God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you <sup>10</sup> in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

- Why does Paul “constantly” pray for this new and growing church (v. 9)?
- Why does he also pray for the opportunity to visit the church in Rome (v. 10)?

### — PAUL LOVED THEM —

#### Verse 11-12

<sup>11</sup> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — <sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

- What do you hear in Paul's words “I long to see you” — Describe his feelings?
- How do the two words “impart” and “mutually” represent the two sides of Christian connection.

### — PAUL WAS INDEBTED TO THEM —

#### Verse 13-14

<sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

- Why would Paul say he is “obligated” (v. 14) to people he had never met?
- How can feeling “duty-bound” be healthy in one instance and unhealthy in another?

— PAUL WANTED TO VISIT THEM —

Verse 15

<sup>15</sup> That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

- The term “eager” can be translated — *eager, enthusiastically willing, ready-to-go*.
- What does Paul’s *eagerness* (v. 15) add to his feeling of *obligation* (v. 14)?

**USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- How can duty “*obligation*” (v. 14) be a healthy motivation for Christian involvement and fellowship?
- What is the connection between our love for people and our eagerness to serve them?
- How can “*constant*” prayer (vs. 9-10) motivate Christian relationships?
- Close in prayer thanking God for this small group.