

# Study

Read this introduction and Scripture together before discussing.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul envisions a community that is deeply rooted in the Scriptures. For Paul, these texts are not just relics of the past; they are the foundation for our lives today. When he says, “everything written in the past was written to teach us,” he’s highlighting how the Scriptures serve as a roadmap for endurance and hope.

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

—Romans 15v1-6

# Study

## Discuss the Scripture

- 01 What stands out to you as you read the Scripture passage?
- 02 Paul quotes Psalm 69v9 to highlight an example of endurance and offer encouragement. Take a moment to read the entire Psalm. What stands out to you about endurance in Psalm 69? How does reading Psalm 69 in context color your interpretation of Romans 15?
- 03 Think about a current challenge you're facing. How can reflecting on examples of faithful suffering in Psalm 69 (or other portions of Scripture) provide hope and help you endure to love others?
- 04 Look closely at what comes after "so that" in verse Romans 15v6. Why does Paul say that God gives us endurance and encouragement through Scripture? Discuss how this is significant.

## Discuss the practice

- 01 How does studying Scripture in community impact your encouragement and hope?
- 02 Can you share a personal experience where studying a specific passage of Scripture provided you with endurance, encouragement, or hope during a challenging time?
- 03 What are some things we can develop in our group that would help us deepen our collective engagement with Scripture and invite even richer conversations?
- 04 What are some other practical ways we can embody "one mind and one voice" in our conversations and interactions to live out the unity that Paul invites us into in this passage?