



Discussion Guide  
Not Ashamed – Part 4  
LEADER GUIDE

.....

*In this series, we're rediscovering what it means to have bold confidence in the Gospel. In Romans 1, Paul declares he is not ashamed because the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. This challenges us to live with that same courage and share the hope of Jesus with others.*

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?  
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or [discipleship@rockbridge.cc](mailto:discipleship@rockbridge.cc)

.....

**"It is the whole purpose of the whole church to share the whole gospel with the whole world."**

[Charles Spurgeon]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well.

- **Passage Summary**
  - The people wanted salvation and success from God but not the way in which He would deliver it—through the suffering Messiah/Servant, Jesus. In other words, they were not open to His ways. Similarly, we can miss God's presence, power and purpose when we are not open to His ways.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.

Have you ever ridden a donkey? How about a horse?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!

Spirit of Truth, please help us to understand Your word and Your ways. Draw our hearts toward walking in Your paths and teach us how. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE || **Leader Note** Help your group memorize this verse together by having each person recite it aloud, quoting as much as possible before they peek at the verse.

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*

[Romans 1:16]

DISCUSSION || **Leader Note** Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

1. Have someone read Luke 19:28-42. Why does Jesus weep in the Bible? *If people aren't familiar with the other story surrounding the words "Jesus wept" you can also flip to John 11 and catch them up. The first is the pain of death and this one is the pain of spiritual blindness—in itself, a type of death.*
2. Do you already experience the fullness of God, or is there more you still have yet to encounter? *We probably mostly feel like there is more of God to encounter, but the question becomes "why haven't we, then?" Another follow-up question is "what more of God is there to encounter?" or "what will it take for us to be ready to encounter God in new ways?"*
3. Have someone read Acts 1. What do we not get to know? What does God give us instead? *Jesus is careful to NOT answer the "when" question—the "how long, oh Lord" question. But we are empowered to be witnesses of God in whatever era He has placed us, whatever "epoch" or "time" we find ourselves in. In times that seem to be changing by the minute, we have His Spirit in us.*
4. On a scale from "hardly ever pray" to "totally devoted to prayer" where do you find yourself? *Answers will likely vary. No judgment—we all start somewhere, and we often find ourselves up and down the scale throughout the course of our lives. But it's important to stop and look and ask where you are, with an eye to "and what would it take to get to totally devoted to prayer?"*
5. What would need to change for everyone in our group to be totally devoted to prayer, like the apostles here were? *Think in terms of the group supporting and joining together in prayer. You probably noticed that you have some who are farther along than others. What would it take for the group to arrive at that destination together?*
6. Have someone read Acts 2. Is Peter's sermon a reasonable explanation for how many people received the gospel? *Peter's words are simple. His sermon would not get very far on a podcast or as a social media clip today, when we've amassed teachers with a lot of rhetorical skill with a lot of scripting and a lot of ability. He had one thing going for him: the spirit of God cut people to the heart when they heard that they'd crucified the Messiah.*
7. What are some of the signs in this scripture that the Holy Spirit had really changed people's hearts? *It wasn't just a big surge of baptisms, it was about the life change that came after. Believers adopted a whole different way of life, one marked by giving everything up for each other, caring for each other's needs, and devoting themselves to teaching, breaking bread together, and prayer.*
8. What are some of the signs that the Holy Spirit has really changed your heart? *Answers will vary, and it is important to note that God is moving in those in your group and growing them. All those signs in Acts 2 didn't show up on Day 1—they were a movement that continued to grow and mature and disciple people.*
9. Do we need a fresh filling of the Spirit of God? What should we do to get ready for more of Him? *Being together in one place and prayer are literally all the apostles did—it was God who desired to pour Himself out in a new way, and He did it in His own timing. If we are not ashamed, we can also gather to pray.*

**STEP OF OBEDIENCE** || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Things will change when **God's people are together, devoted, and expectant.**

*As you consider your next step, reflect on:* 1) What in your life needs to change to be ready for more of God? 2) How can the group get ready together for more of God's Spirit?

*Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for this question, so each person has others praying with them for the needs they're taking before the throne.*

**PRAYER FOCUS** || **Leader Note** *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!*

### **Do it Again**

*"Lord, we see in Your word that You honored Your people gathering to pray for more of Your presence. Will You do it again? We see that You took ordinary people preaching the plain, simple gospel and brought salvation to many, breaking barriers of language, people group, and background. Will You do it again? We need You to accomplish the Great Commission—it must be Your Spirit that does it, not our cleverness or our skill. Will You do it again?"*