

It's Not That Deep

2026-08-30 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Romans 1:18-25

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Romans 1:18-25 says that what may be known about God has been made plain, yet people exchanged the truth about God for a lie. Pastor Matt framed God's present wrath as giving people over to what they desire. He said real depth is not secret knowledge, but responding to Jesus with faith, gratitude, and a life centered on God.

To get started

- What made a simple moment from your week enjoyable?

Looking Back at the Message

Give people room to name both what helped and what raised questions.

- 1 Pastor Matt contrasted collecting religious information with real depth that ends in obedience. What stands out to you about that contrast?
- 2 He said people may search for hidden answers even though truth about God has been made plain. How do you understand the difference between searching deeply and missing what is already in front of us?
- 3 He used the picture of someone insisting on walking into traffic while God warns them about the danger. What did that picture help you consider, and where did the picture feel limited? OPTIONAL

Looking at the Passage

Allow silence, welcome different readings, and return to the words of Romans 1 when needed.

- 4 Romans 1:18-20 uses words such as known, plain, clearly seen, and understood. What do you notice about the repeated focus on what people can recognize?
- 5 Romans 1:20 says God's eternal power and divine nature are understood from what has been made. What does the verse say creation makes known, and what questions does that raise for you?
- 6 Romans 1:21 says people did not glorify God or give thanks to God, and then describes futile thinking and darkened hearts. What connections do you see among those descriptions?
- 7 Romans 1:22-23 describes people claiming wisdom and exchanging God's glory for created images. What contrasts do you notice in these verses? OPTIONAL
- 8 Romans 1:24-25 says God gave people over to their desires after they exchanged God's truth for a lie. How does the passage connect desire, worship, and what people serve?

Bringing It Home

Do not press anyone to share more personally than they wish.

- 9 He invited people to consider what creation might show them about God. When you pay close attention to creation or human life, what thoughts or questions about God come to mind?
- 10 He described how prayer can become centered only on what we want from God. What might change in a prayer that also makes room to notice and seek God?
- 11 He emphasized the place of gratitude in Romans 1:21. Where might gratitude change the way someone sees an ordinary part of life? OPTIONAL
- 12 He said real depth includes putting God first and keeping in step with God's Spirit, even while people remain imperfect. What might that kind of depth look like in everyday life?

The Group Together

Listen for differences without trying to settle every question.

- 13 He said he did not want the church to become a place where people judge others for their foolishness or struggles. What kind of conversation helps a group remain honest without becoming harsh?
- 14 Romans 1:25 contrasts serving created things with serving the Creator. What practices could help a group keep exploring that contrast together?
- 15 He said metaphors can help people understand faith, but no metaphor can hold the full truth of God. How can this group use sermon pictures with both openness and care?

OPTIONAL

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What idea, question, or possible practice from this conversation would you like to keep considering?

You might pray about

- Openness to what creation may show us about God
- Honesty about the desires that shape our attention
- Growing gratitude in ordinary life
- Wisdom to seek real depth rather than information alone