



YRML: ROMANS PREP BOOK

PART 1 (CHAPTERS 1-3)

Name: _____

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Welcome to YRML Romans!

We're praying that through the months ahead we will be encouraged, challenged and changed by God as He speaks to us through Romans.

This booklet is designed to help you get the most out of the coming year.

How to use this study manual...



Preparation – although it may be new to you, we hope this year will show how big a difference it makes to carefully read and think about a passage before meeting up to study it together



Study Toolkit – to help us with this, there are various tools which will be introduced throughout the year. There's a summary of the basic toolkit on pages 4&5.



Space – there's lots of space to fill in answers to prep questions, or to note down any truths you learn about Jesus & why He came.

Think about how to build some time into your week to pray & to reflect on the passage. You could do this **by yourself or with others** from Youth RML. Rather than thinking of it as 'homework', see this time as a chance to hear God speak to you, and to help you to come to Youth RML with thoughts and questions to share with others.

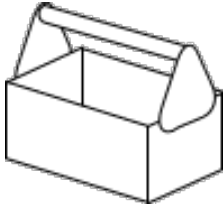
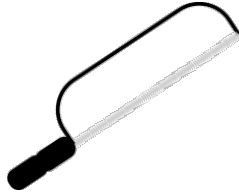
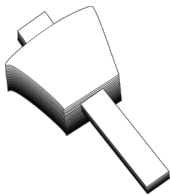
We're praying that this year will be a great chance to grow in your knowledge and love of God, and that you will know for yourself the goodness of what God has done for us through Jesus.

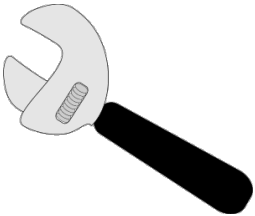
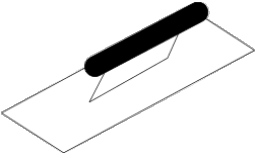
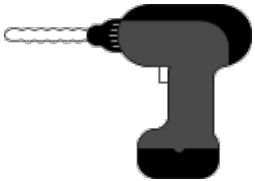
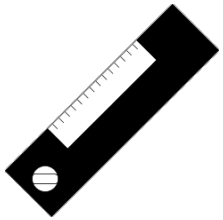
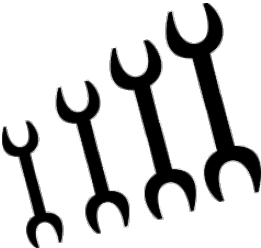
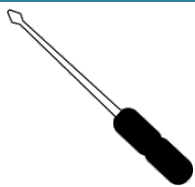
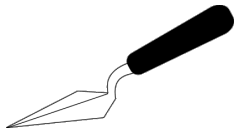
A Basic Bible Study Toolkit



Recommended reading: *Dig Deeper: Tools to Unearth the Bible's Treasure*, Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach (IVP, 2005), available from the YRML library!

WARNING! We're going to talk about 'tools', but *just* as a way of helping each other to listen. We don't want to imply that Bible study is some sort of 'mechanical' process. It's a *relational* process, whereby we listen attentively as God speaks to us.

	Author's Purpose Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 2. The biggest question we can ever ask of a passage in the Bible is simply: why did the author write this?
	Context Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 3. Words come within sentences, sentences in paragraphs, paragraphs in chapters, chapters in sections... Rip something out of context and you'll miss what Paul is saying.
	Structure Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 4. How has Paul broken down his material into sections? How do these sections fit together?
	Linking Words Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 5. Whenever you see a 'therefore' ask what it's there for. And the same goes for words like 'because', 'so that', 'for' etc.
	Narrator's Comment Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 7. Sometimes the author breaks into his narrative to explain what's going on (a kind of "pssst, reader, make sure you understand this...")
	Vocabulary Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 8. Mostly you can find what words mean by looking them up in a dictionary. But be alert in case Paul is using a familiar word in a special or unusual way.

	Translations Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 9. Check passages across different translations. If there are important differences, try to find out more.
	Tone and Feel Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 10. As we come to the Bible, we should not only pay attention to the point that is being made, but also how it is being made. What feelings does the passage evoke?
	Repetition Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 11. Sometimes Paul says something more than once to make sure we don't miss it. Sometimes Paul says something more than once to make sure we don't miss it. Look for repetition.
	Quotation / Allusion Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 12. When Paul quotes or alludes to another part of the Bible, we should look up the original context of his quotation. What connection is he making and why?
	Genre Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 13. There are many types of genre in the Bible – songs, prophecies, proverbs, laments, visions, speeches, parables, historical narrative. Identifying the genre is very important to how we interpret a passage.
	Copypat Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 14. Is Paul holding anyone up as someone we should imitate or whose likeness we should avoid?
	The 'Who am I?' Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 16. With which person/group/character (if any) does Paul intend us to identify ourselves?
	'So What?' Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i>, chapter 17. What difference does this make to my life? How will it work out in particular situations I am facing at the moment?

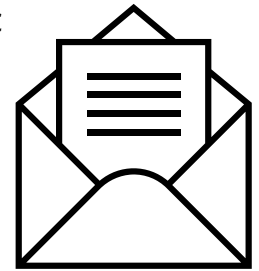
Romans: A Real Letter to Real People!

When we are reading letters in the Bible, we want to ask some basic questions to help us understand what's going on.

Who? Who is writing? Who are they writing to?

Where and when? What's the context? What prompted the letter?

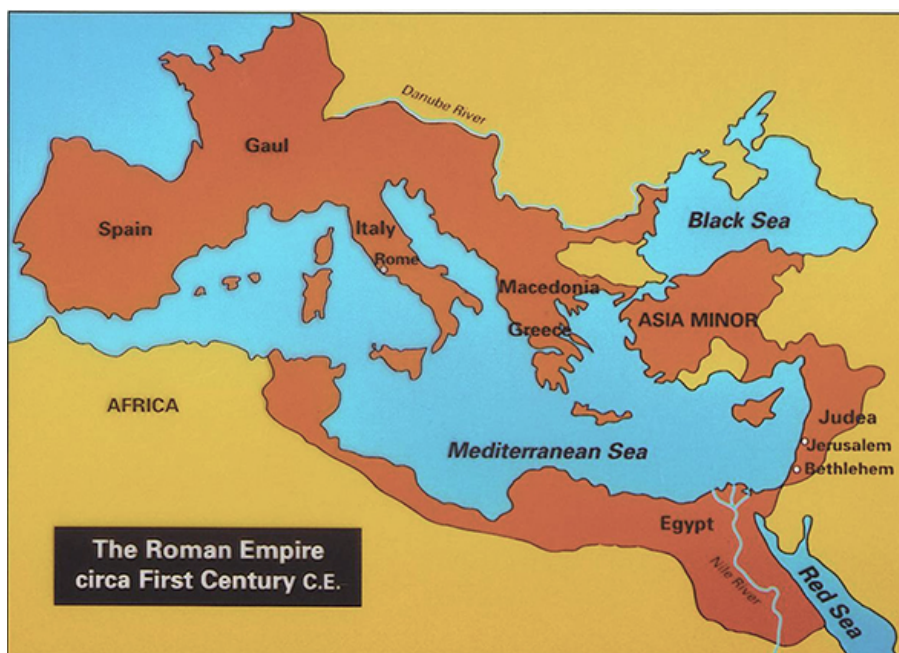
Why are they writing? What is the author wanting to achieve?



So, what about this letter to the Romans?

The audience: Rome in the 1st century AD was the capital and largest city of the Roman Empire. The church was probably made up of a mix of Jewish and Gentile believers, and Paul was eager to visit and strengthen them with the gospel (Romans 1:11-13). In 15:14 Paul says “I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another”, so he wasn’t writing because they had big problems. Instead, he had big hopes for them, as we shall see!

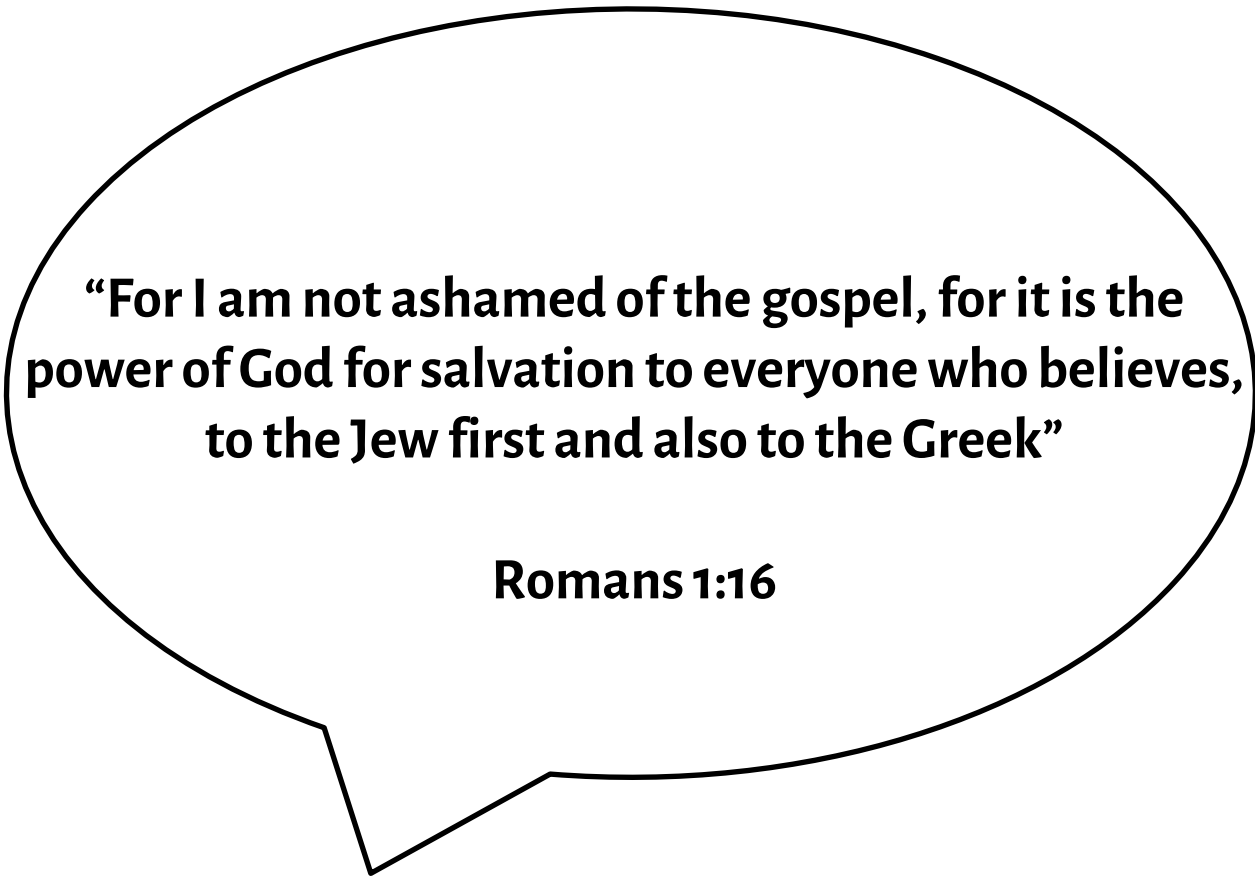
The author: Paul wrote Romans at a crucial time in his life. He had finally finished proclaiming the gospel in the eastern Mediterranean (Rom 15:19-23). His next big hope, after a short visit to Jerusalem (Rom 15:30-33), was to go to Spain via Rome, helped on his way by the Roman Christians (Rom 15:23-24). Paul wanted them to get on board with this great gospel mission, and so he wrote Romans to show them how amazing the gospel is. He wanted them (and us!) to see how important the message of Jesus is for everyone, across the whole world.



Memory Verse

Memory verses are a great way of helping us to meditate on God's Word through the week.

At the beginning of each section of Romans we'll introduce a new verse to learn. Here's the first one...



“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

Study 1 - Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Pray** *Ask for God's help to hear Him speak as you read the passage.*
- Read** *Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.*
- *Underline anything that stands out to you*
 - *Write a question mark next to anything you don't understand*

What does Paul tell us about God's gospel? *(There are lots of things!)*

How do these details help us to see that the gospel is a BIG deal?

How does this compare to how our friends/teachers/the media/TV shows view the gospel & Jesus?

Spend some time thinking & praying about your response to the passage.

Study 2 - Romans 1:8-17

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- Pray** Ask for God's help to hear Him speak as you read the passage.
- Read** Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.
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	Author's Purpose Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 2. The biggest question we can ever ask of a passage in the Bible is simply: why did the author write this?
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Paul was writing to a particular church, in a particular place, at a particular time, for a particular purpose. So when we read Romans we want to ask "Why did Paul want his original readers to know this?" Thinking carefully about this question will help us to understand why we need to hear it too.

How does Paul feel about the Romans?

Using the **Author's Purpose** tool, what hints do we get about why he wrote this letter? What does he want for them? (*A few things!*)

How does Paul feel about the gospel? Why?

Spend some time asking God to strengthen us in the gospel too as we read the rest of Romans.

Study 3 - Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

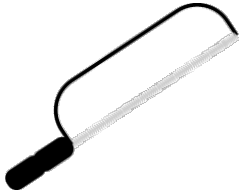
²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷

and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

- Pray** Ask for God's help to hear Him speak as you read the passage.
- Read** Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.
- Underline anything that stands out to you
 - Write a question mark next to anything you don't understand



Linking Words Tool

Dig Deeper, chapter 5.

Whenever you see a 'therefore' ask what it's there for. And the same goes for words like 'because', 'so that', 'for' etc.

Paul makes lots of his points in Romans through logic. This means it's important to pay attention to linking words as they will help us to follow his argument.

Read the passage and highlight all the **linking words**.

How does each part of the passage build on / flow from the bit before? You may find it helpful to draw a diagram.

How does humanity treat God? (See v18-22, 25 and 28)

How does God respond? (See v18, 24, 26-27, 28-32)

Do you think this description of the world is fair? Why / why not?

Spend some time thinking & praying about your response to the passage.

Study 4 - Romans 2:1-29

²Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ²We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

⁶He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰but glory and honour and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹For God shows no partiality.

¹²For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the

law. ¹⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

¹⁷But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²²You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in the law dishonour God by breaking the law. ²⁴For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

²⁵For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Pray *Ask for God's help to hear Him speak as you read the passage.*

Read *Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.*

- Underline anything that stands out to you

- Write a question mark next to anything you don't understand

Paul often writes as if he is in a debate with an imaginary questioner. Verses 1-5 introduce someone who thinks they're excused from God's anger in Romans 1:18.

As you read through the chapter, can you spot why some people might have thought they were excused from God's anger?

How does Paul answer? (*Don't worry if you don't follow everything he says!*) Have a go at summarising the big point Paul is making.

Why might people today think they don't deserve God's anger?

Spend some time thinking & praying about your response to the passage.

Study 5 - Romans 3:1-20

¹Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision?

²Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written,

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail when you are judged.”

⁵But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) ⁶By no means! For then how could God judge the world? ⁷But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? ⁸And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

⁹What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

¹²All have turned aside; together
they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”

¹³“Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive.”
“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

¹⁴“Their mouth is full of curses
and bitterness.”

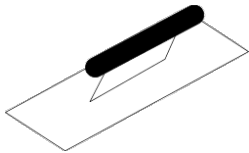
¹⁵“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
¹⁶in their paths are ruin and misery,
¹⁷and the way of peace they have
not known.”

¹⁸“There is no fear of God before
their eyes.”

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

- Pray** *Ask for God's help to hear Him speak as you read the passage.*
- Read** *Read through the passage a couple of times slowly.*
- *Underline anything that stands out to you*
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There are lots of Old Testament quotations in v9-18. How would you summarise how humans are described in these verses in 2 or 3 words?

	Tone and Feel Tool	<i>Dig Deeper</i> , chapter 10. We can learn a lot by the ' <i>feel</i> ' of a passage. What's the mood? If Paul had given it a sound track, what would the music be like?
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Use the '**Tone and Feel**' tool – how would you describe the mood of this passage?

What is the final verdict on humanity by 3:19-20? What do you make of this verdict?

How do you think Paul wants the Romans (and us) to respond to this verdict?

Spend some time thinking & praying about your response to the passage.

Youth RML Prayer Partner

Here are some prayer points from **Joelle Kenny**, our mission partner based in Ratanakiri in rural Cambodia. She runs Bible studies for women and youth groups in some of the local villages.



- Pray for **rest and refreshment** both physically and spiritually as I take a break from ministry after having dengue fever. Pray that my energy and appetite would return quickly. Pray I would be encouraged in God's Word during this break.
- Praise God for the **women's groups** in Ochum and Krala, both enjoying studying Mark's Gospel. As Krala village has a few new believers, pray studying Mark would help them get to know Jesus more clearly and have a correct understanding of the gospel.
- Pray **for Ochum youth group** studying Acts, that Paul's commitment to serving God despite many hardships would be an inspiration to them. Pray they would get better at speaking up during the Bible studies and contributing.
- Pray the students would not be tempted whilst back home in their villages for the next two months. Pray they would continue to read the Bible, and that they would be a witness to those around them in how they conduct themselves and in their conversation.



Youth RML Calendar 2025-26

September	10	Welcome Party & YRML begins
	29	Prayer Supper
October	22	Guest Event
	27	Prayer Supper
	29	No RML (Half Term)
November	24	Prayer Supper
December	17	Christmas Dinner
January	7	First RML of term
	26	Prayer Supper
	28	No RML
	30 – 1	Bruncion weekend
February	18	No RML (Half Term)
	23	Prayer Supper
March	25	Easter Guest Event
	30	Prayer Supper
April	22	First RML of term
	27	Prayer Supper & APCM
May	20	No RML (Week of Events)
	27	No RML (Half Term)
June	1	Prayer Supper
	29	Prayer Supper
July	1	Summer party
	8	Summerlink begins