

rejoice in hope

Reflections through Romans

Women's Summer
Bible Study



A Dwelling Richly Bible Study

Welcome & Introduction

Written by Jennifer Richmond

©Jennifer G. Richmond, 2021

www.JenniferGRichmond.com

Jennifer@JenniferGRichmond.com

Facebook – Instagram – YouTube

Join the daily lessons

www.YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond

“Let the Word of God
dwell in you richly.”

Colossians 3:16

Welcome!

“Romans: Rejoice in Hope” is a five-lesson Bible study reflecting through several passages in Romans. You’ll enjoy the daily time in God’s word with questions to prompt your study and reflection as we reflect on the great love and power of God. I know you’ll come away with a renewed joy and strength in your faith!

Why “*Dwelling Richly*?”

In 1993, inspired by the words from Colossians 3:16 to “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly”, I began writing songs from Scripture and now have written over 30 Scripture-based songs and two dozen Bible studies. My desire is to help others engage in God’s word through reading, writing, memorizing, sharing, singing, and of course, studying its truths. I want to live out what it means to truly let the Word dwell in me deeply and to help others do the same by encouraging women to love God and His Word with heart, soul, mind, and strength.

This study is designed to offer daily time and structure through the Word of God for the purpose of understanding first who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. We’ll pray, memorize, meditate, write, engage, reflect, create with, and share the truths God reveals. The mission is to equip women to enthusiastically and intentionally dwell in the Word and let the word of Christ dwell in them richly.

And here’s the big goal...it’s great to grow personally, but we need to do more than grow...we must go! My prayer is to help equip you to be able to teach so you can in turn equip others.

Let’s dive in and let God’s Word dwell in us richly!

In Christ,



Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com
www.JenniferGRichmond.com

...Dwelling Richly Bible Study...

Who are we?

We are ...

women who enthusiastically and intentionally dwell in the Word
and let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.

(from Colossians chapter 3)

We...

- *point* one another toward God for wisdom and hope
- *support* one another in life's challenges and blessings
- *share* our strengths and weaknesses
- *provide* encouragement, fun, & friendship that grow out of God's Word

We Expect ...

Bible-based studies and teaching. We want the Word of Life, not words from man.

Faith-building Bible study not worldly solutions and motivational quotes. We long for truth!

to Have Fun God's Word brings us true joy and we have fun dwelling in it!

to Learn a Ton! There's a lot we know and so much we don't! We are ready to learn!

to Get Stuck We are ok to work a little and not always understand right away

to Grow from who we are today to who we can become empowered by the Holy Spirit

“Let the Word of God
dwell in you richly.”

Colossians 3:16

...Dwelling Richly Bible Study...

How do we study?

Read and take notes in a Bible – a good 'ol fashioned paper Bible. That computer Bible is convenient and your Bible app is as well, but for study, please use a print Bible. New International (NIV), English Standard (ESV), or Christian Standard (CSB) versions – NOTE: We will use the New English Translation (NET) for this study.

Avoid studying from a paraphrase. They can be helpful to clarify, but do your study and note-taking from a translation instead.

Questions you may have

- ✦ What's the difference between a translation and a paraphrase?
- ✦ Which Bible translation or paraphrase should I use?
- ✦ Are there any that I should avoid?
- ✦ Why are you using the NET translation for this study?

Go to the [Dwelling Richly YouTube](#) channel or [podcast](#) for my responses to these and other questions.

Use a Notebook – I recommend a 1 ½ -2" 3-ring binder to keep your lessons organized.

Use colored pencils to mark in your Bible. I recommend the [Pentel 8 colored pencil](#).

yellow	-- key ideas
orange	-- memory verses
blue	-- God/Holy Spirit
brown	-- people
green	-- places
pink	-- prophecy
red	-- Jesus

Pray before you read, ask God to help you understand what you are reading. It's amazing what happens when we just do that...pray. God is faithful.

Trust the process. Allow God to speak to you before you reach for study notes in your Bible. Use the cross-reference verses if you're not sure what something means or you want more information.

Coffee, tea, journal, study...



- [YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond](https://www.youtube.com/c/JenniferRichmond)
- [Facebook.com/DwellingRichlyPodcast](https://www.facebook.com/DwellingRichlyPodcast)
- [Facebook.com/LMCCWomen](https://www.facebook.com/LMCCWomen)
- [Dwelling Richly podcast](#)

...Dwelling Richly Bible Study...

How do we connect?

We'll meet in Grace Groups during each study – connecting, sharing, praying with, and encouraging one another. Grace Groups also get together in between sessions to discuss the study and just hang out for coffee, at a park, just for fun! During Grace Group time at our study, we will be mindful of the following...

📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the New English Translation (NET) Bible for this study.

🤝 We come from varying religious & political backgrounds. Remember: *'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'*

🚫 Avoid commentaries or study notes in your Bible – do your own thinking. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.

💖 We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.

👍 This is a Bible study – not a personal-opinion group. So, there are going to be “right” and “wrong” answers in keeping with the truth of God's Word.

🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share!

😊 Discussion questions are written with care to move you through the previous lesson and prepare you for the lesson to come. Please read and answer them all and do not skip over any.

👉 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. **YOU'RE HERE! YAY YOU!** This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down thoughts as others share.

⌚ Be considerate of how much you're talking. Share your thoughts and allow time for others to do the same – limit yourself to about 2 minutes maximum. Your group leader will help with that.

🕒 Watch the time. Teaching Review begins promptly at 10:40 (morning session) and 7:40 (evening session) and is about 40 minutes. Leaders will wrap up the discussion time at 10:30am or 7:40pm to allow for prayer and a bathroom break.

Bible Study Schedule

<u>Tuesday AM</u>	<u>Wednesday PM</u>	
9:20am	6:20pm	• Chat, refreshments, pick up new lesson
9:35am	6:35pm	• Welcome & Prayer
9:40am	6:40pm	• “Looking Back”* – a quiet time for personal reflection on the past lesson. This is on the first page of the current lesson.
9:50am	6:50pm	• Small-Groups – discussion, sharing responses from the previous lesson, prayer.
10:35am	7:35pm	• Break/Transition
10:40am	7:40pm	• Teaching – The message will be taught covering the Scripture we studied in the previous lesson.
11:30am	8:30pm	• Closing Prayer

Meeting Dates:

Tuesdays -- June 15, 22 / July 6, 20 / August 3

Wednesdays -- June 16, 23 / July 7, 21 / August 4

...Romans: Rejoice in Hope...

Study At-A-Glance

Save these pages so you'll have a quick reference to each of the five lessons in this study. If you're short on time for a given lesson, you can use this guide to help you read and pray through the passage so you can connect better in your Grace Group discussion and the teaching time.

Lesson One - June 15 & 16

- ✦ Grace Groups: Welcome & Introductions
- ✦ Teaching Review: "The Heart of the Gospel" *with Jennifer Richmond*
- ✦ Home Study: Romans 1:1-5:21
- ✦ Memorize: Romans 5:5

Lesson Two - June 22 & 23

- ✦ Grace Groups: Discuss Lesson 1
- ✦ Teaching Review: Romans 5:3-5 *with Cheryl Vidal*
- ✦ Home Study: Romans 6:1-8:39
- ✦ Memorize: Romans 8:24-25

Lesson Three - July 6 & 7

- ✦ Grace Groups: Discuss Lesson 2
- ✦ Teaching Review: Romans 8:1-39 *with Hannah Sovilla*
- ✦ Home Study: Romans 9:1-12:21
- ✦ Memorize: Romans 12:1-2

Lesson Four - July 20 & 21

- ✦ Grace Groups: Discuss Lesson 3
- ✦ Teaching Review: Romans 9:1-12:21 *with Jenette Sovilla*
- ✦ Home Study: Romans 12:1-16:27
- ✦ Memorize: Romans 1:5

Lesson Five - August 3 & 4

- ✦ Grace Groups: Discuss Lesson 4
- ✦ Teaching Review: Romans 12:1-16:27 *with Lorraine Frias*

Zoom login Details:

Tuesdays: 998 7454 7105

Wednesdays: 967 8965 6820

PASSWORD: bible

rejoice in hope

Reflections through Romans

Lesson One – Romans 1:1-5:21

Women's Summer
Bible Study





“Let the Word of Christ
dwell in you richly.”

Colossians 3:16

– Grace Group –

Welcome to Lesson One of *Romans: Rejoice in Hope*. Whether you're with us in person or joining online we're glad you're here! The Dwelling Richly study is where **women are equipped to enthusiastically and intentionally dwell in the Word and let the word of Christ dwell in them richly**. We do this in two ways: Personal Study (PST) and Group Study.

- 1) **Personal Study Time (PST)** - where you develop the skills and habits of a disciple. As followers of Jesus Christ we want to know what we believe, why we believe it, and what it means for our life to believe that way. Studying the word of God isn't a way to fix and feel good about ourselves it's a way to know God and from that point, guess what? – we find that peace and hope and wisdom we're longing for. During PST you'll be equipped to fulfill Colossians 3:16 to "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." Look for the "7 Ways to Dwell" at the opening of Day One and throughout every lesson.
BONUS! PST also includes weekday videos of every day of the lesson. It's personal study not all-by-yourself study! Jennifer teaches through every day of each lesson so be sure to subscribe to the Dwelling Richly channel on YouTube and join the daily PST with Jennifer.
- 2) **Group Study** – where we connect for teaching and encouragement with other followers of Jesus Christ who have been with God and have let the Word dwell in them like you have. We learn from one another, have those "you too?" moments as well as those, "I never thought of it that way" moments. We hold one another accountable and hold one another's hands. We hear teaching and are challenged to think biblically and take what we're learning to the next level personally and to our communities as well. We record the teaching from each session, so after today's teaching time, go to the Dwelling Richly podcast or YouTube channel and listen to the message again or share it with a friend.

Take a minute to check in on Instagram or Facebook, share a photo of your group, tag a friend, and let others know you're at La Mirada Church with LMC Women.



Follow Dwelling Richly and LMC Women.

Let's get to know one another...

1. "My name is _____ Summertime is best when...."
2. What's new with you? Hobbies? A fun adventure? A great book you recommend?
3. What are you hoping to gain from this Bible study? (could be spiritually, emotionally, socially, etc.)
4. Does personal Bible study come easily for you or is it something you've had to work on? How so?
5. Through this study we will understand how deeply God loves us and how precious our lives are to Him. Do you think people really grasp that love? What evidence do you see in society these days that makes you believe this?

Pass around the Prayer and Connections Journal. If you have a prayer request that is more private, you can share with your group leader or our teaching leader, Jennifer after the study.

Next up...teaching time with Jennifer...take notes on the next page. 😊

... Teaching Time ...

My Notes



Good stuff!



Lesson One ~ Introduction

Read this First.

Let's do this together! *great idea!* Join Jennifer "live or later" and go through every lesson of the study with our Bible study community on the Dwelling Richly podcast. Go to www.JenniferGRichmond.com/DwellingRichly for details.

Ready? Maybe you decided this study is going to be your best yet...you made sure to set aside time in your busy schedule so you won't get swamped and let the lesson go to the last moment. Maybe it's your first time doing a Bible study and you have no idea what to expect. Wherever you are, whatever your expectations, here's what you can count on...I'm praying for you and God is ready to bless you amazingly!

A Simple Plan! Each lesson is laid out in 7 steps. Every step is designed to "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." I designed this routine to give you comfort in the pattern and predictability. Also, every step is a thoughtful way to approach study so you become equipped to know the Word and deepen your faith. *Look for these steps on the next page.*

Know Two Things...

- 1) **You have an advocate! Yay!** Jesus himself is praying for you! Imagine that! It's pretty amazing, don't you think? It's true. You are doing a good thing by getting into God's Word. Staying faithful and focused isn't always going to be easy, so right here and now think about how cool it is that Jesus is advocating for you, cheering you on, making a way for you to do well in this venture!
- 2) **You have an enemy! Yikes!** It's true, but it's only discouraging if you forget #1! Satan, the Bible says, is like a roaring lion "seeking whom he may devour"...that's you! You may find that more than any other time in your life you have scheduling challeng-8-es, emotional weakness, mental fatigue, relationship issues...you name it...anything at all to get in the way of you getting into the Word.

So, with these two things in mind, here are some **practical tips** for making sure you are successful in this study:

- o **Pray.** Get armored up and tell God that you want His blessing as you schedule, study, think, and get into His Word. God will always answer that kind of prayer with a big, fat, awesome, "Yes!"
- o **Partner.** Connect with someone in your group so you can share encouragement and accountability. Send texts, make calls, meet-up with your "study buddy" and encourage one another!
- o **Plan.** You didn't just show up to your last dentist appointment. You didn't just miraculously find time for that date with a friend, your car didn't just magically repair itself while you were sleeping...you saw a need and made time to make sure it all happened. Plan now for the time you'll spend in Bible study. It won't just happen.
- o **Prioritize.** I bet you brushed your teeth today. Maybe you even flossed. You probably went to the dentist too at some point in the last year...why? You value your teeth and you want them to look nice and not fall out of your head. You made dental health a priority because you know the consequences are pretty ugly if you don't. Guess what? Your spiritual health is even more valuable. Make it a priority.

Lesson One & Day One

Memorize & Meditate

Romans 5:5

...Dwell in the Word...

This study has been written to help you let “the word of God dwell in you richly.”
Each day moves you through the spiritual disciplines or habits to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
These habits are reflected in seven ways we’ll dwell in the Word...

... 7 Ways 2 Dwell ...

1. **Pray.** Ask God for understanding and pray for others in the study as well. Think about a **focus word** to help you pray like “clarity” or “peace” or “wisdom.” Ask God to give you understanding in a specific way during your study. Having a focus word will help with that.
2. **Memorize & Meditate (M&M).** Write the memory verse in the text box at the top of the page
3. **Write.** Write the memory verse each day of your lesson and use the “Write the Word” pages at the end of each lesson. You’ll have all of Romans written by the end of this study! That’s a big deal! Wow! (Write the Word begins in Lesson Two.)
4. **Read.** Read today’s passage. At the end of this study you’ll have read through Romans at least three times! Wow! You’ll discover new and more amazing truths each time.
5. **Engage.** Respond to the prompts, answer questions, think, and get stuck – yes, “get stuck” – you won’t always feel like you understand or have the “right” answer. That’s OK. Just let the Word of God “dwell in you richly.”
6. **Reflect.** I’ll share some of my thoughts and we’ll think together about what we’ve read and what we’re understanding.
7. **Create & Share.** The final day of each lesson will culminate in an opportunity for you to express your thoughts, feelings, and ideas about what you’ve learned dwelling in the Word.

Well, technically that was 9 ways! Look for these Dwelling Ways throughout our study.

You will be a BSP* in no time!

*Bible Study Pro

Write Romans 5:5 in the “Memorize & Meditate” text box at the top of this page. Use any translation you prefer.

For this study, our primary translation will be New English Translation (NET). Then practice memorizing that verse over the next 10 days of this lesson.



“Begin with the end in mind.” As a school teacher, I began every year asking myself questions like, “What should my 3rd graders know and be able to do by the time I hug them goodbye in June?” or “What skills did my 5th graders need so they would be equipped to enter 6th grade ready to go?” Then I would design my lessons for the entire year with all those learning results in mind.

Let’s approach this study in a similar way. Ask, “At the end of this study, how will I have grown? What new skills will I have? What will I understand then what I don’t really grasp now?”

On the next page, write down your personal goals for this study...

WAIT!

We missed the first W2D step - PRAY!

You’re right. In fact, on the next page, I’ve framed the first two prompts as a conversation with God to pray as you think about what you want out of this study. So, pause here and pray and then, let’s begin...

Lesson One & Day One

1. **Pray.** Ask God for help to remain steadfast daily in His Word and to give you wisdom and understanding as you study. Write your prayer here:

2. **Reflect.** What are you most looking forward to in this study?

3. **Consider.** What do you already know about the book of Romans? *(It's ok if you don't know anything at all. Just write down some thoughts you have about what you think you already understand about this book of the Bible.)*

4. **Read Romans 1:1-5:21** – *Make a note of and highlight people (brown), places (green), God, Holy Spirit, Jesus. Use the space provided to ask a question, make a connection, note a truth about God or humankind. Be willing to be stumped. Are there any verses that are confusing to you? Any you'd like more clarification? Make a note of those as you read. We'll be looking a little more closely later this week.*

Romans 1:1-15 – Note who is named in this passage:

What is the emotional tone, general feeling you get in this passage?

Romans 1:16-32

Lesson One & Day One

Romans 2:1-29

Romans 3:1-4:12

Romans 4:13-5:21

...Reflect on the Word...



Isn't there something special about reconnecting with an old friend? You have so much history, so many shared moments, you remember special details about things you did together, and you hold close to your heart tender or even difficult seasons where you both were there for one another.

When you come back together even after a long break, you pick up where you left off and delight in the amazing way you've stayed close even though all this time has gone by. Here we are at the opening of a reflective look through Romans, and like reconnecting with an old friend I find myself excited and even nostalgic because it was not too long ago that we went through the

deep, verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter in our previous Dwelling Richly study "Wild & Redeemed." I know that the lessons that lay ahead in this study will bring us back through familiar verses – I look forward to seeing anew those verses that challenged, verses that encouraged, verses that made me think and rethink and wonder at that greatness of God and the smallness of my own heart – and yet the tremendous hope that God gives is a hope that not only closes the gap between us but heals the hurt and gives our life such rich purpose.

That is Romans. Romans is my dear friend in a sense and I'm so happy to reconnect. I pray as we begin this study, you, too will find the hope and joy in connecting and reconnecting in God's Word through His Spirit.

"What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting Word" – together, in His name, and I pray that you will know as always that you are loved and prayed for...



Lesson One & Day Two

Memorize & Meditate
Romans 5:5

...Dwell in the Word...

Today's Reading: Romans 1:1-2:29

Big dive yesterday...little dip today! Ready? Let's get into the Word!

1. Read Romans 1:1-2:29. What two truths stand out big to you about God?

1)

2)

2. Knowing this about God, how does that impact the way you connect with Him – in prayer? in how you think of Him?

3. If this passage was all you knew about Paul, how would you describe him to a friend?

Lesson One & Day Two

4. **Highlight** in your Bible every time Paul writes “God gave them over/up...” What is the reason God does this?

What is the result for these people?

Do you think God is doing this even today? Why or why not?

5. How important is repentance? What/Who leads people to repent? (Romans 2:1-5)

6. What are some warnings in today's passage that hit close to home for you and your own spiritual growth? What changes do you need to make today in light of these warnings?

7. Paul wrote this letter to “all those loved by God in Rome” who were Christians and living through explosive growth of Christianity as well as significant persecution. Imagine you are one of those believers in Rome hearing or reading this letter. How do you imagine Paul's tone and words would have impacted you living in 1st century Rome?

Lesson One & Day Three

Memorize & Meditate
Romans 5:5

...Dwell in the Word...

Today's Reading: Romans 3:1-4:12

1. Read Romans 3:1-4:12 – What questions does Paul anticipate that his readers - and maybe us today - might have had? Write the questions here:
.....
2. Is there any way that any person could ever claim to be righteous, good, morally acceptable by God on their own? Why or why not?
.....
3. Why is this truth* important for people to grasp? What happens when people deny or slightly alter this truth?
.....

Lesson One & Day Three

4. Re-read Romans 3:23-24. What does what has done mean to you personally?

5. What's more significant? – Working and getting paid what you are owed or receiving a gift that you ever deserved? Why?

6. What is the difference between just being circumcised and walking in “the footsteps of the faith?” Why do you think Paul makes this distinction in Romans 4:12?

Lesson One & Day Four

Memorize & Meditate

Romans 5:5

...Dwell in the Word...

Today's Reading: Romans 4:13-5:21

1. Read Romans 4:13-5:21. Which word(s) do you notice repeated?
2. What connection do you see between a strengthened faith and giving glory to God? (Consider Romans 4:20-21.)
3. Think about a faith-challenging situation going on in your life today. A broken relationship – do you trust God to heal it? A health crisis? Do you have faith in God as you consider the worst? A troubled nation – Is God going to deliver your family? Financial pressures – Are you trusting God to meet your needs? What truth from God's Word can you rely on today? What shift in your focus do you need to make? Write your thoughts here:

Lesson One & Day Four

4. List all the statements from Romans 5:1-11 that tell you what we as believers have since we have been declared righteous by faith. (Hint: there are at least 11)

5. What is the “gift” and how does Paul describe it?

6. Draw a picture or create a chart to illustrate Romans 5:19-21

Lesson One & Day Five

Memorize & Meditate

Romans 5:5

...Create & Share...

The final day of each lesson is set aside to take what we've been reading, learning, and dwelling upon... bring it together, create something new and personal, then share it to bless someone. I developed this part of the Dwelling Richly study because I wanted to see women not just study and bring the Word in, but to let it move around inside of them and then come back out in a way that would bless others.

...

Jesus was the ultimate example to us of exactly what this day is set aside for...creating and sharing. Everywhere Jesus Christ went he created. He is the epitome of all of creation and is one with God as the Creator. He is our beautiful example to follow as he shared not only in the simple acts of kindness but in the stunning and miraculous acts of sharing his healing power.

...

We were made in His image – to do and be and live like Him – not just because that's what a good Christian "should" do, but because we are most like Jesus when we imitate Him and live up to His image within us. So, our Create & Share time is not just another "step" in our Bible study – it is literally fulfilling what we have been called to do, "be imitators of God as dearly loved children."

...

I encourage you to embrace this time in each lesson. To challenge yourself to reach a bit even if it's out of your comfort zone to "create." So many women don't think of themselves as creative and feel awkward trying to express themselves artistically. But, I hope you'll grow in this area and really embrace the spirit of creating and of sharing. I believe it will bring a wholeness to you in ways you never expected.

...

The theme for this reflective study in Romans was inspired by God's words to us in Romans 12:12 to "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and be constant in prayer."

...

As you consider the significance of this encouragement I hope you'll appreciate these words more deeply at the end of these five lessons. Today, as we begin, take a moment to draw a simple idea of what it means to you to "rejoice in hope." In a world where so many are hopeless, we as Christians have true and lasting hope that we can really rejoice in!

...

Finally, share what you created. You have a study buddy. You have a friend, your husband, even one of your children...share what you created. Explain what you're learning. They may love it and really get it...they may smile and not really grasp it. That's not important. The important part is that you spent time dwelling in the Word...and you "let the Word of God dwell in you...*richly*."



p.s. I would love for you to share your Create & Share with me! You can email or text me! Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com or 562.755.4964. If you share on social media use our hashtag #dwellingrichly

