Introduction to Romans: *The Power of God*

Romans 1:1-5
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….

Romans 1:16-17
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."

Romans 8:35-39
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **36** As it is written,

> "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Questions for Discussion

1. What stood out to you most from today's lesson?

2. How would you summarize "the gospel" from Paul's own teaching?

3. What powers do we often look to in order to flourish?

4. Miroslav Volf, a professor of theology at Yale University, once wrote: "At the very core of Christian identity lies an all-encompassing change of loyalty, from a given culture with its gods to the God of all cultures." What are the gods of our culture to which we are too loyal?

5. Why do you think it's so hard for men, generally speaking, to ask for help?