

The Far Country

Romans 1:18–32

TAKE-HOME GUIDE • SHARE THIS PAGE

Big idea: The far country always starts with a trade. Paul names how far we wandered — and leaves the light on. The rescue is coming; first, sit honestly in the distance.

Settle In

- Think of a time you drifted from something — or someone — that mattered. Not all at once, but one small step at a time. What did the first step look like?
- When you hear that God's anger is "revealed" (1:18), what picture comes to mind? Where do you think that picture came from?

Lean In

Read Romans 1:18–32 together in the ESV, then talk it through:

- Paul says people are "without excuse" not because God hid, but because He made Himself plain (1:19–20). Where do you see God making Himself plain — and where do we tend to look away?
- The turning word here is *exchanged* (1:23, 25). What smaller things do we tend to trade the Real Thing for? Why can't they hold the weight?
- Three times Paul says "God gave them up" (1:24, 26, 28). Does it change anything to hear that as a Father letting go of the wheel we grabbed — rather than a lightning bolt? Why or why not?

- Read the list in 1:29–31 slowly. Be honest — where are you on it? What happens to your view of “those lost people” when you find your own name there?

Carry It Home

- **Reflect:** What’s the far country you know best — the one you’ve lived in, or the one you’re in right now? What was the exchange that took you there?
- **Practice:** This week, find your line on the list in 1:29–31. Instead of writing shame next to it, write two words: But Now. The rescue is coming — start rehearsing the turn.

A VERSE TO SIT WITH

Romans 1:20 — and alongside it, Luke 15:20: “while he was still a long way off...”

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father, I know my far country. I’ve made the trade more than once. Thank You that You’re still watching the road, and that “But Now” is on its way. Help me turn toward home. Amen.

No matter the distance, you’re not alone. The porch light’s on, and there’s always room on the porch.