



## **ROMANS CHAPTER 3 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- If someone asked you the following question, how would you respond? Outside of following God, what is one the greatest honors or privileges of your life?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with your group and pray over each group member by name.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (Romans 3:1-31)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **Romans 3:1-8**

- Is Paul saying that God loved the Jews more than He loved any other person? If not, what is He saying?
  - Paul is not saying that He loved the Jews more than any other person. He is saying that the Jews. He is continuing a "argument" he is making from the end of

chapter 2. The Jews believed that their special relationship with God made them more privileged than anyone else. God desired that they understand that their special relationship with Him included special responsibility, a commitment to do what He wanted and not what they always wanted.

- Do you think that Christians today fall into the trap of taking advantage of the forgiveness of God? Why or why not? How can you and I avoid doing this?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Romans 3:9-20**

- When reading this section of Scripture, why can it be depressing or discouraging?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- In this section of Scripture, Paul is not saying that there is no hope for humanity. Rather, he is arguing that outside of Jesus Christ and His redemption, there is no hope for humanity. In verse 12, when Paul states that, “they have become worthless or useless,” the meaning behind that word “worthless” or “useless” is milk that has become sour. In other words, if you and I just relied on ourselves and our great performances to be saved and forgiven, we are in big trouble.
  - What do you think it means and looks like for you to remember and live that you are desperate for God? How can you more fully live this out this coming week?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Romans 3:21-26**

- If you had committed a crime and were totally guilty and there were no excuses for what you did and if you went before the judge and he asked you if you desired mercy or justice, which would you choose and why?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- In this section of the text, Paul is hammering home the point that no one can say that they are innocent according to God’s standards not even the person that considers themselves to be a good person. Justification as Paul presents has everything to do with God declaring guilty men and women innocent by and

through the blood of Jesus Christ and by and through the graciousness and goodness of God.

- Are there any ways in which accepting God's mercy is difficult for you? Why or why not?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Are there any specific ways in which you seek to be justified based upon your own merits rather than clinging to Jesus' sacrifice for you?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Romans 3:27-31**

- Reread this section of Scripture and read Galatians 6:14. What do these passages have in common? What is convicting to you about both texts?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Romans chapter 4)

## ROMANS CHAPTER 3 (STUDENT)

### **Discussion Starter**

- If someone asked you the following question, how would you respond? Outside of following God, what is one the greatest honors or privileges of your life?

### **Romans 3:1-8**

- Is Paul saying that God loved the Jews more than He loved any other person? If not, what is He saying?
  - Do you think that Christians today fall into the trap of taking advantage of the forgiveness of God? Why or why not? How can you and I avoid doing this?

### **Romans 3:9-20**

- When reading this section of Scripture, why can it be depressing or discouraging?
- In this section of Scripture, Paul is not saying that there is no hope for humanity. Rather, he is arguing that outside of Jesus Christ and His redemption, there is no hope for humanity. In verse 12, when Paul states that, “they have become worthless or useless,” the meaning behind that word “worthless” or “useless” is milk that has become sour. In other words, if you and I just relied on ourselves and our great performances to be saved and forgiven, we are in big trouble.
  - What do you think it means and looks like for you to remember and live that you are desperate for God? How can you more fully live this out this coming week?

### **Romans 3:21-26**

- If you had committed a crime and were totally guilty and there were no excuses for what you did and if you went before the judge and he asked you if you desired mercy or justice, which would you choose and why?
- In this section of the text, Paul is hammering home the point that no one can say that they are innocent according to God’s standards not even the person that considers themselves to be a good person. Justification as Paul presents has everything to do with God declaring guilty men and women innocent by and through the blood of Jesus Christ and by and through the graciousness and goodness of God.
  - Are there any ways in which accepting God’s mercy is difficult for you? Why or why not?

- Are there any specific ways in which you seek to be justified based upon your own merits rather than clinging to Jesus' sacrifice for you?

**Romans 3:27-31**

- Reread this section of Scripture and read Galatians 6:14. What do these passages have in common? What is convicting to you about both texts?

**Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?

What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?