



ROMANS CHAPTER 2 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is something you have tried really hard to be good at but with little to no success?
- What is something that you are good at but when you first started, you were absolutely terrible?
- **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 you 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 2:1-29)

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

Romans 2:1-11

- In what ways is it easy for you to judge others? In what ways are you easier on yourself than you are on others when it comes to the exact same behaviors or situations?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- What are some ways today that we can take advantage of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience?
 - We can use our own standards of what is right and wrong to evaluate ourselves and those around us.
 - We can treat our own sin and the sin of those around us as if it's really not a big deal.
 - We can embrace God only as our Savior and Rescuer rather than also embracing Him as our Lord.
 - How does Paul remind the Christians at Rome in verses 1-11 to not take advantage of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience?
 - He reminds them that they are like every other human being in that every human being commits sin.
 - He reminds them that the judgement of God includes judgement for all sin and not just some sins.
 - He reminds them that God's kindness, forbearance, and patience is for a reason and that reason is to lead people toward repentance.
 - He reminds them that God doesn't show favoritism to any human being.
 - Of the four above reminders that Paul gives, which one do you struggle to remember and live the most?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 2:12-16

In this text, is Paul saying that anyone was able to hold perfectly to the Law? If not, what is he saying?

○ No, Paul is not saying that anyone was able to hold perfectly to the Law. In fact, it is the exact opposite. Paul is pointing out that no individual could hold perfectly to the Law. He is also emphasizing that the Law was never intended to save anyone, especially only a select group of people.

▪ In what ways do you wrestle with perfectionism? In what ways do you wrestle with your identity being rooted in your performance rather than God's love?

• These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 2:17-24

What stands out to you about this section of the text and why?

○ This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

In what ways do you think that Christians can avoid living lives of both hypocrisy and legalism?

○ This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 2:25-29

It is important to understand that in the Old Testament, physical circumcision was the seal of the Old Covenant for the Jew. In other words, this was the mark of God's ownership, so the Jews came to highly value physical circumcision. They began to value this so much that they forgot that it was God's goodness, grace, and mercy that made them right, not physical acts they carried out to obey God. So, in this section of Scripture, Paul is reminding the Christians that if they want to rely on something external to God to save them, then this means that they will have to be perfect in every single way.

○ What talents and gifts has God given you that you sometimes rely on more than the power and ability of God. Why do you do this?

▪ These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- What intentional spiritual practices can you have in your life that will remind you to trust and live in the power and ability of God rather than your own?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question 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 3)

ROMANS CHAPTER 2 (STUDENT)

Romans 2:1-11

- In what ways is it easy for you to judge others? In what ways are you easier on yourself than you are on others when it comes to the exact same behaviors or situations?

- What are some ways today that we can take advantage of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience?
 - How does Paul remind the Christians at Rome in verses 1-11 to not take advantage of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience?
 - Of the four above reminders that Paul gives, which one do you struggle to remember and live the most?

Romans 2:12-16

- In this text, is Paul saying that anyone was able to hold perfectly to the Law? If not, what is he saying?
 - In what ways do you wrestle with perfectionism? In what ways do you wrestle with your identity being rooted in your performance rather than God's love?

Romans 2:17-24

- What stands out to you about this section of the text and why?

- In what ways do you think that Christians can avoid living lives of both hypocrisy and legalism?

Romans 2:25-29

- It is important to understand that in the Old Testament, physical circumcision was the seal of the Old Covenant for the Jew. In other words, this was the mark of God's ownership, so the Jews came to highly value physical circumcision. They began to value this so much that they forgot that it was God's goodness, grace, and mercy that made them right, not physical acts they carried out to obey God. So, in this section of Scripture, Paul is reminding the Christians that if they want

to rely on something external to God to save them, then this means that they will have to be perfect in every single way.

- What talents and gifts has God given you that you sometimes rely on more than the power and ability of God. Why do you do this?
 - What intentional spiritual practices can you have in your life that will remind you to trust and live in the power and ability of God rather than your own?

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?