



## **ROMANS CHAPTER 14 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- If you could instantly become an expert at something, what would it be and why?
- **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 14:1-23)**

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

### **Romans 14:1-4**

- In this text, Paul is highlighting two primary things. Number one, there are going to be some things that Christian brothers and sisters do not agree on, and those things should not be a test of someone's devotion to and love for Jesus. It's important to note that these "opinion" or "preference" things aren't determined as "opinion" or "preference" by people but by God and His word. Number two, we are called to provide space and grace for our brothers and sisters to make their own decisions regarding these matters of opinion and preference. We shouldn't

project how we have chosen to live onto another brother or sister in Christ, especially as it pertains to matters of opinion and preference.

- Part of the context of this passage is that there many Christians who became Christians and left lifestyles of idol worship in which they ate meat sacrificed to idols. For them, continuing to eat this meat had idol worship attached to it. Therefore, they chose not to eat this meat. But, for other Christians who didn't come out of this lifestyle, they chose to eat, and both "groups" may have been looking down on the other for what they were or weren't doing.
  - Why is it sometimes easier to look down on and judge our brothers and sisters in Christ rather than providing them space and grace to make their own free will decisions.
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  - What things might you be attempting to hold your brothers and sisters to that are actually more rooted in your preferences and opinions than having to do with God's word?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **ROMANS 14:5-12**

- Reread verse 8. Why does what Paul says here really put things in perspective for his audience and for us?
  - Paul lets his audience and us know that our lives which are now joined to Jesus Christ are no longer ours in the sense that we aren't called to live for ourselves but for Him. We do this to honor Him but also to honor our brothers and sisters in Christ.
    - In what ways does your life honor your brothers and sisters in Christ? In what ways can you more fully surrender your "freedoms" to help your brothers and sisters live more fully in liberation?
      - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### **ROMANS 14:13-23**

- What do you think it means and looks like to walk in love towards your brothers and sisters in Christ and how can you do this when you are preoccupied with what you think you're owed and/or deserve?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
  
- What "freedoms" might you need to "give up" to more fully empower your brother or sister in Christ to walk in love and freedom? How do you need to allow God to change your heart and mind in this regard?
  - 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 15)

## **ROMANS CHAPTER 14 (STUDENT)**

### **Romans 14:1-4**

- In this text, Paul is highlighting two primary things. Number one, there are going to be some things that Christian brothers and sisters do not agree on, and those things should not be a test of someone's devotion to and love for Jesus. It's important to note that these "opinion" or "preference" things aren't determined as "opinion" or "preference" by people but by God and His word. Number two, we are called to provide space and grace for our brothers and sisters to make their own decisions regarding these matters of opinion and preference. We shouldn't project how we have chosen to live onto another brother or sister in Christ, especially as it pertains to matters of opinion and preference.
  
- Part of the context of this passage is that there many Christians who became Christians and left lifestyles of idol worship in which they ate meat sacrificed to idols. For them, continuing to eat this meat had idol worship attached to it. Therefore, they chose not to eat this meat. But, for other Christians who didn't come out of this lifestyle, they chose to eat, and both "groups" may have been looking down on the other for what they were or weren't doing.
  - Why is it sometimes easier to look down on and judge our brothers and sisters in Christ rather than providing them space and grace to make their own free will decisions.
  
  - What things might you be attempting to hold your brothers and sisters to that are actually more rooted in your preferences and opinions than having to do with God's word?

### **ROMANS 14:5-12**

- Reread verse 8. Why does what Paul says here really put things in perspective for his audience and for us?
  - Paul lets his audience and us know that our lives which are now joined to Jesus Christ are no longer ours in the sense that we aren't called to live for ourselves but for Him. We do this to honor Him but also to honor our brothers and sisters in Christ.
    - In what ways does your life honor your brothers and sisters in Christ? In what ways can you more fully surrender your "freedoms" to help your brothers and sisters live more fully in liberation?

### **ROMANS 14:13-23**

- What do you think it means and looks like to walk in love towards your brothers and sisters in Christ and how can you do this when you are preoccupied with what you think you're owed and/or deserve?
  
- What "freedoms" might you need to "give up" to more fully empower your brother or sister in Christ to walk in love and freedom? How do you need to allow God to change your heart and mind in this regard?

**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?