



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 2 | 1:7-15

Monday, March 16 - Sunday, March 22 (Week 10)

Emphasis for the Month: **Deepening Roots Through Consistency**

The excitement of a new semester has settled into the rhythm of real life. This is the stage where groups either grow deeper or drift into routine. Month two is about strengthening what you started and helping your group move from surface connection to meaningful community. Now is the time to deepen the roots.

- **Stay consistent.** Faithful presence matters more than perfect meetings. Keep showing up prepared, prayerful, and expectant. Consistency builds trust, and trust builds openness.
- **Draw quieter people in.** By now you can notice who talks easily and who holds back. Gently invite quieter members to share. A simple, “We’d love to hear from you,” can go a long way.
- **Follow up personally.** A quick text, call, or coffee meeting during the week communicates care. Shepherding often happens between meetings, not just in them.
- **Revisit the “why.”** Remind your group that you’re not just gathering for discussion, but for transformation. We gather to know Christ more, love one another well, and live on mission.
- **Pray for growth, not just needs.** Pray for spiritual maturity, obedience, boldness in witness, and increasing love for Christ. Ask God to actively shape your people.
- **Remember:** Healthy groups aren’t built on hype but on steady faithfulness. The Lord often works most powerfully through ordinary, consistent investment over time.

As this semester continues, help your group see that discipleship is not a moment but a movement. God is forming people who will pass on faith, invest in others, and live generously for His kingdom. Thank you for your faithful leadership. God uses steady shepherds to build strong communities.

ICE BREAKER: Think about a time when someone's faith really encouraged you. Maybe during a difficult season, or when you saw them trust God in a hard situation. What was it about their faith that impacted you?

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.



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DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from Romans 1:7-15, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week, Pastor Mike continued our journey through Romans 1, focusing on verses 7-15 where Paul finally gets to his greeting and explains why he's so eager to visit the church in Rome. The main question of the sermon was: Why is Paul so passionate about preaching the gospel to Christians in Rome?

The answer came in two parts:

First, Paul had an INNER MOTIVATION. He understood a powerful principle: "When faiths collide, encouragement multiplies." Paul wasn't just coming to bless them, he knew their faith would encourage him too. He was humble enough to recognize that even though he was this "Superman Christian," the believers in Rome could strengthen his faith. The sermon reminded us that there are "hidden heroes of the faith" all around us, people quietly hanging on to Jesus through suffering, infertility, job loss, illness, and family struggles. When we share our stories of how God is sustaining us, it causes faith to soar in others.

Second, Paul had a MORAL OBLIGATION. He described himself as a "debtor" not that he owed Jesus payback, but that he owed the gospel to others. This is the "debt of grace." Jesus entrusted Paul with the message of salvation, and Paul had no right to hoard it. He was obligated to share it with everyone, Greeks and barbarians, wise and foolish. The same is true for us. If we've been rescued from God's wrath through the gospel, we owe that message to people in our lives who don't know Jesus yet.

The sermon ended with a challenge: We can either PREACH the gospel with our mouths or PRESENT it with our lives. Sometimes believers don't just need to hear the gospel, they need to see it alive in us. Instead of giving judgment, punishment, or withdrawal to people in our lives, we need to show them grace and mercy.

The practical takeaway? Start praying for people who don't know Jesus. Go on walks and pray for your neighbors. Ask other believers how God is working in their lives. Be willing to share your own struggles and how Jesus is sustaining you.

QUESTION #1 - The sermon mentioned "hidden heroes of the faith," people quietly hanging on to Jesus through suffering. Who in your life might be one of these hidden heroes that you could encourage this week?



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QUESTION #2 - The sermon said, "When faiths collide, encouragement multiplies." What keeps your faith isolated on an island and what would it take for you to be more open about how God is working in your life, or how you're struggling?

QUESTION #3 - Paul was humble enough to believe that even "weaker/less mature/less far along on the journey" Christians could encourage him. The sermon mentioned that pride prevents us from receiving encouragement from others. Where do you struggle with pride, thinking you have nothing to learn from certain people, or that you need to have it all together before you can be honest?

QUESTION #4 - The sermon challenged us not just to PREACH the gospel with our mouths, but to PRESENT it with our lives, to show grace and mercy instead of judgment. Is there a believer in your life who needs to see the gospel lived out through you rather than receiving your judgment, punishment, or withdrawal?

GROUP CHALLENGE: This week, practice the "when faiths collide, encouragement multiplies" principle:

- Share with one person how God is working in your life (even if it's just that you're holding on)
- Ask one person how God is working in their life and really listen
- Pray for one non-believer by name every day

Come back next week ready to share what God did through those conversations.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE: Close your time by reciting the memory verse for the week together - Romans 1:16-17:

"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.'"

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking **and recording** prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).