



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 5 | 1:24-32

Monday, April 13 - Sunday, April 19 (Week 11)

Emphasis for the Month: Moving from Information to Transformation.

The foundation has been laid. Your group has found its rhythm, trust is building, and people are showing up. But now comes the critical shift, from knowing truth to living it out.

This is the month where discipleship gets personal. This is when things start to move from the head to the heart to the hands. Your role as a small group leader is to help people wrestle with what obedience actually looks like in their everyday lives, not just what they believe, but how they're living in light of what they believe.

Press into application. Don't let discussion questions end with good answers. Ask the follow-up: "So what does that mean for you this week?" "What would obedience look like in your situation?" Application without accountability is just good intention.

Create space for confession. Pastor Mike's recent sermon called for vulnerability around real struggles: lust, compromise, cultural pressure. Model openness about your own need for grace. When leaders are honest, groups go deeper. Confession isn't weakness, it's the pathway to freedom.

Challenge comfort. If your group has settled into safe conversations, it's time to raise the stakes and take risks. Ask the harder questions. Name the specific cultural pressures your people face. Don't shy away from topics that make people squirm, that's often where the Spirit is already at work.

Encourage real accountability. Help your group move beyond prayer requests into actual discipleship relationships. Who's checking in on each other during the week? Who's asking the hard questions? Facilitate smaller accountability partnerships within your group if needed.

Celebrate evidence of growth. When you see someone apply truth, make a hard choice for obedience, or take a step of faith, name it and celebrate it. Affirmation fuels perseverance.

Remember: Information changes what we know. Transformation changes who we are. Your group doesn't need more Bible knowledge as much as they need to live out what they already know. The goal isn't perfect people, but people who are actively surrendering new areas of their lives to Jesus.



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This month, help your group see that consecration isn't a one-time prayer, it's a daily practice. God is calling each person to specific obedience in specific areas. Your job is to help them identify what that is and support them as they take steps forward.

Thank you for leading with courage. Transformation doesn't happen in groups that play it safe, it happens where leaders lovingly push people toward the uncomfortable work of real discipleship. Keep pressing in. The fruit is coming.

ICE BREAKER: When you think about God's design for humanity being "in His image," what's one aspect of being human that fills you with wonder or gratitude? *(This could be anything from the complexity of the human body, to our capacity for creativity, relationships, love, etc.)*

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.

DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from Romans 1:24-32, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week, Pastor Mike wrapped up Romans chapter 1 by explaining what God's present-day wrath actually looks like: God "gives people up" to the sin they've already chosen. When people persistently reject God and exchange His glory for idols, God removes His restraint and hands them over to the consequences of their choices. Paul identifies two categories of sin: the desecration of the body (particularly sexual sin) and the desecration of the mind (leading to all the other sins listed at the end of the chapter).

Here's the key connection: When a culture rejects the God of the Bible, it will inevitably treat human life and the body as less than sacred. We are made in God's image. Reject Him, and you'll desecrate anything made in His image. This explains our culture's view on abortion, pornography, sexuality, and gender.

Paul highlights homosexuality not because it's worse than other sins, but because it uniquely illustrates the deeper problem we all share: exchanging what God designed for something contrary to His design mirrors the wicked exchange of worshiping creation instead of the Creator.

Pastor Mike was clear: When it comes to sexual sin and lust, none of us are clean. We've all defiled our bodies and minds in some way.



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The good news? God hasn't given up on anyone. The sermon ended with Romans 12:1-2, a call to consecrate our bodies and minds to God as living sacrifices. No matter what you're guilty of, you can recommit your life to Jesus and find true freedom.

QUESTION #1 - Pastor Mike explained that God's present-day wrath looks like "giving people up" to their sin. What does this mean, and how is it different from God forcing people to sin?

QUESTION #2 - Pastor Mike said, "How you view God determines how you view human life, the body, sex, marriage, and everything related." When have you seen this play out in your own life, where your view of God shaped your decisions about your body or relationships?

QUESTION #3 - Paul lists many sins in verses 29-31 (envy, gossip, disobedience to parents, etc.) alongside homosexuality. Why do you think we often treat sexual sins differently than other sins? Have you struggled with condemning one type of sin while excusing another in your own life?

QUESTION #4 - Pastor Mike mentioned that some in our church face pressure from friends, coworkers, schools, or even employers to compromise their Christian convictions. Have you faced this kind of pressure? How did you respond, or how are you currently navigating it?

QUESTION #5 - The sermon reminds us there's hope for anyone, even those who seem to have been "given over" to sin. Is there someone in your life (family member, friend, coworker) who seems far from God right now? How does this message give you hope for them?

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*).