



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 2, Ep. 1 | 2:1-5

Monday, April 20 - Sunday, April 26 (Week 12)

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: Were you more bothered by the kid who cheated and bragged about it, or the one who condemned cheaters while secretly cheating themselves? Why do you think one bothered you more than the other?

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 2:1-5, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This Sunday, Pastor Mike began Romans Season 2 titled, "The Judgment of God" and we looked at Romans 2:1-5. Last week in Romans 1, Paul described the sinfulness of pagan culture, people who not only sin but celebrate and encourage others in their sin. Paul called them "progressive immoralists."

But in chapter 2, Paul turns his attention to a different, and equally dangerous, type of person: the religious hypocrite inside the church. These are people who condemn the sins of others while secretly practicing the same things themselves.

Paul's main point is this: Religious, judgmental hypocrites are just as evil, if not worse, than progressive immoralists, and they have no excuse before God.

Why worse? Because at least the progressive immoralist is consistent. What they say and what they do match. But the religious hypocrite contradicts themselves, condemning in others what they excuse in themselves. And this hypocrisy is incredibly destructive, it drives people away from Jesus, damages faith, and brings shame to Christ's name.



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Paul asks a piercing question in verse 3: "Do you suppose that you will escape the judgment of God?" Then he exposes the root problem in verse 4: these people are presuming on God's kindness, patience, and forbearance, misunderstanding God's purpose.

God's kindness isn't meant to excuse our sin, it's meant to lead us to repentance.

When we experience blessing and God doesn't immediately judge our sin, that's not a green light to keep sinning. It's His patience giving us time to turn back to Him. But if we refuse to repent and keep taking advantage of His kindness, we're "storing up wrath" for judgment day.

The sermon ended with a challenging question: Are you more passionate about condemning the sins "out there" in culture than you are about killing sin in your own heart? Are you living a daily life of repentance?

The good news? For those who repent and trust in Christ, the debt is canceled, Jesus absorbed God's wrath on the cross for us.

QUESTION #1 - The sermon asked: "Are you more outraged and angry at the sins and evils of the culture than you are by the sins and evils in your own heart?" Be honest . . . when you scroll on social media or watch the news, what gets you more fired up: cultural issues "out there" or your own need for repentance? Why do you think that is?

QUESTION #2 - Pastor Mike defined one of sin's greatest powers as "its unlimited capacity to make excuses for itself." He listed examples like "I'm tired," "I deserve it," or "I'll repent tomorrow." What's your most common excuse for a specific sin pattern in your life? What would it look like to stop making that excuse this week?

QUESTION #3 - Romans 2:4 says God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance, not to excuse our sin. In the sermon, Pastor Mike asked: "If your life is much better than you deserve, are you living a life of repentance?" Where in your life might you be presuming on God's kindness or taking His blessings for granted while remaining comfortable in unrepentant sin?



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QUESTION #4 - The sermon ended with a sobering warning about storing up wrath, but also the beautiful truth that "when a sinner confesses and repents, the debt is instantly canceled" through Christ. How does understanding that Jesus absorbed God's wrath for your sin change the way you approach daily repentance? Does it feel like freedom or obligation, and why?

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*).