



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 2, Ep. 3 | 2:12-16

Monday, May 4 - Sunday, May 10 (Week 14)

Emphasis: *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 were growing up, what was a house rule or family standard that everyone knew about but someone still broke? How did your parents handle it?

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 2:12-16, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week, Pastor Mike preached from Romans 2:12-16 about God's judgment. Paul explains that God judges all people fairly, but not by the same standard. Those who have the Bible will be judged by the Bible. Those who've never heard God's law will be judged by the moral law God has written on their hearts and by their own conscience.

Pastor Mike made three main points about God's judgment:

First, God's judgment is absolutely fair. He won't judge people for what they don't know, but He will judge them for what they do know but failed to do. Everyone has some standard they live by, and everyone falls short of even their own standards.

Second, God's judgment is inscrutably wise. God has designed every human being with a conscience and a sense of right and wrong. This means all people everywhere are accountable to Him, whether they've heard the Bible or not.



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Third, and most sobering, God's judgment is absolutely thorough. Romans 2:16 says that God will judge "the secrets of men." Every hidden sin, every secret we've kept, every idol we've held onto will be exposed on judgment day. Nothing will remain hidden from Jesus.

But Pastor Mike didn't just warn us, he invited us to experience freedom. He said many of us are spiritually "stuck" because we're using all our energy holding down secret sins like a beach ball underwater, or clutching idols behind our backs. We can't lift our hands in worship or open our hands in prayer because we're too busy hiding things from God.

The good news of the gospel is that we don't have to wait until judgment day to face our secrets. We can bring them into the light today. Jesus already knows what we're hiding, and He still died for us. His blood covers even our darkest shame.

Pastor Mike ended with this image: if we would let go of what we're hiding and surrender it to Jesus, we could experience true intimacy with Him, like a child embracing their father with nothing between them. A clear conscience is what opens the floodgates of Jesus's presence in our lives.

The invitation is simple but not easy: Come clean today. Let the Spirit convict you. Bring your secrets into the light. And experience the freedom and joy that only Jesus can give.

QUESTION #1 - Pastor Mike said, "You won't be saved by what you know. You won't be judged by what you don't know. But you will be judged by what you do know but failed to do." What's one area where you know what God wants you to do but you're struggling to obey?

QUESTION #2 - Pastor Mike used the illustration of holding a beach ball underwater or holding something behind your back, using all your energy to hide something instead of being free to worship. When have you experienced that feeling of being spiritually "stuck" or drained?

QUESTION #3 - In the sermon it was said that God will judge "the secrets of men" and that nothing will remain hidden. How does this truth make you feel right now?

QUESTION #4 - The sermon said: "A clear conscience is the only thing that opens the floodgates of the presence of Jesus in your life." How would you honestly describe your conscience right now?



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QUESTION #5 - The closing image was about embracing Jesus with nothing in your hands, full intimacy with Him, with no secrets or idols between you. What would need to change in your life for you to experience that kind of closeness with Jesus?

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*).