



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 2, Ep. 4 | 2:17-24 | The Weight of Glory

Monday, May 11 - Sunday, May 17 (Week 15)

Emphasis: *Finish Strong.*

You've spent months building trust and pressing into transformation. Now comes the most critical phase: finishing well. How your group ends will shape what people carry forward into the next season. This isn't about coasting to the finish line. This is about cementing what God has done, celebrating growth, and launching people into their next steps with clarity and confidence.

Reflect on the Journey

Take inventory together. Create space for people to name how they've grown and where they've seen God move. Ask: "Who were you when this group started? Who are you now?" Reflection builds faith for what's ahead.

Celebrate Specific Transformation

Call out the moments when someone chose obedience, when vulnerability led to breakthrough, when accountability produced fruit. These aren't just encouragements, they're testimonies of God's power.

Solidify the Gains

Identify what needs to continue. What practices or accountability relationships have been life-giving? Transformation doesn't stick without ongoing support. Help people name what they need to keep doing and who they need to keep doing it with.

Address Unfinished Business

Are there conversations that need to happen? Confessions to be made? Forgiveness to extend? Don't leave relational or spiritual loose ends.

Clarify Next Steps

Don't assume people know what to do next. Will this group continue? Are people joining new groups? Ambiguity kills momentum. Give clear direction and help people commit before they walk out the door.

Commission with Purpose

Remind them of their calling. Your group wasn't just about personal growth, it was about equipping people to live on mission. How has God been preparing each person to make His name known?



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Send them out, don't let them drift out. Consider a commissioning moment in your final gathering. Pray over each person specifically. Speak vision over their lives. This isn't an ending, it's a launching.

Guard Against the Fade

The last meeting matters most. Don't cancel it. Don't let it become casual. People remember how things end. Make it count.

Follow Up Personally

In the week after your group ends, reach out individually. A simple text or call can be the difference between someone continuing forward or drifting away.

Stay Connected

Just because the formal season ends doesn't mean the relationships do. Discipleship doesn't have a finish line.

Remember: Legacy Over Momentum

Groups that end strong produce lasting fruit. The goal isn't a great final meeting, it's sending people out who are more rooted in Christ, more committed to obedience, and more equipped to make disciples than when they started. Ending strong means the transformation that began in your living room keeps going in their marriages, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Your Role: Finish as You Started

You began by creating space for people to encounter Jesus. You pressed them toward transformation when it would have been easier to stay comfortable. Now, finish with the same courage and intentionality.

Thank you for ending strong! The fruit of your faithfulness will echo far beyond this group season. The people you've discipled will disciple others. Finish strong. The Kingdom depends on it!



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ICE BREAKER: Think about someone you know (past or present) whose life genuinely matched what they said they believed about God. What was it about them that made their faith feel "real" and consistent? How did being around them affect 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.

DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read this week's scripture from Romans 2:17-24, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week, Pastor Mike preached from Romans 2:17-24, where Paul addresses highly religious people who knew the right things, said the right things, and even taught others, but weren't living it out themselves. They were hypocrites. But Paul says the real problem wasn't just their hypocrisy. The real problem was what their inconsistent lives said about God. Their actions were causing God's name to be blasphemed and dishonored among unbelievers.

Pastor Mike reminded us that God's "name" in Scripture isn't just a title but it represents His character, His glory, who He is. And God has entrusted us with His name. We carry it everywhere we go. There is no greater calling and no heavier responsibility than representing the name of Jesus to the world.

The core question was this: *Does the name of Christ bear any weight on your soul, or does it feel as light as a cheap balloon?*

When Christ's name feels weightless in our lives, we compartmentalize. We live one way at church, another way at work, another way online. We tolerate inconsistency. But when His name feels heavy, when we're aware we're carrying His glory, we become vigilant about bringing every area of our lives into alignment with what we believe.

Pastor Mike gave us three weighty realities to gaze at to restore the weight of God's glory in our lives:

1. **The character of Christ:** the only man who perfectly lived what He preached
2. **The horrors of hell:** revealing how seriously God takes the dishonoring of His name



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3. **The sacrifice of the Son of God:** Jesus stayed on the cross to absorb God's wrath for us because His love burned deeper than His suffering

The challenge was clear: *This world isn't looking for Christians who just believe or say the right things. They're looking for Christians whose lives are a consistent, living testimony of the message they preach.*

The call is to live with integrity under the weight of Christ's glory, not perfectly, but consistently surrendering new areas of our lives to Jesus every single day.

QUESTION #1 - In the sermon, Pastor Mike said, *"The reason we live inconsistent lives is because His name has lost its weight."* Where in your life do you most struggle with the gap between what you believe/say and how you actually live?

QUESTION #2 - Pastor Mike asked: *"Does the name of Christ bear any weight on your soul, or does it feel as light as a cheap balloon?"* Be honest: when does Christ's name feel weightless in your life? What circumstances, emotions, or situations cause you to "forget" you're carrying His name?

QUESTION #3 - We compartmentalize our lives because we're afraid of different areas colliding. We don't want coworkers to see our home life, or church friends to see our work life, etc. Why do you think we do this? What are we actually afraid of?

QUESTION #4 - Pastor Mike gave three "weighty realities" to gaze at: the character of Christ, the horrors of hell, and the sacrifice of the Son of God. Which of these three do you find yourself thinking about least? Why do you think that is?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Pastor Mike said, *"What this world is looking for is not Christians who believe the right things...they're looking for Christians whose lives are a consistent and living testimony of the message that they preach."* What's one specific way your group can pray for you this week as you seek to live with greater integrity under the weight of Christ's glory?



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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*).