



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 2, Ep. 5 | 2:25-29 | The Weight of Glory

Monday, May 18 - Sunday, May 24 (Week 16)

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: What's a "brand" you wear or identify with (clothing, car, tech, etc.) that doesn't actually match your lifestyle?

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 2:25-29, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week Pastor Mike wrapped up Romans chapter 2 by teaching us two main lessons: one about the outer life and one about the inner life.

First, Paul destroys our confidence in outward religion and ritualistic practices. In Paul's day, many Jews believed that because they were circumcised (the outward sign of God's covenant) they were automatically safe from God's judgment. They trusted in the religious ritual itself rather than in God. Paul makes it clear that if you place your confidence in any outward religious practice, it demands perfect obedience to God's law. And since none of us can obey perfectly, trusting in rituals alone condemns us. Paul's point applies to us today: we can't trust in things like saying a sinner's prayer, attending church regularly, having quiet times, or any other religious activity to save us. ***Outward religion without inner transformation is dead before the holiness of God.***

Second, Paul teaches us that what really matters is the inner life (the condition of our hearts). In verse 29, Paul says that true circumcision "*is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit.*" Only the Holy Spirit can transform our hearts. We have zero control over it. God's law (what Paul calls "the letter" in this passage) can only beat upon our will (do this! don't do that!) but it has no power to change our hearts. ***Only the Spirit can perform spiritual heart surgery, cutting away the parts of our hearts that keep us from truly knowing and loving God.***

The sermon ended with this challenge: Stop trying to earn God's love through religious performance. Jesus already kept the law perfectly for you and absorbed the curse of your sin on the cross. Your only job is to receive the unconditional love of God and ask the Spirit to cut away whatever is deadening your affection for Christ. The question we were left with: "How are you really doing?" Not on the outside, but on the inside. How is your love for Jesus? What does God need to cut away in your heart?



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QUESTION #1 - Pastor Mike asked repeatedly: "How are you really doing?" Why do you think it's so hard for us to answer that question honestly, even with ourselves?

QUESTION #2 - Paul warns against placing confidence in "outward religion and ritualistic practices." What are some modern-day equivalents to circumcision, religious activities, Christians might trust in for their spiritual security?

QUESTION #3 - Proverbs 4:23 says to "guard your heart above all else." Pastor Mike said we guard our hearts by protecting them from anything that deadens, dulls, decreases, or dampens our love for Christ. What are some things (even morally neutral / good things) that have been dulling your affection for Jesus lately?

QUESTION #4 - The sermon described "calluses on your heart" that form from working really hard to prove or earn something from God. Have you ever felt like you've developed calluses, where your heart has toughened and lost feeling toward God despite doing all the "right" religious things?

PRAYING TOGETHER: Pastor Mike ended by asking: "What does God need to cut away in your heart?" Spend a few minutes in silence asking God this question. Then share (as you're comfortable) one thing you sense God highlighting and pray for one another for these things to be "cut away" by the Holy Spirit.

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*).