



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 1 | 1:1-7

Monday, March 9 - Sunday, March 15 (Week 9)

Emphasis for the Month: **Deepening Roots Through Consistency**

The excitement of a new semester has settled into the rhythm of real life. This is the stage where groups either grow deeper or drift into routine. Month two is about strengthening what you started and helping your group move from surface connection to meaningful community. Now is the time to deepen the roots.

Stay consistent. Faithful presence matters more than perfect meetings. Keep showing up prepared, prayerful, and expectant. Consistency builds trust, and trust builds openness.

Draw quieter people in. By now you can notice who talks easily and who holds back. Gently invite quieter members to share. A simple, “We’d love to hear from you,” can go a long way.

Follow up personally. A quick text, call, or coffee meeting during the week communicates care. Shepherding often happens between meetings, not just in them.

Revisit the “why.” Remind your group that you’re not just gathering for discussion, but for transformation. We gather to know Christ more, love one another well, and live on mission.

Pray for growth, not just needs. Pray for spiritual maturity, obedience, boldness in witness, and increasing love for Christ. Ask God to actively shape your people.

Remember: Healthy groups aren’t built on hype but on steady faithfulness. The Lord often works most powerfully through ordinary, consistent investment over time.

As this semester continues, help your group see that discipleship is not a moment but a movement. God is forming people who will pass on faith, invest in others, and live generously for His kingdom. Thank you for your faithful leadership. God uses steady shepherds to build strong communities.

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Please join us for our prayer gathering every Tuesday night at 6:30PM
2. The BergenKIDS Family Easter Party is happening on Saturday, March 28th from 10 AM–12 PM! It will be a joyful morning filled with an egg hunt, games, snacks, and other fun activities for the whole family as we celebrate the hope of Easter together. If your family plans to attend, please email



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 1 | 1:1-7

Monday, March 9 - Sunday, March 15 (Week 9)

3. barbara.krieger@churchatbergen.org so we can prepare accordingly. We're looking forward to a fun and meaningful morning with our BergenKIDS families!
4. PRIMETIMERS (50+) Join us for a fun Dinner & Trivia Night on Friday, March 20 from 6:00–8:30 PM at Mediterranean Flatbread Co. (669 Anderson Ave, Cliffside Park). For \$25 per person (includes tax and tip), enjoy two flatbreads, shared salad, hummus with pita and oil dip, a soda, and Turkish coffee. Guests may bring dessert and additional bottled drinks. Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling or parking on nearby side streets. Email info@churchatbergen.org for details and to reserve your spot.

ICE BREAKER: What's one thing you've memorized in your life (a poem, song lyrics, sports stats, etc.) that stuck with you? Why do you think it stayed with 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 1:1-7, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week, Pastor Mike launched our new series through the book of Romans, a letter that has transformed some of history's greatest Christian leaders like Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Wesley. Over the next two years or so, we'll walk through this book verse by verse, memorizing key passages together as a church.

In Romans 1:1-6, Paul introduces himself and the gospel message. He answers three fundamental questions that every person asks: "Who am I? Where do I fit in? What's my purpose?"

Paul's answer: "I am a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God."

Paul emphasizes that this is the "Gospel of God," it belongs to God, not us. We don't get to change it or redefine it. The gospel is good news about Jesus Christ, who was descended from David (the promised Messiah) and declared to be the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead.

At the resurrection, something critical happened: Jesus received the Holy Spirit and became the sole source of salvation. He alone has the power to pour out the Spirit on anyone who calls on Him. This is why Jesus is the only way to be saved.



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 1 | 1:1-7

Monday, March 9 - Sunday, March 15 (Week 9)

Paul's mission was to bring about "the obedience of faith," meaning that genuine, saving faith always results in obedience to Jesus. We must see ourselves first as "sinners saved by grace" before we see ourselves in any role or calling, because grace can never be taken away, but our roles can be.

The sermon closed with this challenge: What does your faith in the powerful, risen Son of God demand from you today? Whether it's believing for the first time, getting baptized, belonging to a church, or walking in obedience in a specific area—Jesus calls us to respond.

The heart of the gospel isn't just about what Jesus did for us, but about who Jesus is for us. The question is: Do you want Jesus Himself, or just what He can do for you?

QUESTION #1 - The sermon emphasized that Paul answered three critical questions: "Who am I? Where do I fit in? What's my purpose?" How would you currently answer these three questions for yourself? Where do you feel most confident, and where do you struggle?

QUESTION #2 - Pastor Mike defined "obedience of faith" as "saving faith results in obedience." What's one area of your life where you know Jesus is calling you to obedience, but you've been hesitant or resistant, and what's holding you back?

QUESTION #3 - The sermon stressed "grace before calling," meaning: seeing yourself as a sinner saved by grace before seeing yourself in your role (parent, spouse, professional, etc.). Have you ever experienced losing or struggling in a role that felt like your identity? How did that affect you? How might seeing yourself first as "saved by grace" change how you approach your current roles?

QUESTION #4 - Pastor Mike asked: "Do you want Christ in your life?" Not just forgiveness from guilt, but Jesus Himself. If you're honest, are you more drawn to what Jesus can do for you (forgiveness, peace, purpose) or to Jesus Himself? What would it look like for you to pursue Jesus, not just His benefits?

CLOSING CHALLENGE - The sermon encouraged finding 1-2 people to walk through Romans together and to read the upcoming passage for that week, come up with questions, and then pray together. Would anyone in this group want to commit to doing that together? Take a few minutes to figure out those partnerships / groups.



CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Romans | Season 1, Ep. 1 | 1:1-7

Monday, March 9 - Sunday, March 15 (Week 9)

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE: Close your time by reciting the memory verse for the week together - Romans 1:16:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

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*).