

Small Group Study in the Book of Romans  
November 3, 2024

A suggested format for your group time

15 min – Fellowship

15 min – Prayer (using the four quadrants of the SG prayer sheet)

45 min – Study (see below)

This study is designed to introduce your small group to Paul's defense of the gospel. They will be able to see the plan of redemption unfold through the explanation of sin (chapters 1-3), salvation (chapters 4-5), sanctification (chapters 6-8), sovereignty (chapters 9-11), and service (chapters 12-16). It will deepen their love for the Lord and better equip them to share the hope of the gospel with others in a clear and compelling manner. Truly the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation!

**Romans 14:14-15:13**

**Passage Summary**

The dietary laws of clean and unclean animals were no longer applicable with the fulfillment of the gospel. However, personal Christian liberty to eat what was previously considered unclean should not trump the law of love. We ought to consider how our actions impact us as well as other believers around us. The more mature believers are cautioned not to wound the consciences of weaker brothers and sisters. We are to build faith and not tear it down. Jesus is our example of one who lived not to please Himself, but to please the Father. Do not let personal preferences divide the fellowship, rather with one mind and one mouth, glorify God. The power of the gospel is displayed in our salvation, but also in its ability to unite both Jews and Gentiles with genuine joy and peace.

**Jumpstart Questions**

- Is it possible for a die-hard Cardinal fan and a die-hard Wildcat fan to exist in harmony in the same household? What challenges would they face? How about two people where one is a strong Democrat and the other a strong Republican? What if one spouse is a dyed-in-the-wool Baptist and the other spouse is a dipped in the water Church of Christ?
- How is it possible for two people on opposite ends of an issue, not to simply tolerate, but actually love one another and work in unity and harmony?

### **Romans 14:14-23**

- In what ways do you think Jewish and Gentile believers were different? How were Jewish believers saved? How were Gentile believers saved? Why is it important to keep the gospel as the centerpiece of our fellowship with one another?
- Why do you think the Old Testament made a distinction between clean and unclean animals? (dietary purposes as well as keeping a clear distinction between pagan people and the chosen people). How does the gospel eliminate the distinction between people whom we may consider to be clean and unclean?
- Why should mature believers limit their liberty in Christ (freedom to eat and drink) for the sake of other believers or a watching world? Why do you think Paul placed a greater priority on edifying other believers than on the rights of the individual?

### **Romans 15:1-6**

- In what way is Jesus the prime example of someone denying themselves for the sake of others? Why does the more mature believer have the greater responsibility than younger believer?
- Does being like-minded mean that we are all to think alike? According to this passage, what is the basis of unity for our fellowship?
- Why is it easier to change churches when there is a disagreement rather than work it out with one another?

### **Romans 15:7-13**

- What is the basis by which a Jewish brother could receive a Gentile brother? What does receiving another brother look like?
- Why did Paul cite Old Testament passages concerning God's plan for the Gentiles? As a Gentile, what does it mean for you to be included in God's plan of salvation to be part of the family of faith?
- How does God fill us with joy, peace, and hope? Why can the world never give us these things?

Practical suggestions:

1. Please feel free to modify any question and include other questions that you might find helpful for your group to help them think through the text.

2. Invite members to make other observations they see in the passage. Have them to identify the specific verse where that observation is made.
3. Ask what application can be made out of these verses that will help a person to put into practice the truths in the passage?
4. Ask for volunteers to read the various sections.
5. Be intentional about including everyone into the conversation. Asking a question directed to a specific person who remains fairly quiet is one simple way of inclusion.
6. Remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and make both ministry and teaching a priority of your group time together.