

2026-03-11 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Job & Romans - Understanding God Through Creation and Conscience

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help group members apply these truths to their lives.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share a time when nature or creation caused you to think about God's power or character. What did that experience teach you about Him?

Key Scripture Passages

Job 36:14-37:24 - Elihu's description of God's power in creation

Romans 1:18-32 - God's revelation through creation and the progression of sin

Discussion Questions

Part 1: Knowing God Through Creation (15-20 minutes)

1. Elihu's Observations (Job 36-37)

What specific aspects of creation does Elihu use to describe God's power and majesty? (water cycle, storms, lightning, snow, etc.)

How does verse 37:14 challenge us: "Stop and consider God's wonders"?

When was the last time you truly stopped to consider God's wonders?

2. God's Self-Revelation

The sermon emphasized that "God displays himself through what's been created." How does this truth impact how we view nature and the world around us?

According to Romans 1:20, what can we clearly see about God through creation? Why does this leave people "without excuse"?

Part 2: The Danger of Forgetting God (20-25 minutes)

3. Glorifying and Thanking God (Romans 1:21)

The pastor asked: "Do we glorify Him? Do we give thanks to Him?" How would you honestly assess yourself in these two areas?

What's the connection between not glorifying/thanking God and becoming "futile in their thinking"?

4. The Progression of Sin (Romans 1:22-32)

Walk through the progression Paul describes:

Not honoring God futile thinking darkened hearts

Claiming wisdom becoming fools

Exchanging truth for lies worshiping creation

God "giving them over" increasing depravity

Where do you see this progression in our culture today?

What does it mean that "God gave them over"? How does this relate to human free will?

5. Modern Idolatry

The sermon mentioned we don't bow to statues, but we can still have idols.

What are some modern-day idols people (or we) worship instead of God?

How can we identify when something good (family, career, comfort) has become an idol in our lives?

Part 3: Personal Application (15-20 minutes)

6. Staying Grounded

The pastor challenged: "What do we really know about God? How do we describe Him to other people?"

How would you describe God to someone who doesn't know Him?

What are some of God's "absolutes" or principles you've written down or should write down?

7. Guarding Against Desensitization

The sermon warned about becoming "desensitized" or developing a "depraved mind." What are practical ways we can guard our hearts and minds?

How can we maintain a tender conscience in a culture that "applauds lawlessness"?

8. The Prodigal Principle

The pastor referenced the prodigal son who came to his senses and said, "I didn't know how good I had it."

In what areas might you be taking God's blessings for granted?

How can gratitude protect us from wandering away from God?

Key Takeaways

God reveals Himself through creation - His eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen in what He has made (Romans 1:20)

Glorifying and thanking God are essential - When we fail to do these, we become futile in our thinking and our hearts become darkened (Romans 1:21)

Sin is progressive - Moving away from God happens gradually, through small compromises and choices

We must actively seek God - Don't assume or presume what we believe about God; continually seek to know Him better through His Word

Gratitude is protective - Being thankful for what we have keeps us from wandering and reminds us of God's goodness

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Creation Observation

Spend 15-30 minutes outdoors this week specifically to "stop and consider God's wonders" (Job 37:14)

Journal what aspects of God's character you observe through creation

Share what you discovered with the group next week

Option 2: Gratitude Journal

Each day, write down 3-5 specific things you're thankful to God for

Include at least one way you can glorify God in response to His goodness

Practice saying these thanks out loud in prayer

Option 3: Biblical Principles List

Begin writing down passages that reveal God's character and principles

Aim for at least 5-10 verses/passages this week

Organize them by theme (God's love, holiness, justice, mercy, etc.)

Option 4: Idol Inventory

Prayerfully ask God to reveal any idols in your life

Ask: "What do I think about most? What would devastate me if I lost it?"

What do I sacrifice the most for?"

Confess any idols and ask God to help you worship Him alone

Option 5: Accountability Partnership

Partner with someone in the group to check in mid-week

Ask each other: "How have you glorified God this week? What have you thanked Him for?"

Pray together about areas of struggle or temptation

Closing Reflection (10 minutes)

Communion Connection: The pastor ended by connecting to communion, saying it helps us "not forget, but recall again what [Jesus] did."

How does regularly remembering Christ's sacrifice help protect us from the progression of sin described in Romans 1?

What does it mean to take communion "not as a ritual" but as "reaching out to God"?

Final Question: Based on tonight's discussion, what is one specific way you want to grow in knowing, glorifying, and thanking God?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Go around the circle and have each person pray one sentence:

Thanking God for something specific about His character or creation
OR asking God to help them in one area discussed tonight

Close with the leader praying for the group's commitment to seek God, remember His goodness, and guard against becoming desensitized to sin.

Looking Ahead

Next Week Preview: We'll study Job 38-42 where God Himself speaks to Job. Come prepared to be humbled and amazed as God reveals Himself directly!

Preparation: Read Job 38-42 before next week, but as the pastor said, "don't read ahead" if you want the full impact during the teaching!

Additional Resources

For Further Study: Romans 1-3 (the full context of humanity's sin and God's righteousness)

Recommended Reading: Psalm 19 (God's revelation in creation and Scripture)

Worship Song Suggestion: "How Great Is Our God" by Chris Tomlin or "Indescribable" by Chris Tomlin