Discussion Guide

Week 8 | Romans 2:17-24 | November 1, 2026

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off the topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask "How does this scripture apply to this?".

Romans 2:17–20

Read: Notice the privileges and roles Paul lists: knowing God's will, being instructed in the law, and seeing oneself as a guide and teacher.

Discussion questions:

- What spiritual privileges or opportunities are described in verses 17–20?
- How can knowledge of Scripture become a source of pride instead of a path to obedience?
- What is the difference between possessing God's Word and allowing God's Word to shape your life?
- Why does greater access to truth bring greater responsibility?

A relationship with Christ brings responsibility

James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Discussion questions:

- Which is more tempting for you: hearing biblical truth without applying it, or assuming you already know what it says?
- What might it look like to use religious activity, Bible knowledge, or church involvement as a substitute for personal growth?
- How can we help one another grow in obedience without becoming judgmental?

Teaching the Truth Does Not Excuse Us from Practicing It

Read: Romans 2:21–23. Paul asks whether those who teach others also teach themselves, and whether their conduct matches their message.

Matthew 7:3–5

Discussion questions:

- Why is it easy to judge ourselves by our intentions but judge others by their actions?
- How can a person teach patience, forgiveness, honesty, or humility while failing to practice it?
- What does it look like to let God's Word correct us before we correct someone else?
- How can we respond humbly when someone points out a gap between our beliefs and our behavior?

Our Conduct Affects Our Witness
Read: Romans 2:24. Paul says God's name was blasphemed among the Gentiles because of the conduct of those who claimed to represent Him.
Isaiah 52:5

Discussion questions:
- What kinds of behavior can make others question the sincerity of our faith?
- How can admitting mistakes, apologizing, and repenting strengthen rather than weaken our Christian witness?
- Who sees your faith most often in everyday life—family, coworkers, neighbors, or friends? What might they learn about God from your conduct?
- What is the difference between protecting a religious reputation and pursuing spiritual integrity?

Personal Application
Reflect quietly: Take a moment to ask God to examine your heart. Be honest without falling into despair; the purpose is to stop defending sin and begin dealing with it.

Application questions:
- What part of God's Word do I readily apply to other people but struggle to apply to myself?
- Is there an attitude or action I need to confess, change, or make right with someone?
- What is one practical step I can take this week to bring my private conduct into closer agreement with my public confession?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.
- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing
- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing "Please pray for my friend's cancer journey", include personal prayer: "Please pray as I'm struggling with my friend's cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season".

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.