ROMANS 2:1–11

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group hear what He wants to teach and encourage.
- Ask God to show each person what it looks like to continue gathering, serving, and growing.

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 topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask, **"How does this scripture apply to this?"**

BOTH SONS ARE LOST

Read: Romans 2:1, Luke 15:25–32, 1 Timothy 1:15

While Romans 1 paints a vivid picture of a broken world that has turned to idolatry—much like the prodigal younger son—Romans 2 addresses the "older brother" heart. It confronts those who are quick to point out the culture's sin while remaining blind to their own. Paul reminds us that when we judge others, we condemn ourselves because we sin against the exact same holy God. Rather than standing in judgment over others, Paul set the example by declaring himself the "worst of sinners," acknowledging that every single one of us is broken and in equal need of Jesus.

- In the parable of the prodigal son, the older brother was offended by his brother's badness but just as offended by his father's goodness. How do we sometimes see that same attitude in our own hearts today?
- Why is it so easy to see and judge everyone else's sin while remaining completely blind to our own?

- What is the difference between speaking up about sin with grace and truth versus having a self-righteous, judgmental posture?

- Paul called himself the "worst of sinners" in 1 Timothy 1:15. How would our daily interactions with others change if we truly viewed ourselves as the chief sinner in need of grace?

- What is one practical step you can take this week to guard your heart against pointing fingers at those around you?

KINDNESS LEADS TO REPENTANCE

Read: Romans 2:2–11, Psalm 139:1–4

God's judgment is always based on perfect truth because He doesn't just see outward actions; He sees internal motives and the condition of every heart. Self-righteousness tricks us into underestimating God's perfection and overestimating our own, leading us to believe that our own morality or rule-keeping can make us right with Him. Paul warns that relying on our own goodness makes an idol out of morality and causes us to take God's patience for granted. God's kindness, forbearance, and patience toward us are not meant to fuel pride, but to lead us into daily repentance.

- Verse 2 says God's judgment is based on truth because He knows everything about us. How does knowing that God sees your heart and motives—not just your outward actions—challenge or comfort you?

- How can a person accidentally turn their own morality or church involvement into an idol?

- What does it look like to take God's kindness, patience, and forbearance for granted in our day-to-day lives?

- Verse 4 states that God's kindness is intended to lead us to repentance. How has experiencing God's kindness in your own life drawn you closer to Him rather than religious guilt?

- In what area of your life do you need to stop relying on your own strength or rule-keeping and instead lean fully into the grace of Jesus this week?

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 for? *(e.g., laying down self-righteousness, repenting of a judgmental heart, or receiving God's grace anew)*

- 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.