Discussion Guide

Week 7 | Romans 2:12-16 | October 25, 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?".

1. God's Judgment Is Impartial (Romans 2:12–13)

Paul challenges the idea that possessing God's Law automatically makes someone righteous. The issue is not simply hearing the Word, but responding to it in obedience.

Discussion questions:

- What false confidence might people place in church attendance, Bible knowledge, or a Christian upbringing?
- The lesson compares owning a Bible to having a gym membership. What does that illustration help us understand?
- Read James 1:22. How can someone deceive themselves by hearing God's Word without doing it?
- What is one way that what you know about God should shape how you live this week?

2. God Has Written His Moral Standard on Every Heart (Romans 2:14–15)

Paul explains that people who do not possess the written Law still have conscience and moral awareness. Conscience can accuse or excuse, but it is not a substitute for Christ.

Discussion questions:

- When have you experienced your conscience warning you that something you said or did was wrong?
- Why is "just follow your heart" not a complete or reliable guide for life?
- What is the difference between recognizing that we have done wrong and allowing God to change us?
- How can we respond faithfully when our conscience brings a sin to our attention?

3. God Will Judge Even the Hidden Things (Romans 2:16)

God sees more than public actions and appearances. He knows our motives and secret struggles. Yet judgment is discussed "according to my gospel" because Jesus offers the answer to the judgment we deserve.

Discussion questions:

- Why do people work so hard to manage their public image?
- How does Hebrews 4:13 challenge the idea that private choices do not matter?

- What does it mean that Jesus is both the One who judges and the Savior who took our judgment?
- How does Romans 8:1 bring hope to someone who is honestly facing their sin?

Personal Reflection
Am I relying on religious privilege—such as church attendance, family background, or Bible knowledge—instead of trusting Christ?

Is my conscience warning me about something I need to confess and bring into the light?
Am I ready to meet Jesus, trusting in His saving work rather than my own goodness?

Take a quiet moment to pray through Psalm 139:23–24.

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.