

Leader Guide

Romans 13:1-7



Warm Up

Set the Foundation: Who Is God?

Briefly highlight:

- God knows everything
- God is everywhere
- God is all-powerful
- God is sovereign over all authority

“If your group doesn’t trust God’s control, they will never accept biblical submission. Keep bringing it back to trust in God, not trust in people.”



Know It

Read the Passage (Romans 13:1–7)

Have someone read it out loud.

Ask the group to listen for anything that challenges them or makes them uncomfortable.

Submission (v. 1–3)

- Define hypotassō = willing, voluntary submission
- Emphasize: This is about heart posture, not forced compliance

“Some people will immediately jump to extreme cases (bad governments, corruption). Acknowledge that—but don’t let it derail the core teaching: submission is the norm, not the exception.”

Limits of Submission

- Bring in Acts 5:29
- Clarify: disobedience happens only when obedience to government = disobedience to God

“Most people don’t struggle with this because of persecution—they struggle because of preference. Gently challenge that.”

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Heart Motivation

- Unbelievers: motivated by punishment
- Believers: motivated by conscience

“Don’t let this stay theoretical—press into why they obey what they obey.”

Your Witness (v. 6–7)

- Obedience impacts how people see Christ
- Jesus chose submission even when it cost Him

“This is where it gets real. Shift from “what do you think?” to “how are you living?”



Live It

Application & Challenge

- Where is God asking you to trust Him more in authority?
- What’s one step of obedience you’ve been avoiding?

“Don’t rush this. Silence is okay—this is where conviction happens.”



Prayer

Suggested prayer focus:

- Trust in God’s sovereignty
- Wisdom in difficult situations
- A Christlike witness in everyday life

Helpful Tips

- Stay calm and grounded—this topic can get political fast
- Keep redirecting to Scripture, not opinions
- Challenge gently but directly when needed
- Focus on transformation, not just discussion

“If the group gets stuck debating politics, bring them back with: “What does this passage call us to do, regardless of who’s in charge?”