

Romans 14:1-23 Group Discussion Guide

Introduction (10 minutes)

- **Welcome and Prayer:** Open with a brief prayer for wisdom, humility, and open hearts.
- **Prayer Requests.**
- **Introduction to Topic:** Briefly explain that the focus will be on understanding how we relate to others who have different convictions, based on Romans 14:1-23.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

- **Icebreaker Question:** What is one belief or opinion you once held strongly but later changed your mind about?

Reading the Passage (10 minutes)

- Ask for volunteers to read Romans 14:1-23 aloud, dividing it into two parts (verses 1-12, then 13-23).
- Encourage participants to take note of any verses that stand out to them.

Discussion Questions (40 minutes)

1. How do you personally determine which beliefs are essential to your faith and which are secondary? *(Follow-up: What are some secondary issues you've seen cause division?)*
2. In what ways do you struggle with judging others who have different convictions? How can you cultivate a more accepting attitude? *(Follow-up: Can you share a time when you felt judged for your beliefs?)*

3. How do you balance personal conviction with openness to learning or changing your views?*(Follow-up: Are there areas where you feel you've grown in understanding?)*
4. How does understanding that “none of us lives for ourselves alone” change the way you view your responsibility to others? *(Follow-up: Can you think of a time when someone else's faith impacted your actions?)*
5. Can you identify areas where you may need to prioritize someone else's spiritual growth over your own freedom? *(Follow-up: Why do you think it is so difficult to surrender certain freedoms?)*
6. What does it mean to you that “the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit”? *(Follow-up: How can you make this a greater focus in your daily life?)*

Application Questions (15 minutes)

1. Considering what you've learned, what is one way you can become more gracious toward those with different convictions this week?
2. How can you ensure your personal freedoms do not become a stumbling block for others in your community?

Closing (15 minutes)

- **Reflection:** Ask each participant to share one takeaway from the discussion.
- **Closing Prayer:** Pray for humility, love, and the strength to live out Romans 14.