

THE BOOK OF

Romans

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Gospel

OPENING QUESTION

How would you introduce yourself to someone you wanted to impress?

READ Romans 1:1–32.

1. What is the “Gospel” (literally translated: “Good News”)?

- A. Jesus died for my sins.
- B. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world.
- C. Jesus rules the universe.
- D. You can become better than you are.
- E. Jesus is returning to earth a second time.
- F. You reap what you sow.
- G. God loves you.
- H. God is full of both mercy and justice.
- I. Other.

2. What has been the Gospel at different times in your life?

- A. Forgiveness.
- B. Power.
- C. Hope.
- D. Mercy.
- E. Grace.
- F. A friend.
- G. The Holy Spirit.
- H. A new perspective.
- I. Other.

3. What is the Gospel for Jews compared to the Gospel for Gentiles?

- A. It's the same.
- B. Jews have received more revelations than Gentiles.
- C. Messiah for Jews; Supreme Being for Gentiles.
- D. It has to come to people in their own context.
- E. Jesus.
- F. I have no idea what you're talking about.
- G. God's promises fulfilled.
- H. Both require faith
- I. Other.

4. To whom are you most effective in sharing the Gospel?

- A. People who are a lot like me.
- B. People who are different from me.
- C. Those who have grown up as Christians.
- D. People who have little or no interest in God.
- E. People who are down and out.
- F. Powerful people.
- G. I don't share the Gospel.
- H. I live it rather than talk about it.
- I. Other.

5. Why do people reject the revelation of God in creation?

- A. They just don't see it.
- B. Nature reveals evolution and natural selection; not God.
- C. They don't want to worship something invisible to them.
- D. It's easier to worship a golden calf.
- E. Lack of gratitude.
- F. Submission is not something they will do.
- G. Our sense of achievement or entitlement—this earth is mine.
- H. Other.

6. Why does God abandon people to their evil ways?

- A. God honors our freedom of choice.
- B. Sometimes it's best to wait until people are ready to change.
- C. God would rather have us cold than lukewarm.
- D. That's the best way for them to come to their senses.
- E. If he didn't give them a break, he might just destroy them.
- F. It's God's form of "tough love."
- G. Equal treatment—you abandon me and I'll abandon you.
- H. Other.

7. What is your paraphrase of *Romans 1:16-17*?

8. Where do you see people brazenly going against God and even encouraging others to do likewise?

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time you got punished more than someone who really deserved it.

READ **Read Romans 2:1—29.**

1. Who is worse than you?

- A. Most of the people in the world.
- B. I'm about average.
- C. It depends on which part of my life.
- D. People in the spotlight.
- E. Convicted criminals.
- F. Religious people.
- G. People without God.
- H. Stupid people.
- I. Other.

2. Will there really ever be a Day of Judgment?

- A. I think so.
- B. I hope so.
- C. I hope not.
- D. There already has been.
- E. Nobody really knows until it happens.
- F. Having it in mind influences what I do or don't do.
- G. I don't think judging is a good thing.
- H. If there is, God will have a lot of explaining to do.
- I. Other.

3. If there is a Day of Judgment, when will it be?

- A. At Christ's Second Coming.
- B. At Christ's Third Coming.
- C. It happened at the cross.
- D. Right after a person dies.
- E. Whenever a person stands trial.
- F. When we least expect it.
- G. A long time from now.
- H. Soon.
- I. Other.

4. If God doesn't show favorites (verse 11), why do some people seem to have it better and others seem to have it worse?

- A. It's not really up to God.
- B. It's due to the choices we make.
- C. It's because of the cards we're dealt from birth.
- D. God judges people based on what they've been given.
- E. A lot of this has to do with luck.
- F. It depends on a person's attitude.
- G. It depends on when and where you live.
- H. That's what I want to ask God.
- I. Other.

5. How is your conscience?

- A. What conscience?
- B. It's very sensitive.
- C. I don't always listen to it.
- D. I'm trying to correct it.
- E. I don't know when to trust it and when not to trust it.
- F. It's okay.
- G. What difference does it make?
- H. Other.

6. Why do followers of God so often get a bad name?

- A. They're a bunch of hypocrites.
- B. They're weird.
- C. Those calling them names are lashing out from a guilty conscience.
- D. Their values and actions make no sense to someone without God.
- E. They have a bad history.
- F. They're just misunderstood.
- G. They focus on little things and miss the bigger things.
- H. Other.

7. Would you rather have God's revelations (like the Bible) or would you rather be ignorant of them?

8. Are you a better follower of God on the inside or on the outside?

Right with God

OPENING QUESTION

What is your earliest memory of church?

READ Romans 3:1–31.

1. What are the advantages of growing up as a follower of God?

- A. God loves you more.
- B. You have access to Scripture from your earliest memories.
- C. The culture of God is your natural bent from the beginning.
- D. I can't think of any advantages.
- E. You're less likely to participate in self-destructive behaviors.
- F. You have more to offer others.
- G. You belong to a community of faith.
- H. You have a greater chance of choosing God for yourself.
- I. Other.

2. What are the disadvantages of growing up as a follower of God?

- A. God doesn't seem so special.
- B. You're more likely to suffer from guilt and phoniness.
- C. You do things out of habit rather than from the mind or the heart.
- D. I can't think of any disadvantages.
- E. Living in a bubble that separates you from the world.
- F. You don't get as many opportunities to try out the "pleasures of sin."
- G. The tendency to think you're better than others.
- H. You probably don't have an obvious "Damascus Road" conversion.
- I. Other.

3. What are some of the ways people twist God's forgiveness?

- A. They try to earn it.
- B. They refuse to accept it as a gift.
- C. They still feel guilty after receiving forgiveness.
- D. They are fine to keep on sinning since they can be forgiven.
- E. They brag about falling short of God's ideal.
- F. They claim that they aren't that bad.
- G. They treat it glibly—like it's no big deal.
- H. They feel no need to forgive others.
- I. Other.

4. According to Paul, what is the purpose of God's law?

- A. It shows us what God is like.
- B. Without it, we wouldn't know what to do and what not to do.
- C. To show we are guilty of sin and need a Savior.
- D. To have something to meditate upon, day and night.
- E. To give us a goal to shoot for.
- F. Moses needed something to bring down from Mount Sinai.
- G. It spells out how to relate to God and to others.
- H. So we have a standard rather just people's opinions.
- I. Other.

5. What puts a person right with God?

- A. Being in the right place at the right time.
- B. Trusting God in the form of Jesus.
- C. Going forward during an altar call.
- D. Getting baptized.
- E. Doing daily devotions.
- F. A Christian education.
- G. Getting right with God isn't the same as staying right with God.
- H. Accepting that Jesus traded places with me.
- I. Other.

6. How is God fair in what he does with the problem of sin and righteousness?

- A. It really isn't "fair."
- B. A price had to be paid, and He paid it.
- C. What we do doesn't matter.
- D. He takes our righteousness and adds whatever more we need.
- E. I don't know; He makes the rules.
- F. I don't think so; it seems like I get so much more than I deserve.
- G. This way "we owe him" for the rest of our lives.
- H. Other.

7. When you think about the law of God, what are your thoughts, feelings, and actions?

8. Are you right with God? Upon what do you base your assessment?

Start with Faith

OPENING QUESTION

Who comes to your mind when you think of a “faithful follower of God”?

READ **Read Romans 4:1–25.**

1. Is Abraham your father?

- A. No.
- B. I’m not Jewish.
- C. I am a spiritual child of Abraham.
- D. I hope he is.
- E. It depends on whether or not I have faith like Abraham did.
- F. What are you talking about?
- G. Everyone can trace their lineage to Abraham.
- H. I’m a child of God; not of Abraham.
- I. Other.

2. How does a Christian get right with God?

- A. It helps if you’re born into a Christian family.
- B. It’s harder if you’re born into a Christian family.
- C. By praying the “Sinner’s Prayer” and asking God for forgiveness.
- D. Start living like a child of God.
- E. You just have to believe that God is real and that she forgives you.
- F. By becoming a pastor.
- G. You gotta believe; but then you need to obey.
- H. It’s a feeling you get.
- I. Other.

3. How does someone who isn’t a Christian get right with God?

- A. By doing an about face.
- B. By “bending the knee” and acknowledging God is God (surrender).
- C. Start going to church.
- D. The same way as someone who already is a Christian.
- E. Asking forgiveness and making restitution (where you can).
- F. Read the Bible and pray.
- G. Shed one’s old life and start a brand new life.
- H. Accept Jesus as one’s Savior.
- I. Other.

4. Why be good and “obey” if faith is all that matters?

- A. Your life will be better while you wait for Jesus to return.
- B. You’re supposed to do that.
- C. There is no point to it.
- D. If you don’t obey, then you don’t really have faith.
- E. Do you mean “good” regarding behavior or one’s motives?
- F. Obedience reinforces faith.
- G. Faith reinforces obedience.
- H. It makes other people feel better about you.
- I. Other.

5. How do others know that you’re a Christian?

- A. They don’t.
- B. I tell them.
- C. I show them.
- D. I trust God (and they know it).
- E. They sometimes ask me.
- F. I talk about God whenever I can.
- G. I read my Bible in public.
- H. I pray before meals.
- I. Other.

6. What does it mean to have faith in God?

- A. Believe that God exists.
- B. Depend on God when you get in a bind.
- C. Trust what you know about God, even if it might not make sense.
- D. Keep searching to better understand God.
- E. Take action based on at least a little bit of evidence.
- F. Join a community of God-followers.
- G. It seems very nebulous to me.
- H. Other.

7. Why do we tend to base a person’s “goodness” on their behavior?

8. What do you find difficult to believe about God?

Who's Your Daddy?

OPENING QUESTION

In what ways are you like your daddy (or father figure)?

READ Romans 5:1–21.

1. What do you get when you're justified (put right) with God (vs. 1-5)?

- A. Verdict of "not guilty."
- B. Forgiveness.
- C. Peace and love.
- D. Problems and trials.
- E. Lots of friends.
- F. Character development and endurance.
- G. Salvation, confidence, and privileges.
- H. The Holy Spirit in your life.
- I. Other.

2. How do the actions of Jesus change how you relate to God?

- A. I love Jesus more than I love God.
- B. Jesus shows me better what God is like.
- C. Jesus puts me in a positive relationship with God.
- D. I don't think Jesus changes how I relate to God.
- E. Now I run toward God instead of away from God.
- F. Jesus is God.
- G. I think more about Jesus and hardly ever think about the Holy Spirit.
- H. I feel like I'm part of God's family now.
- I. Other.

3. What causes you to rejoice (vs. 3)?

- A. When things go my way.
- B. When things don't go my way.
- C. Seeing God's activity.
- D. Great music.
- E. Getting out of debt.
- F. Tough times.
- G. Seeing justice where there used to be injustice.
- H. Whatever leads me to depend more on Jesus.
- I. Other.

4. For whom would you be willing to die?

- A. Someone in my family (please specify).
- B. My friends.
- C. An enemy.
- D. Nobody.
- E. A person I can't stand.
- F. A complete stranger.
- G. Someone mentally incapacitated.
- H. Someone on death row.
- I. Other.

5. How do the actions of Jesus change how you relate to God?

- A. I feel like a friend of God.
- B. It seems like I'm so unworthy.
- C. God seems so much bigger and more powerful now.
- D. I have a better idea of what God is like.
- E. I'm surprised about how much God is like me.
- F. I just hope that I'm ready when Jesus returns.
- G. I really don't think about it much.
- H. I think God is too much of a pushover.
- I. Other.

6. What makes you a sinner?

- A. I messed up in the past.
- B. It's not my fault, the devil made me do it.
- C. I've broken God's law.
- D. I haven't reached my full potential yet.
- E. I haven't asked for forgiveness.
- F. I inherited it from Adam.
- G. There's a part of me that just rebels.
- H. I'm not a sinner.
- I. Other.

7. Do you live more like a child of Adam or a child of Christ? Why? How does it show?

8. Where have you seen sin abound? Where have you seen grace abound even more?

Dead or Alive; Slave or Free?

OPENING QUESTION

What was a bad habit you had during your childhood?

READ Romans 6:1–23.

1. Since God forgives us, does it really matter whether or not we sin?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Our motives are more important than our behaviors.
- D. Only if God catches us.
- E. He will forgive us 70 x 7 times; then He's done.
- F. He'd like for us to do better.
- G. It tears him up.
- H. It tears us up.
- I. Other.

2. When did you “die with Christ” (vs. 3)?

- A. When you were born.
- B. When you got baptized.
- C. When you gave up on trying to make it happen on your own.
- D. I'm not sure that I have died with Christ.
- E. This makes absolutely no sense to me.
- F. I don't have a specific time.
- G. I went forward during an altar call.
- H. When I was at the top of my game.
- I. Other.

3. When were you resurrected to a new life (vs. 4)?

- A. What?
- B. When you got baptized.
- C. Nothing really stands out in my memory.
- D. When Jesus became like a friend to me.
- E. When I finally discovered the purpose of my life.
- F. I could use a new life right now.
- G. At Christ's Second Coming I'll get my new life.
- H. When I prayed to God and gave him my life.
- I. Other.

4. Why do people keep on sinning after they have been forgiven?

- A. They just can't help it.
- B. They haven't "died to sin."
- C. They don't try hard enough.
- D. There are too many temptations to resist all of them.
- E. What do you mean by "sinning"?
- F. Old habits die hard.
- G. Forgiveness takes care of the past, but not the present or future.
- H. Other.

5. What does it mean to be "free in Christ"?

- A. Christians can do more than non-Christians.
- B. Christians have a "get out of jail free" card.
- C. The controlling power of sin has been broken in one's life.
- D. A person doesn't have to live under the restrictions of the law.
- E. Cheap Christianity.
- F. No more sense of guilt.
- G. Options that simply weren't possible earlier.
- H. Other.

6. Who is your master?

- A. You're in charge of yourself.
- B. Someone in your family circle.
- C. Your boss or teacher.
- D. Your job.
- E. God.
- F. Your naturally selfish ego.
- G. It changes—depending on the situation.
- H. Sin.
- I. Other.

7. How can a person tell if they are dead to sin and alive in Christ (vs. 11)?

8. Where do you place yourself on this continuum?

SLAVE TO
SIN

SLAVE TO
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Tug of War

OPENING QUESTION

When you've played "tug of war" did your team usually win or lose?

READ Romans 7:1–25.

1. What does "the law" mean to you?

- A. All of the do's and don'ts.
- B. God's character.
- C. The 10 commandments.
- D. Everything God has communicated to us.
- E. Guilt and shame.
- F. Guidance for living a good life.
- G. No longer a factor in my life.
- H. Something good that has gone bad.
- I. Other.

2. How do you relate to the law now?

- A. I try to avoid it as much as possible.
- B. I meditate on it.
- C. Sometimes it seems good; sometimes it seems bad.
- D. Because I'm "in Christ" I don't ever have to think about the law.
- E. The law is now in my heart.
- F. I have so much to learn about the law.
- G. I hardly ever think about it.
- H. It's God's message that gets revealed to me more and more.
- I. Other.

3. What does sin do to the law?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Ignores it.
- C. Fights against it.
- D. Sin makes the law bad.
- E. Sin overcomes the law.
- F. The law overcomes sin.
- G. Sin changes the good guidance of the law into a death penalty.
- H. Sin creates a need for more laws.
- I. Other.

4. Romans 7:19 describes doing the things you don't want to do, and not doing the things you do want to do. Does this sound like you?

- A. Identical.
- B. Opposite.
- C. Some of the time.
- D. Just do the right thing.
- E. Stop!
- F. Sounds psychotic to me.
- G. This is just irresponsible.
- H. Other.

5. What are some good things you don't do, even though you wish you did?

- A. Give away more money.
- B. Encourage people, including those I don't like.
- C. Help people even though I don't always have the time to do so.
- D. Listen.
- E. Be more involved at church.
- F. Mentor someone younger than I.
- G. Include in my family some people without a family.
- H. Other.

6. What are some bad things you do, even though you wish you didn't?

- A. Get angry easily.
- B. Talk badly about others.
- C. Lie when necessary.
- D. Swear.
- E. Occasionally cheat.
- F. Unhealthy habits.
- G. Sexual things.
- H. Other.

7. Describe the tugging you've experienced between living for Christ, living by God's law, and living by the law of sin and death.

8. Are you a slave to sin? Explain.

Flesh and Spirit

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when it seemed like you had a “monkey on your back” and then describe what it was like when that monkey got removed.

READ Read Romans 8:1—39.

1. What is the difference between following the Spirit and following the flesh/sinful nature?

- A. One leads to life; the other leads to death.
- B. One seems mystical; the other seems concrete.
- C. One is drawn to God; the other resists God.
- D. One comes from being born; the other comes from being born again.
- E. One requires God; the other requires no God.
- F. One focuses on the Law; the other focuses on Jesus.
- G. One thinks about spiritual things; the other thinks about sinful things.
- H. Other.

2. Do you follow the Spirit or your flesh/sinful nature?

- A. I follow the Spirit.
- B. I follow the flesh/sinful nature.
- C. It varies.
- D. I don't know.
- E. I follow both.
- F. I don't follow either.
- G. I think it's more complicated than that.
- H. I do what comes naturally.
- I. Other.

3. How does a person live like a child of God *(vs. 14-17)?*

- A. Make decisions based on impressions from God's Spirit.
- B. Act like royalty.
- C. Have a clear sense of identity from God.
- D. Pray a lot.
- E. Live boldly for God.
- F. Keep one's halo on straight.
- G. Experience suffering.
- H. Sense assurance from God.
- I. Other.

4. What types of suffering do God's children experience now?

- A. Life in general has plenty of suffering.
- B. Death.
- C. Entropy (things tend to fall apart).
- D. Prison and torture.
- E. Hang nails that really, really hurt.
- F. Ridicule for one's faith.
- G. Being part of a broken community of faith.
- H. Other.

5. What does it mean: "All things work together for good...?"

- A. Eventually everything works out okay.
- B. God promises a good ending for those who love Him.
- C. It's a lie for suckers.
- D. You can expect things to be bad now.
- E. God's in control, even when it doesn't seem like it.
- F. What seems bad can actually be turned into something good.
- G. Just hang on!
- H. Other.

6. Explain how the following things have separated some people from God:

- A. Persecution.
- B. Poverty.
- C. Death.
- D. Bad luck.
- E. Wealth.
- F. Friends or family.
- G. Anger or bitterness.
- H. Isolation.
- I. Other.

7. As a child of God (vs. 23), what rights do you have and what are you missing?

8. In what ways are the various members of the Godhead involved in the lives of God's children?

Unfair

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when you were treated differently than your sibling or a friend.

READ Romans 9:1–33.

1. What advantages has God given you because of your religious background?

- A. I can't think of any advantage I've received.
- B. Lots of input over the years.
- C. A leaning toward God.
- D. Familiarity with the Bible.
- E. I've been part of a community of faith.
- F. God has been real to me—personally.
- G. More faith.
- H. More love.
- I. Other.

2. To what extent is God responsible for the lack of Christian impact and vitality in our world today?

- A. It's all God's fault.
- B. God isn't responsible at all.
- C. We're just living in a bad time right now.
- D. God is partly responsible.
- E. It's all Satan's fault.
- F. God's people are partly to blame.
- G. Everybody needs to share some of the responsibility.
- H. It depends on where you live—God's doing a lot in some places.
- I. Other.

3. Are you a child of God?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. I don't know.
- D. There's no way to know for sure.
- E. I was born into a Christian family.
- F. Sometimes it seems like it; but not at other times.
- G. God doesn't treat me like his child.
- H. I'd better be.
- I. Other.

4. Is God fair in giving favors to one person over another?

- A. No.
- B. It doesn't seem like it to me.
- C. Yes.
- D. I'm just the clay, not the potter; don't ask me.
- E. Life isn't fair; get over it.
- F. God expects more from those who receive his favors.
- G. No two people are the same, so one will always seem more favored.
- H. Other.

5. What does the potter and clay analogy (vs. 20-24) illustrate about God?

- A. God is God; and I'm not.
- B. It's beyond my understanding.
- C. I feel like an object rather than like a child of God.
- D. God has a purpose for me.
- E. God likes some people a lot more than others.
- F. God isn't fair.
- G. God created me.
- H. Other.

6. What are stumbling blocks for people who grow up as Christians?

- A. Feelings of superiority.
- B. Overly familiar with God-stuff.
- C. More head than heart when it comes to God.
- D. Failure to live up to high expectations.
- E. Lack of a personal relationship with God.
- F. Desire to be in the world.
- G. Hypocrites.
- H. Often judgmental.
- I. Other.

7. Do you consider it an advantage or disadvantage for those born into a Christian family? Explain.

8. Has God given you what you deserve? More than you deserve? Less than you deserve? Give examples.

Hide and Seek

OPENING QUESTION

When you played “hide-and-seek” as a child, where were good places to hide?

READ Romans 10:1—21.

1. What’s an example of misdirected zeal for God that grabs your attention?

- A. Legalism.
- B. Enthusiastic new converts.
- C. Perfectionistic people.
- D. Doomsday prophets.
- E. “Anything goes” Christians.
- F. Marketers of Christianity.
- G. Suicide bombers in the name of God.
- H. Trying to make people just like you, as if you’re God’s ideal.
- I. Other.

2. Paul wrote about how close/near “getting right with God” can be. How close is this to you?

- A. I think about it all the time.
- B. I hardly ever think about this.
- C. It really depends on the situation.
- D. It’s highly affected by the people I’m with at any given time.
- E. Not very close.
- F. It’s within reach, but I don’t have a handle on it yet.
- G. I cling to this daily.
- H. Other.

3. What does “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord” mean? (vs. 9)

- A. Say the words: “Jesus is Lord.”
- B. Talk about Jesus.
- C. Accept Jesus as Savior AND obey him as your Lord/Master.
- D. Do this under oath.
- E. Choose Jesus as your Lord and also have an accountability partner.
- F. Admit it.
- G. You’ve got to know enough about it to say something meaningful.
- H. Other.

4. What does “believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the grave” mean (vs. g)?

- A. Believe that Jesus was resurrected after his crucifixion.
- B. It has to go beyond your head; it has to affect your heart.
- C. This is a nice myth, but not realistic enough to bank on it.
- D. I’m a living example of being raised from the dead.
- E. That’s a bit extreme for my tastes.
- F. I’m wondering why the resurrection of Jesus is so important.
- G. I thought Jesus resurrected himself from the grave.
- H. Other.

5. What are the best ways to communicate to people so they will “call on the name of the Lord and be saved”?

- A. Preaching.
- B. One-to-one conversations.
- C. Personal testimonies.
- D. Religious TV or videos.
- E. Energetic gatherings for God.
- F. Involvement in places where God isn’t prominent.
- G. Music with a message.
- H. Other.

6. How does “faith come by listening to the Good News about Christ”?

- A. It just does.
- B. You have to keep feeding faith or else it will die.
- C. The Good News about Christ forms the foundation for faith.
- D. The Good News about Christ grows faith to new heights.
- E. The Holy Spirit gets released in greater measure.
- F. It doesn’t always work.
- G. It inspires.
- H. Hearing about Christ leads one to take bigger risks for Christ.
- I. Other.

7. Who have you found to be receptive to the Good News about Jesus?

8. What makes it easy for you to trust Jesus? What makes it difficult?

You're In

OPENING QUESTION

What are some typical rules to join any sort of club?

READ Romans 11:1—36.

1. When do you feel like you're the only one seriously following God?

- A. When I'm at work or school.
- B. When I'm at church.
- C. It's when people attack or reject me.
- D. After a sermon that others love, but I think it's all messed up.
- E. When a religious person I look up to blows it big time.
- F. During a time of personal depression.
- G. When I can't seem to connect with anybody.
- H. When I feel all alone.
- I. Other.

2. Who are the "remnant" that are saved (vs. 5)?

- A. Me and my friends.
- B. Christians.
- C. Americans.
- D. Whoever God chooses.
- E. Those who choose Jesus to be their Savior.
- F. One particular denomination.
- G. A combination of Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Atheists, "Nones," etc.
- H. Everyone.
- I. A small group.
- J. Other.

3. What is likely to make Jews want Jesus?

- A. Having more Christians talk to them about Jesus.
- B. Nothing I can think of.
- C. The work of the Holy Spirit on their hearts and minds.
- D. Coming to see Jesus as the Messiah of the Old Testament.
- E. Evangelistic meetings.
- F. Changing from a political or financial emphasis to a spiritual one.
- G. Another wave of persecution or harassment.
- H. Other.

4. In what ways can God be considered both kind and severe? (vs. 22)

- A. Accepting Gentiles; rejecting Jews.
- B. Accepting Jews; rejecting Gentiles.
- C. Forgiveness; judgment.
- D. Gentle shepherd; Mt. Sinai.
- E. More and more chances; drawing the line abruptly.
- F. Redeeming; destroying.
- G. Jesus was kind to children; severe to Pharisees.
- H. Other.

5. What does Paul mean by “all Israel will be saved”?

- A. All Jews will become Christians.
- B. God will take all Jews to heaven.
- C. Only spiritual Jews will be saved.
- D. Those grafted in to God’s tree are the true Israel.
- E. You need to move to Israel.
- F. Israelites get persecuted, but they win in the end.
- G. Christians need to covert to Judaism.
- H. Other.

6. Paul breaks into another doxology at the close of chapters 9-11 (11:33-36). What is your praise to God right now?

- A. God, you are sooo awesome!
- B. Your power overwhelms me.
- C. You are so far beyond my comprehension that it just blows me away.
- D. There is no god like you.
- E. I think and think and think about you, but you’re way beyond that.
- F. You amaze me.
- G. Your love is like a billowing ocean that never stops.
- H. You are so BIG and yet so intimate.
- I. Other.

7. To what extent are the Jews still God’s special people?

8. Are you a natural branch on God’s tree or have you been grafted in? Explain.

All Out

OPENING QUESTION

When have you given “all that you have” to the point that you had nothing left to give?

READ **Romans 12:1–21.**

1. What does it look like to give your body as a living sacrifice to God?

- A. Messy.
- B. You have to do it repeatedly because it doesn't die.
- C. A lifestyle of giving.
- D. Living from a perspective of overwhelming gratitude.
- E. Earning your way to heaven.
- F. Going all out for God.
- G. Regularly crucifying natural selfishness.
- H. This seems like going overboard to the extreme.
- I. Other.

2. Why would a person sacrifice their entire life to God?

- A. Guilt.
- B. Gratitude.
- C. Repayment.
- D. Seems like the best option.
- E. God called the person to it.
- F. The life they had wasn't that great.
- G. Love.
- H. Overcome by emotion.
- I. Other.

3. What gifts has God given you to share with others?

- A. Hospitality.
- B. Willingness to help wherever needed.
- C. Sharing Christ with others.
- D. An extra amount of faith.
- E. Generosity.
- F. Discernment.
- G. Music.
- H. Forgiveness.
- I. Other.

4. What's the difference between pretend love and real love? (vs. g)

- A. The attitude in which it's expressed.
- B. How long it lasts.
- C. Whether or not it expects repayment.
- D. Who it's really for.
- E. Talk or action.
- F. It requires discernment.
- G. The level of intensity.
- H. Other.

5. What is a practical way to live your life with humility?

- A. Give preferential treatment to others.
- B. Don't take yourself too seriously.
- C. Regularly acknowledge God as the source of your life.
- D. Simplify your life.
- E. Give generously and anonymously.
- F. Frequently express gratitude.
- G. Honor those who are marginalized.
- H. Compare yourself to God rather than those "below" you.
- I. Other.

6. How do you handle a desire for revenge?

- A. I take care of business as needed.
- B. Not very well.
- C. I turn to God in prayer.
- D. Give forgiveness.
- E. Think about it repeatedly.
- F. Blow it off and forget about it.
- G. Tell someone else so they can start the negative gossip.
- H. Get some counseling.
- I. Treat the person much nicer than they deserve.
- J. Other.

7. When do you find yourself slipping into the way of the world? How is your mind transformed and renewed for God?

8. What's an evil you could overcome by doing good?

Thank God for the Government

OPENING QUESTION

What's an example of a law that you would like to eliminate?

READ **Romans 13:1–14.**

1. Why do you obey the laws and leaders of your country?

- A. I don't.
- B. It's just easier to do so.
- C. My obedience to God leads me to obey the laws of the land.
- D. It's my civic duty.
- E. Jesus is returning soon.
- F. To make this a safe and desirable place.
- G. I don't want the punishment that comes from disobeying them.
- H. To be a good citizen with a clear conscience.
- I. Other.

2. When would you participate in civil disobedience—purposely breaking the law because of a higher purpose?

- A. I would never do that.
- B. If my friends or family did it, I'd join to support them.
- C. Religious liberty.
- D. The right to bear arms.
- E. When the government endorses and empowers sinful practices.
- F. To make a statement about a cause really, really important to me.
- G. I stay clear of government involvement.
- H. Other.

3. In what way does God use government authorities to help you?

- A. Safety on the streets.
- B. Safety in my home and work/school.
- C. Monitoring greed and fairness.
- D. Wealth distribution to a certain extent.
- E. Health care.
- F. Taxing me so I don't end up with too much money.
- G. Life would be bedlam if it weren't for the government.
- H. Government programs help the poor more than churches do.
- I. Other.

4. What do you enjoy about paying taxes?

- A. Nothing.
- B. It makes me feel patriotic.
- C. I simply want to get it behind me—be done with it.
- D. The satisfying sense of being responsible—doing my part.
- E. Supporting public servants and the system that keeps us going.
- F. Knowing I get to trust God more after being ripped off by the IRS.
- G. It pays for important things I wouldn't get around to supporting.
- H. Other.

5. Which evil deed should you shed like dirty clothes?

- A. None of your business.
- B. Putting people down.
- C. Putting myself down.
- D. Cheating some on taxes.
- E. Some things I do on the internet.
- F. Eating issues.
- G. The way I drive.
- H. Other.

6. How do you deal with temptations to indulge your evil desires?

- A. Ignore them.
- B. Pray about them.
- C. Crucify them.
- D. Have an accountability partner.
- E. Test them out to see how bad they are.
- F. I don't have evil desires.
- G. Feed the good; starve the bad.
- H. Stay busy.
- I. Other.

7. How do you demonstrate honor and respect to your government?

8. What are examples of how you love your neighbor as yourself? When are you most likely to do that?

What's the Big Deal?

OPENING QUESTION

As a child, what was not okay for you to do, but it was okay for others to do?

READ Romans 14:1–23.

1. Who are those considered by Paul to be “weak in faith”? (vs. 1)

- A. New Christians.
- B. Those who are not yet Christians.
- C. Long-term Christians who haven't matured or grown up.
- D. People on the verge of leaving the church.
- E. Church members who get offended easily.
- F. Individuals who are strong on works but weak when it comes to faith.
- G. Young people.
- H. Old people.
- I. Other.

2. What are examples of “disputable matters”? (vs. 1)

- A. Vegetarians and veganism.
- B. Family values.
- C. Holidays and how people practice them.
- D. Abortion.
- E. Gender issues.
- F. Sabbath and Sabbath observance (or lack of it).
- G. Church membership and attendance.
- H. What I do in my personal life.
- I. Other.

3. What was the question in Rome about which days were holy and which ones weren't?

- A. It was based on what you grew up practicing.
- B. Christians in Rome had either a pagan or Jewish background.
- C. Both pagans and Jews had *feast* days, but on different days.
- D. Both pagans and Jews had similar *fast* days, but on different days.
- E. Whether or not the 7th day is God's Sabbath.
- F. Anything a pagan or Jew had done should not be done by Christians.
- G. Everything in one's life prior to becoming a Christian must change.
- H. Other.

4. Who do you try to please by the way you live your life?

- A. Nobody.
- B. A “significant other” in my life.
- C. My family.
- D. My friends.
- E. God.
- F. Those I’m trying to impress.
- G. Whoever is watching me.
- H. Other.

5. What leads you to condemn another believer?

- A. When a believer does something they know is wrong.
- B. When a believer should know better.
- C. When they do something wrong that I also do wrong.
- D. My own insecurity.
- E. My desire for all believers to live by a higher standard.
- F. People need someone to hold them accountable.
- G. My love for Jesus.
- H. Other.

6. What makes a certain food wrong to eat?

- A. The Bible forbids eating it.
- B. It’s unhealthy.
- C. Bad taste.
- D. Eating it could offend someone.
- E. It hasn’t been purified.
- F. Environmental sustainability.
- G. Personal choice.
- H. Other.

7. How do you build up other believers?

8. What’s an example of something you have pondered about whether or not it was right or wrong, and then decided it was right for you? Would you change that if you thought someone might be offended?

Encouraging Hope

OPENING QUESTION

Who first took you to church, and what was that like?

READ Romans 15:1–33.

1. What do you do that helps to build up others in the Lord (vs. 2)?

- A. Speak words of encouragement.
- B. Mentor others.
- C. Pray for them.
- D. Nothing.
- E. Engage in animated discussions.
- F. Tell them things about God that they don't know.
- G. Provide a listening ear.
- H. Help them find a place where they can serve.
- I. Other.

2. What gives you hope as you wait patiently for God's promises?

- A. Some key verses in Scripture.
- B. Being part of a community that also hopes for Christ's return.
- C. It seems that God just gives it to me.
- D. I don't have as much hope as I wish I had.
- E. I'm naturally optimistic.
- F. Other people.
- G. Seeing God's actions in little things.
- H. Hoping in God seems best when compared to other options.
- I. Other.

3. What makes it difficult to accept others?

- A. When they act like jerks.
- B. Not liking certain things about myself.
- C. When they don't even try to change their negative traits or behaviors.
- D. When they act like they are superior to me.
- E. Hypocrisy.
- F. Their popularity coupled with my jealousy.
- G. Their crazy ideas.
- H. The way they practice their faith.
- I. Other.

4. What do you know so well about God that you pass it on to others?

- A. Love.
- B. Truth.
- C. Having a relationship with God.
- D. Grace.
- E. Acceptance.
- F. Supernatural power.
- G. Peace.
- H. Forgiveness.
- I. Other.

5. What do you need others to remind you about regarding God?

- A. Love.
- B. Justice.
- C. Fellowship.
- D. Accountability.
- E. Grace.
- F. Presence.
- G. He's got your life and the whole universe in His hands.
- H. Other.

6. To whom do you owe your spiritual heritage?

- A. My parents.
- B. Certain people at church.
- C. One specific person: _____.
- D. What do you mean by the term "spiritual heritage"?
- E. The pioneers in my faith tradition.
- F. Bible writers.
- G. The Jews.
- H. Other.

7. Has Christ accepted you? What leads you to believe this? How does it affect whether or not you accept others?

8. Where do you receive spiritual encouragement?

Credibility

OPENING QUESTION

As you grew up, who did you come to trust after parents and teachers?

READ Romans 16:1–27.

1. What do you know about Phoebe?

- A. Her name appears in *Romans 16:1*.
- B. She was a deacon or deaconess in the church in Cenchrea.
- C. I've heard her name mentioned as a female church leader.
- D. Nothing.
- E. Paul felt indebted to her.
- F. The church in Rome should receive her with openness.
- G. She's an example of a female with a formal church leadership role.
- H. People make a big deal about her based on just two Bible verses.
- I. Other.

2. What comes to mind when you read of Paul's warning to watch out for people who cause divisions in the church?

- A. Not much has changed.
- B. This is something to guard against.
- C. It's sometimes hard to know who's right when there's a division.
- D. It sounds like the old timers don't want to change with the times.
- E. It sounds like the upstarts want to take over.
- F. This has more to do with egos than anything else.
- G. People are so gullible.
- H. Other.

3. Who do you stay away from at church?

- A. Those who cause divisions.
- B. People who aren't in my circle of friends.
- C. New people.
- D. Old timers.
- E. Critical people.
- F. People who talk about me behind my back.
- G. Power climbers.
- H. Spectators who don't get involved.
- I. Other.

4. What characteristics typically accompany those who are divisive?

- A. Smooth-talking.
- B. Loud.
- C. Persistence.
- D. Love.
- E. Skepticism.
- F. Joy.
- G. Self-interest.
- H. Forgiveness.
- I. Other.

5. How do you interpret Paul's message "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (vs. 20)?

- A. Hallelujah!
- B. Why are "God of peace" and "crush Satan" in the same sentence?
- C. There will be no peace until Satan has been crushed.
- D. God does it, but we are the ones who get to stand triumphant.
- E. Satan hasn't been vanquished yet.
- F. God personifies both peace and power.
- G. We continue to be on the verge of Satan's demise.
- H. Other.

6. To what do you apply Paul's statement "God is able to make you strong"? (vs. 25)

- A. My personal struggles.
- B. Divisions within my church.
- C. A workout slogan at a Christian health club.
- D. God is the source.
- E. Personal growth that leads to victory.
- F. Persecution.
- G. I must be fairly weak.
- H. Other.

7. What are the names of people who give you spiritual credibility? What would they say about you?

8. What is one significant "take-away" you have from the book of Romans?

