

ROMANS

XII - XV

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Northview's Annual General Meeting is happening on Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00pm in the Worship Centre (Downes Road Campus).
- Christmas Comedy Night: Laughing All The Way tickets are on sale now! Tickets can be purchased online at northview.org/comedy-night
- The East Abbotsford Campus is hosting our 2nd annual Neighbourhood Christmas Party! **Sunday, December 15th, 4:00-7:00pm**. There will be crafts for kids, snacks for all, a Christmas Light Tour (on our shuttle bus), and more! Invite your friends and neighbours!
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at northview.org to keep up to date on all events, courses, and ministries.

RESOURCES FOR ROMANS

Suggested Devotional / Personal Bible Study Resources:

Romans For You (Tim Keller): A 2 Volume set
www.thegoodbook.com/romans-for-you-set

Commentaries:

R.C. Sproul, *Romans: An Expositional Commentary*, 2009.

Douglas Moo,
The Letter to the Romans (New International Commentary on the New Testament, 2018).

Douglas Moo,
Romans (The NIV Application Commentary Book 6)

LEADER NOTES

Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:

Connection: 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

Content: 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

Commission: 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

Care: 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

Connection: 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

ROMANS SERMON SERIES

Our Fall Sermon Series in Romans is highly practical! In Romans 1-11 Paul provides a theological framework for the Christian Faith. Now, in the final section of this letter, he gives the church in Rome specific examples of how this faith should be lived out.

Benefits of this series: It will feel highly practical for all of your group members. Romans 12-16 will force them to reflect on how their faith impacts their everyday life.

Potential pitfalls of this series: It is easy to fall into moralism and legalism when we focus on what we should and should not do if we are Christians. Keep this in mind! The sermon discussion questions will aim to remind us of the gospel truths behind each command.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

Observation

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.

1. Read Romans 14:13-15:6.
2. How ought a stronger Christian relate to a weaker Christian?
 - *Not as a stumbling block (14:13, 20).*
 - *Bearing with them (15:1).*
 - *Pleasing and building them up (15:2).*
 - *Christ-like (15:3, 5).*
3. What is the danger of being a stumbling block/living in your Christian freedom?

Brother or sister is distressed and you are no longer acting in love, resulting in the destruction of the weaker Christian (14:15, 20); it can cause them to fall (14:21); it can cause them to be condemned (14:23).
4. What is the positive result of limiting your Christian freedom?
 - *Pleasing to God, human approval (14:18).*
 - *Mutual edification (14:19).*
 - *Glorify God with a united mind and voice (15:6).*
5. According to this text, when it comes to disputable matters what makes something clean or unclean?

If someone regards it as unclean, for them it is unclean (14:14).

Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. Read Matthew 18:6-9.

From Jesus' perspective, how serious is it to cause someone to stumble?

It is better to have a millstone cast upon one's neck than cause someone to stumble.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9 and Philippians 2:3-8.

How does Christ's example challenge us to live for the other?

Christ has claim upon all that is good and pleasing, yet does not consider it as gain for the sake of His people.

3. The church in Corinth was struggling with a similar issue. Read 1 Corinthians 8 (in its entirety).

In what ways is this text similar to that of Romans 14:13-15:6?

Weaker Christian consciences, not causing others to stumble, others being destroyed, not taking another's conscience seriously is sin.

Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. We live in a world obsessed with instant pleasure. Is it easier to prioritize your own pleasures or someone else's weakness? How can we work towards bearing with others over ourselves?

Various Answers

2. What are some ways that we might create stumbling blocks for our weaker brothers and sisters? In what ways might this destroy someone's faith?

Various Answers

3. What are some stumbling blocks that others might place before you? How can we deal with these issues?

Various Answers