

Small Group Outreach Project

Group Members:

What community needs or concerns have you discussed so far?

Are there any ministries or anyone presently reaching out to these areas of need?

How could your group contribute to the efforts to help?

Are there any needs that are not being met?

What kinds of things could your group possibly do to address unmet needs?

How do you expect God to direct your decisions as to what to do and what action to take?

***Commit to pray together as a group over the next 3-4 weeks. Ask God to direct your decisions as a team and to give you a plan of how he wants you to work.**

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Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 17, 2019

Romans 14

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to direct your study and discussion.

- I. The last section of the book of Romans deals with Christian relationships and service. Romans 14 tackles the difficult assignment of Christians loving one another even when they disagree. Read [Romans 14:1-4](#). What are “disputable matters” and how might they differ from the major Christian doctrines? Explain our human tendency to judge other’s faith by what they do or do not do. Why was eating meat contentious to eating only vegetables back in the Apostle Paul’s time? What about now?
- II. Read [Romans 14:5-12](#). Why would “sacred days” be an issue back then? Is it still contentious today? Does Paul solve the issue by taking one side or the other? What does he instruct them to do? Why is individual faith, the Lordship of Christ and personal accountability so important here?
- III. Next read [Romans 14:13-21](#). Rather than passing judgment on others, what are we as Christians instructed to do when we disagree on “disputable matters”? Name some modern themes or issues where Christians vary on their opinions. How should the “Law of Love” supersede all secondary beliefs, opinions and practices? How can we promote “peace and mutual edification” (v. 19) without surrendering our own personal convictions? Is there a hierarchy of importance in terms of beliefs and opinions? According to Paul, what’s most important here? How could we as Christians cause others to stumble today? Any examples? What’s the remedy?
- IV. Finish by reading [Romans 14:22-23](#). Why should we keep some of our opinions and personal beliefs private? How is sin defined in verse 23? Is doubting sinning?
- V. In conclusion, what would you say are the summarizing principles from chapter 14 for Christians who disagree on secondary issues? How can we better practice these at Bethel Gilead?

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