Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings

September 7 - September 13

(Based on Daily Readings for August 31 - September 6)

Icebreaker Question: If you could suddenly understand any language in the world (like at Pentecost), which one would you pick and why?

Weekly Review (Malachi 3, Acts 1-2, 7-9, 13)

Malachi 3 promises refinement, justice, and blessings for those who return to the Lord. Acts 1 shows Jesus' ascension and the promise of the Holy Spirit, while Acts 2 records Pentecost and the birth of the Church. Acts 7 recounts Stephen's bold speech and martyrdom. Acts 8–9 introduce Saul's persecution, Philip's evangelism, and Saul's dramatic conversion. Acts 13 marks the launch of Paul's missionary journeys, spreading the gospel to the Gentiles..

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

Read Acts 8:26-39

- 1. In Acts 8:26, Philip obeys the Spirit's unusual direction to a desert road. What helps you trust God when His instructions don't make sense?
- 2. The Ethiopian eunuch was reading Isaiah aloud when Philip approached (Acts 8:30). Have you ever had someone "show up" at just the right time in your faith journey?
- 3. How does Philip's approach in Acts 8:35 model effective personal evangelism? Compare with 1 Peter 3:15.
- 4. In Acts 8:36–37, the eunuch eagerly asks to be baptized. What does this tell us about readiness and the response to the gospel?
- 5. Philip vanishes after the baptism (Acts 8:39), yet the eunuch rejoices. What does that say about the source of true joy in spiritual life?

- 6. The eunuch didn't have all the answers but responded in faith. How can we encourage spiritual curiosity in our own conversations with others today?
- 7. Philip was sensitive to God's leading and used Scripture to point to Jesus. How might you be more open and prepared to do the same this week? (See Romans 10:14-15)

Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings

September 14 - September 20

(Based on Daily Readings for September 7 - September 13)

Icebreaker Question: Have you ever taken a trip even when people thought it was a bad idea? What happened?

Weekly Review (Acts 15-18, 21-23)

In Acts 15, the Jerusalem Council affirms salvation by grace for Gentiles. Acts 16–18 show Paul's second missionary journey, including conversions in Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, and Athens. Acts 21 recounts Paul's return to Jerusalem despite prophetic warnings. In Acts 22, Paul defends his faith with his testimony. Acts 23 shows him before the Sanhedrin, where God promises Paul he will testify in Rome.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

Read Acts 21:1-14

- Paul's friends repeatedly warned him about danger in Jerusalem (Acts 21:4, 10–12).
 How do you discern when warnings are godly wisdom versus distractions from God's calling?
- 2. In Acts 21:5, the believers prayed together on the beach before Paul left. How has praying with others helped you face a difficult situation?
- 3. The prophet Agabus acted out his warning with Paul's belt (Acts 21:11). How does God still use visual or dramatic means to get our attention today?
- 4. Paul refused to be swayed from his mission, saying, "I am ready...to die at Jerusalem" (Acts 21:13). What's one area where you need more boldness in your obedience?

- 5. In Acts 21:12–13, Paul's friends tried to change his mind out of love. How do we lovingly challenge or support someone when their calling involves risk?
- 6. The believers eventually said, "Let the will of the Lord be done" (Acts 21:14). When is that phrase comforting, and when is it challenging?
- 7. Compare Paul's response in Acts 21:13 with Jesus' determination in Luke 9:51. What does this teach us about staying faithful to God's purpose even when it's costly?

Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings

September 21 - September 27

(Based on Daily Readings for September 14 - September 20)

Icebreaker Question: What's a movie or show you loved and recommended, but someone else didn't like at all?

Weekly Review (Acts 23, 25-28, Romans 1-2)

In Acts 23, Paul faces the Sanhedrin, and Jesus assures him he will testify in Rome. Acts 25–26 show Paul on trial before Festus and King Agrippa, boldly sharing his testimony. Acts 27 recounts Paul's shipwreck on the way to Rome, and Acts 28 concludes with Paul under house arrest, still preaching. In Romans 1–2, Paul explains the power of the gospel, the reality of human sin, and God's impartial judgment for all.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

Read Acts 28:23-30

- 1. In Acts 28:23, Paul "expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God." What does it mean to you to "testify to the kingdom" in everyday life?
- 2. Paul used both the Law of Moses and the prophets (Acts 28:23). How can knowing different parts of Scripture help us share our faith more effectively?
- 3. Some believed Paul's message, and others rejected it (Acts 28:24). What helps you stay faithful in sharing Christ even when people don't respond?
- 4. Acts 28:26–27 quotes Isaiah 6:9–10. Why do you think people sometimes resist spiritual truth, even when it's clearly explained?
- 5. In Acts 28:28, Paul declares that salvation has been sent to the Gentiles. How does this verse connect to the global mission of our church today? (See Matthew 28:19)

- 6. Paul lived under house arrest but kept sharing the gospel "without hindrance" (Acts 28:30–31). What "limitations" do you face in sharing your faith, and how can God use them?
- 7. Compare Paul's attitude in Acts 28:31 with Romans 1:16. How does boldness in the gospel show up in your life at work, school, or home?

Discussion Guide for Small Group Meetings

September 28 - October 4

(Based on Daily Readings for September 21 - September 27)

Icebreaker Question: What's one snack you know you shouldn't eat late at night, but somehow ends up in your hand anyway?

Weekly Review (Romans 3-8, 12)

Romans 3 shows that all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, but Romans 4 celebrates justification by faith through Abraham. Romans 5 highlights peace with God through Jesus, while Romans 6 calls believers to die to sin. Romans 7 wrestles with inner conflict and sin's grip, but Romans 8 declares victory in the Spirit. Romans 12 urges living sacrifices and genuine love in community, marking a life transformed by God's mercy.

In your week's readings, what did you learn about God? What's one Bible passage or reflection thought that stood out to you?

Read Romans 7:13-25

- 1. In Romans 7:15, Paul says, "I do not understand my own actions." When have you felt like your actions didn't match your intentions, and what might that reveal about the human condition?
- 2. Romans 7:17–18 talks about sin dwelling within us. How can understanding sin's presence, even in believers, increase our dependence on grace and humility in our relationships?
- 3. Paul writes in Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing." Why do you think we sometimes repeat behaviors we regret? How might Galatians 5:16–17 shed light here?
- 4. What role does the law play in Paul's struggle in Romans 7:21–23? How does understanding the purpose of God's law help us grow rather than feel condemned?

- 5. In Romans 7:24, Paul cries out, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Why is it important to honestly confront our brokenness before celebrating God's grace?
- 6. Romans 7:25 declares that Jesus is the answer to Paul's internal battle. How can we remind ourselves daily of this truth when we feel stuck in cycles of failure?
- 7. How does this passage challenge the idea that Christians should have it all together? How can acknowledging struggle create more authentic Christian community (see James 5:16)?