

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Life Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

1) Share where you have seen Jesus working in your life over the past week. (Be specific - go beyond just saying "I see him in everything I do.")

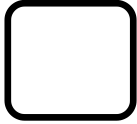
2) This week's message is about obedience. Think back to when you were 5 years old and share a story from that time that shows how you felt about obedience. Does that still accurately represent how you feel about obedience today?

3) Read Romans 13:1-7. Which do you personally find more difficult: a) offering obedience to challenging personalities in leadership or b) loving difficult personalities in your life?

4) Read 1 Samuel 24:1-13. What's your reaction to David's actions? Have you ever been in a situation where you chose to respect someone in authority even when they seemed to "have it out for you"?

5) Read Romans 13:8-10 and John 15:12. Events in 2020 so far have given us a lot of new reasons to disagree and become unloving. What's one current debate that frustrates you and how can you show love to someone who holds the opposing view in that issue?

6) Wrap up your time together in prayer for one specific person or issue that you would like God's help with regarding obedience or love.



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

Romans 13:1-10

+ In View of God's Mercy, Obey in Reverence +

Introduction: Ouch! Mixing religion and politics

I. Submit to the governing authorities.

A. The authorities that exist have been e_____ by God.

1. Old Testament example: the A_____ and B_____
2. New Testament example: P_____ P_____

B. God has a loving p_____ in establishing authority.

1. He wants the government to maintain p_____ and o_____ in society.
2. God wants to b_____ us through his representatives.
3. God knows our s_____ and how by nature we put o_____ first.
4. Injustice and corruption will not end until God brings the w_____ to an end.

C. More than changed b_____, God wants changed h_____.

II. Love your neighbor as yourself.

A. God sent Jesus so that we might live under a d_____ authority.

1. It's the power of sacrificial l_____ demonstrated on the cross.
2. "Christ's love compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14).
3. No more sneaking off to do our own thing when we think G_____ isn't looking.
4. We gladly pay the d_____ we owe.
5. It's the obligation that we in love carry out because God had m_____ on us.

B. We are citizens of God's kingdom ruled by a government that doesn't always look to G_____ for wisdom and guidance.

1. We're often f_____ and occasionally s_____ by decisions and decrees.
2. We're all in this t_____.
3. We know who's s_____ on his heavenly throne and have his p_____ to be with us.

Conclusion: We obey in reverence. We pay what we owe because we've experienced the freedom that God's forgiveness in Christ gives us.

My Next Steps

- **Read** Romans 14 to prepare for next week's message on *In View of God's Mercy Submit in Kindness*.
- **Memorize** 2 Corinthians 5:14 – "Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."
- **Pray** that the Lord would lead you to put the needs and concerns of others before your own, especially in this time of pandemic.