

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of January 25, 2026

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your holiday? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week we continued our teaching series in the book of Romans — *Where Grace Begins*. Pastor Jerry Gillis continues our study of Romans by addressing the inevitability of a coming judgment where God will reveal the secrets of every heart through Jesus Christ. The message outlined a "no-excuses" reality, emphasizing that there is no escape, no exception, and no entitlement for anyone, regardless of their moral standing or religious background. While believers are justified by grace through faith, judgment is rendered in accordance with works, which serve as the evidence of a transformed life. Pastor Jerry challenged us to recognize that God shows no partiality, calling for a sincere pursuit of righteousness rather than a reliance on outward religious identity.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. What did you find most compelling or challenging about the message this week? Share your thoughts with the group.
2. **Read Romans 2:1-2; Matthew 7:1-5**
These verses warn against the danger of judging others for the very things we practice ourselves. Why do you think it is so easy to point fingers at a spouse's or friend's shortcomings while remaining blind to our own? How does the gospel provide a remedy for this type of hypocrisy?
3. **Read Romans 2:3-5; 2 Peter 3:9**
In his message this week, Pastor Jerry highlighted that God's kindness, forbearance, and patience are intended to lead us to repentance. How have you seen God's kindness at work in your life recently? Have you ever been tempted to mistake His patience for approval of any type of sin?
4. **Read Romans 2:6-10; Matthew 16:27; Ephesians 2:8-10**
Pastor Jerry said we are "justified by grace through faith, but judged in accordance with our works." How does this statement challenge the misconception that our daily actions and obedience don't matter once we are saved? How should this motivate our pursuit of holy lives?

5. **Read Romans 2:11-16; Acts 10:34-35**

These verses state that God shows no partiality, meaning there are no entitlements based on our heritage or knowledge of the Law. Paul says it's "fundamental to the gospel" that we share the hope of Jesus with friends, relatives, co-workers, and classmates. Who in your life needs to hear about the mercy of God in Jesus, and what's one practical step you can take this week to share that hope?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: "Hey _____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?"

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):

RENEW WEEKEND | January 30 - February 1st!

As we come together for a time of worship, prayer, and powerful messages. We'll get to hear from Pastors Matt Chewning, Chris Causey, and Brian Bloye! You will not want to miss it! Visit westridge.com for more info.