

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of February 15, 2026

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? 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 through the book of Romans, *Where Grace Begins*. Pastor Brian taught through Romans 3:1-20. Here, Paul presents humanity in a courtroom where God is the Judge and everyone stands trial for sin. He addresses objections from those who believe their religious background or knowledge of Scripture exempts them from guilt, making clear that both Jews and Gentiles are equally under sin. Paul traces all human brokenness back to one root issue: there is no fear of God before their eyes—meaning humanity lacks reverence, awe, and awareness that God is holy and sovereign. Religious familiarity and moral knowledge cannot replace genuine repentance and full surrender to God, and grace is never meant to excuse sin but to lead us to transformation.

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 3:1-8**
Paul addresses the objection that God's grace might give us permission to sin. Have you ever caught yourself thinking "God will forgive me anyway" as a way to justify a choice? How does understanding grace properly change the way we approach sin?
3. **Read Romans 3:9**
Paul declares that "both Jews and Greeks are all under sin." How does this level the playing field between those with religious backgrounds and those without? Why is it important to recognize that no one has a spiritual advantage when it comes to guilt before God?
4. **Read Romans 3:18**
"There is no fear of God before their eyes" is identified as the root of all human sin. What does it mean to "fear God" in the biblical sense? How does a lack of reverence and awe toward God show up in our daily lives?

5. In his message, Pastor Brian said that "religious background and familiarity with Scripture are real advantages, but they do not provide forgiveness of sin." How can someone be close to church, Scripture, and holy things yet still be far from God? What's the difference between religious familiarity and genuine surrender?
6. Throughout Romans 3, Paul uses courtroom imagery where all humanity stands trial before God. If you were to honestly evaluate your own heart in God's courtroom, what would the evidence reveal? How does recognizing your own sinfulness (rather than comparing yourself to others) change your understanding of your need for a Savior?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

Prayer — How can we be praying for you? What are you excited about right now? What are you worried about?

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):