

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of February 8, 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 Nate Galloway taught Romans 2:17-29, where Paul confronts religious hypocrisy by addressing those who rely on external markers of faith — like following the Law and circumcision — while their hearts remain unchanged. Paul exposes three critical failures: misusing the Law as a source of pride rather than recognizing their need for salvation, misrepresenting God through hypocritical living that pushes others away, and misunderstanding that true fruitfulness comes from inward transformation, not outward religious practices. Paul emphasizes that salvation cannot be earned through religious activity but only through faith in Jesus Christ, which results in being "born again" by the Holy Spirit. Pastor Nate helped us remember that there is no one too bad to be saved and no one too good that they don't need saving—only Jesus can make us right with God.

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 2:28-29, 2 Timothy 3:5**
How have you seen people (or yourself) rely on external religious practices rather than genuine heart transformation?
3. **Read Romans 2:24, Matthew 5:16**
Paul warns that religious hypocrisy causes God's name to be blasphemed among unbelievers (v. 24). Can you think of examples where Christians' inconsistent lifestyles have damaged the witness of the Gospel, and how can we guard against this in our own lives?
4. **Read John 3:3-7, Ezekiel 36:26-27**
In John 3:3-7, Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be "born again." What does it mean to be born of the Spirit versus simply having religious knowledge or heritage?

5. Read Romans 2:29, Philippians 3:3-9

Paul states that "true circumcision is of the heart—by the Spirit, not the letter" (v. 29). What are some "external markers" Christians today might wrongly depend on for their salvation, and how does this differ from Spirit-led obedience?

6. Read Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16-17

In his message, Pastor Nate said that "there is no one so bad that they can't be saved, and no one so good that they don't need to be saved." How does this truth challenge both our view of ourselves and how we view others who seem far from God?

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):