

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of August 16, 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 in the book of Romans (Romans 10:1-13). Pastor Brian taught that God's righteousness is a gift to be received through faith rather than a reward to be earned through human effort. Even sincere religious zeal is insufficient if it is not based on the knowledge of Christ, who is the fulfillment of the law for all who believe. Instead of requiring an impossible task to reach God, the gospel reveals that God has brought salvation near to us through the finished work of Jesus' death and resurrection. Salvation is available to everyone without exception, requiring only a heart that believes and a mouth that confesses Jesus as Lord.

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 10:2**
In these verses, the Apostle Paul speaks of people having "zeal for God, but not according to knowledge." How can we distinguish between sincere religious effort and a true relationship with God based on His righteousness?
3. **Read Romans 10:3-4**
Dallas Willard said, "Grace is not opposed to effort. It is opposed to earning." Based these verses, what is the danger of trying to "establish our own righteousness" rather than submitting to God's?
4. **Read Romans 10:6-8**
These verses use imagery from Deuteronomy to show that we don't have to go to heaven or the abyss to find Christ because He has already come to us. How does the truth that the gospel is "near you" change your perspective on how we "find" or "reach" God?
5. In his message this week, Pastor Brian said, "The gospel is not an impossible assignment God has given us to complete; it is an accomplished work He invites us to believe." How does understanding the gospel as an "accomplished work" rather than an "impossible assignment" change the way you approach your relationship with God and your understanding of what He requires from you?

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):