

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of August 9, 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. Pastor Brian taught from Romans 9:14-33 addressing the question of God's fairness by exploring how His sovereignty and human responsibility work together. God is always just in His actions, showing mercy to both Jews and Gentiles according to His purposes, while still holding people accountable for their choices. The Apostle Paul illustrates that righteousness comes not through human achievement or religious effort, but through faith in Jesus Christ — receiving what He has accomplished rather than trying to earn God's favor. Pastor Brian concluded by reminding us that God's track record throughout all of Scripture shows He keeps every promise and extends mercy even to those we might consider beyond hope.

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 9:30-32**
Pastor Brian stated, "Religion says, 'Achieve.' The gospel says, 'Receive.'" How does this distinction challenge the way you've approached your relationship with God? In what areas of your spiritual life might you still be trying to "achieve" rather than "receive"?
3. The Apostle Paul warns that "you can be sincere and still trust the wrong thing" and that "religious activity can bring you close to the things of God without ever bringing you to the point of trusting God." What's the difference between religious activity and genuine faith in Jesus? How can you evaluate whether you're trusting in what you've done rather than what Jesus has done?
4. **Read Romans 2:4; 9:22-24**
In his message, Pastor Brian reminded us that "God's kindness and restraint are meant to lead people to repentance" and encouraged us to "be slow to decide anyone is beyond God's mercy." Who in your life seems far from God right now? How does Paul's transformation from persecutor to apostle give you hope for them?

5. Read Romans 9:19-21

The message this week addressed the tension between God's sovereignty and human responsibility, noting there's "a difference between bringing God an honest question and putting Him in the defendant's chair." What honest questions do you have about God's fairness or how He works? How can we hold those questions while still trusting His character?

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):