



# ARMED

A STUDY THROUGH ROMANS

## Group Discussion Guide

Part Two



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# Armed: Part Two

## Group Discussion Guide

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### Series Overview

Paul's letter to the Romans contains a complete description of the Gospel of Christ and its implications. It explains:

- Why we need the gospel (sin)
- The only hope for humanity (Jesus)
- How the Gospel gives us freedom and victory over our flesh (liberty in Christ)
- The role of Israel during the church age and end times
- How the Gospel affects Christians' relationships with everyone around them (the love of the Gospel)

### Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Armed**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

# 6-In the Spirit, We Can Live in Victory

Scripture: [Romans 8](#)

## Icebreaker: Family Resemblance

Who do you resemble in your family? In what ways do you resemble those family members (appearance, temperament, behavior, interests, etc.)?

## Discussion Questions

- Where you choose to set your mind makes the difference between life and death ([Rom 8:5-6](#)). What are some practical things you could do each day to set your mind on Jesus?
- What is the requirement for being “in the Spirit” ([Rom 8:9-10](#))?
- Discuss what it means to be a member of God’s family ([Rom 8:14-17](#)). In what ways would others say they see your family resemblance to Jesus?
- Sometimes, we are in so much distress that we don’t even know what to pray. In what way does Paul reassure Christ-followers who may be having that experience ([Rom 8:26-28](#))?
- Discuss how [Romans 8:31-39](#) reassures those who are Christ-followers that their place in God’s family is permanent ([Eph 1:12-14](#)).

## Dig a Little Deeper: Two Ways of Relating to God

Consider the comparison of relating to God through trying to keep the Law versus yielding yourself to Jesus.

| Romans 7  | Romans 8  |
|---|---|
| I struggle to keep the Law.   | I yield myself to Jesus.  |
| Self effort   | Enablement  |
| Law of sin in the flesh fights law of the mind.                             | Law of sin in the flesh fights Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.          |
| Outcome = I serve sin   | Outcome = The requirements of the Law are fulfilled in me               |
| Relate to God impersonally through rules: Law (20 times), I (22), I do (14) | Relate to God personally through faith: Law (4 times), Holy Spirit (20) |

### Application Exercise: Are You Walking in the Spirit?

If the Spirit is winning the battle against the flesh, you will notice more fruit of the Spirit in your life ([Gal 5:22-23](#)). Compared to six months ago, do you see more of or less of these in your life?

|               |                               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Love          | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Joy           | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Peace         | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Longsuffering | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Kindness      | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Goodness      | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Faithfulness  | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Gentleness    | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |
| Self-control  | <input type="checkbox"/> more | <input type="checkbox"/> less |

# 7-God's Sovereignty, Man's Freewill in Salvation

Scripture: [Romans 9-10](#)

## Icebreaker: Choose to Follow

Discuss people you have chosen to follow at different points in your life and why you chose to follow them. What regrets, if any, do you have for choosing to follow those people.

## Discussion Questions

- Who are the true descendants of Abraham and why ([Rom 9:6-8](#))?
  
- Discuss Paul's reasoning that God is fair in choosing some people and not others ([Rom 9:14-18](#), [Exo 9:16](#), [Hos 2:23](#)).
  
- When we don't fully understand what God does, what is our best response ([Rom 9:19-24](#), [Mal 1:2-3](#))?
  
- What is required for salvation ([Rom 10:9-13](#))?
  - ▶ What is the difference between believing that Jesus exists and asking Him to be the Ruler of your life ([Mat 7:21-23](#))?
  - ▶ What is the difference between believing that Jesus exists and knowing in your heart that He is God, that He died for your sins, and that He is risen ([Rom 9:32-33](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Which Righteousness?

| <i>Law Righteousness</i> | <i>Faith Righteousness</i>   |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Based on works, outward  | Based on faith alone, inward |
| Self-centered            | Christ-centered              |
| Cannot save              | Brings salvation             |
| Obey the rules           | Call on the Ruler            |
| Leads to pride           | Glorifies God                |

Find Bible verses that help you understand the contrast between law righteousness and faith righteousness.

### Application Exercise

Think about the ways that your life reflects your relationship with Christ. Is there anything God wants you to adjust?

- What are your thoughts when you first awaken each morning?
- When you think about your prayer life, is it mostly asking Him for things; a balance of thanks, praise, and requests; or nonexistent?
- Is Bible reading an obligation or a joy?
- How closely do your thoughts match your behaviors?
- How closely do your thoughts and behaviors line up with God's will for your life?
- How do you react when you know you've displeased Christ?

# 8-Jews, Gentiles, and the Future

Scripture: [Romans 11](#)

## Icebreaker: It's a Mystery to Me

Make a list of things that are mysterious to you.

## Discussion Questions

- Discuss the picture of Jesus as the true vine and believers as the branches ([John 15:1-6](#)). What do you find reassuring about this picture? Do any aspects of it trouble you?
- Why is it dangerous to reject or ridicule the Jewish origins of our faith ([Rom 11:17-23](#), [John 4:22](#))?
- Using the definition of mystery in the box, discuss the mystery that Paul describes in [Romans 11:25](#) ([Eph 3:3-6](#)).
- From the description of God's wisdom in [Romans 11:33-36](#), discuss:
  - ▶ Why we must remain dependent on God
  - ▶ Why we have no right to assume God's role as judge ([Isa 40:13](#))
  - ▶ Why there's nothing He needs from us ([Job 41:11](#))
  - ▶ Why He offered Christ's sacrifice

*Mystery = a truth that is unknown apart from God's revelation*



## Dig a Little Deeper: Appreciating Jews and Gentiles

What do the following verses say about God's plan for Jews and Gentiles?

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>Gen 12:1-3</b>      |
| <b>Rom 11:23-25</b>    |
| <b>Zech 12:10-13:1</b> |
| <b>Rom 10:19-21</b>    |
| <b>Isa 11:10-11</b>    |

### Application Exercise: My Part

In prayer, let God know that you cannot fully know His mind. Tell Him what amazes you about the mystery of the Jews, Gentiles, and Church. Let Him know that you are pleased to be a part of His plans. Ask Him to help you keep things in perspective with a focus on eternal things.

# 9-Christ Changes Your Relationship with People

Scripture: [Romans 12](#)

## Icebreaker: The Mask

Give each person a piece of paper that is blank on both sides. Provide pencils or crayons. Ask each person to draw a 2-sided mask. On one side is how you see yourself. On the other side is how you think God sees you (based on what you've seen in the Bible so far). The "drawings" can be simply a list of words, faces, or an assortment of images. Ask each person to tell the group about both sides of their mask.

## Discussion Questions

- Why do you obey God ([Rom 12:1-2](#))? What is your responsibility for worship and personal transformation?
- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts ([1Cor 12:12-13](#), [Eph 4:4](#), [Col 3:15](#), [Rom 12:3-8](#))? What can we do to encourage one another to use our spiritual gifts as God intends?
- What does it mean to behave like a Christian ([Rom 12:9-21](#))?
- What is the difference between sharing "in the offense of the cross" and being an offensive Christian ([Gal 5:10-11](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Dedicated

Reflect on what the following verses say about being dedicated to God with your body and mind.

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| <b>Rom 12:1, Php 1:20-21</b> | Body |
| <b>Rom 12:2, Eph 4:17-24</b> | Mind |

### Application Exercise

If you have not taken a spiritual gifts survey, take the online survey at: <http://gracesurvey.com>

If you are unsure what ministry opportunities might match your spiritual gifts, here are some suggestions.

- Discuss it with your group. There may be someone in your group with similar gifts who you can serve alongside.
- Browse our church website for ministry opportunities.
- Take the Next Step class at 11 am on Sunday.

# 10-Christ Changes Your Relationship with Society

Scripture: **Romans 13**

## Icebreaker: Society

What do you like and dislike about living in our society?

## Discussion Questions

- What are the reasons Paul gives for submitting to government [**Rom 13:1-4, 1Pet 2:13-15**]?
  
- Discuss what the following verses say about opposing government and how this applies in our culture.
  - ▶ **Romans 13:7**
  - ▶ **Daniel 2:21**
  - ▶ **Exodus 1:17**
  - ▶ **Daniel 3:16-18**
  - ▶ **Acts 5:29**
  - ▶ **Luke 20:19-26**
  
- In what way is love the fulfillment of the Law [**Rom 13:8-10**]?
  
- What things could you change in your behavior to live out the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself [**Rom 13:8-14**]?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Wake Up, Clean Up, Grow Up

As Christ-followers, we want Him to find us faithful when He returns. “Paul advises us to wake up, clean up, and grow up.”  
(Wiersbe, Warren “*The Exposition Commentary*”)

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Wake Up  | <b>Rom 13:11, 1The 5:1-11, Mat 25:1-13</b> |
| Clean Up | <b>Rom 13:12-13, 1John 2:28-3:3</b>        |
| Grow Up  | <b>Rom 13:14, 1Tim 4:13-16</b>             |

### Application Exercise: Room for Improvement

Of the topics in **Romans 13**, which one has the biggest room for improvement in your life right now? What is your next step to align your life with what God’s Word says?

# 11-Christ Changes Your Relationship with Christians

Scripture: [Romans 14](#)

## Icebreaker: The Stumble

Share stories of when you or someone you know has had an embarrassing stumble.

## Discussion Questions

- Where do you draw the line in trying to please everyone? How do you set appropriate boundaries ([Rom 14:4](#), [Mat 7:12](#))?
  
- How can we tell the difference between essential matters and nonessential matters?
  - ▶ What is essential for salvation?
  - ▶ What is essential for Christian living?
  
- Have you ever seen a person's freedom become a stumbling block to someone else? If so, what lesson did you take from the example ([Rom 14:13](#), [Gal 5:13-16](#))?
  
- In what way are you willing to modify your liberty to prevent others from stumbling ([Rom 14:12-23](#))?

*In essentials, unity;  
in nonessentials, liberty;  
in all things, charity.  
-St. Augustine*

## Dig a Little Deeper: Together

Study the following passages about God's plan for your relationships with other Christians.

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Rom 12:5, 1Cor 12:1-27</b>           | Use our gifts to serve together |
| <b>1The 5:17-18, Acts 12:12</b>         | Pray together                   |
| <b>Eph 5:19, Col 3:16</b>               | Worship together                |
| <b>Heb 10:25, Acts 2:46</b>             | Meet together                   |
| <b>2Cor 8:4, Heb 13:16</b>              | Do good together                |
| <b>Rom 15:1-2, Gal 6:1-2, Rom 12:15</b> | Strengthen one another          |

### Application Exercise: They Bug Me

Make a list of people who irritate you. Is there a common theme? Are there certain traits they have in common? Pray, asking God to help you see these people as He sees them. Focus on asking God to help you be more loving rather than asking Him to change people to meet your preferences.

# 12-Christ Changes Your Relationship with Everyone

Scripture: [Romans 15-16](#)

## Icebreaker: My Last Week

If you knew you had one remaining week to live, how would you spend your time?

## Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to accept people who are different from you on non-essential matters ([Rom 15:1-13](#), [Eph 2:18-22](#))?
  
- What can you do to challenge yourself and others to grow spiritually ([Rom 15:14-17](#), [2Cor 3:18](#))?
  
- What are two key ways to be a part of God's plan for outreach?
  - ▶ [Romans 15:26-27](#)
  - ▶ [Romans 15:30-33](#)
  
- What reputation would you like for Grace Church to have ([Rom 16:19](#))? What can you do to make that a reality?
  
- What is the ultimate goal of the gospel of Jesus Christ ([Rom 16:26-27](#))?



## Dig a Little Deeper: To God Be the Glory

Write a letter, poem, or song of praise to God based on these verses.

- **Romans 11:33-36**
- **Jude 1:24-25**
- **Isaiah 6:3**
- **Psalms 19:1**
- **Hebrews 13:20-21**
- **1Thessalonians 3:11-13**
- **2Thessalonians 2:16-17**
- **1Corinthians 15:58**
- **2Corinthians 9:8**

### Application Exercise: Greet Them in the Lord

Make a list of people you want to greet in the Lord.

|  |
|--|
| Those who minister to others and serve the Lord. |
| Those who have encouraged you.                   |
| Those who are good examples to you.              |
| Other?   |

Make a plan for how to greet them to let them know you appreciate them.







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