

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Righteousness of God

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## **Memory Verse:** Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.*

**Big Idea:** The righteousness that God requires is a righteousness received by faith, not works.

## **Read Romans 1:8-17**

1. Paul begins his letter by thanking God for the Roman believers before addressing any instruction or correction (v 8). In your own experience, how does hearing what you're doing well affect your openness to growth or change? What risks do leaders take when they skip affirmation and move straight to critique, even if the critique is accurate?
2. There is something special about the Christians in Rome that is being reported all over the world (v 8). This body of believers is making a difference. What kinds of behaviors or attitudes tend to make faith noticeable rather than hidden? What would it look like for your faith to be "reported" through the way you live, not just what you believe?
3. Paul, who is an apostle, expects to be encouraged by the believers in Rome (v 11-12). If even the apostle Paul needed encouragement from others, what does that say about the importance of Christian community? In what ways does isolation feel safer, but ultimately less life-giving, than relational growth?



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4. Paul mentions that he has often intended to come to Rome but has been prevented from doing so (v 13). How do you personally handle it when a "good" or "God-honoring" desire in your life is met with a closed door or a delay? Does a "closed door" make you feel like you've failed or that God is displeased with you? How does Paul's experience help you realize that a delay can be part of a perfectly obedient walk with God?
5. Paul describes himself as being "under obligation" or a "debtor" to all people (v 14). Usually, we think of debt as something we owe because we took something; Paul feels he owes the world because of what he has been given. How does viewing the gospel as a gift we owe others change the way we look at people who are far from God? How might this perspective soften our tone, increase our patience, or deepen our compassion toward those who disagree with us?
6. Paul boldly declares that he is not ashamed of the gospel (v 16). Do you have any spaces where you keep your faith to yourself? What is it about those spaces that causes you to feel shame or fear? What helps move someone from private belief to public confidence?
7. The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes (v 16). God uses ordinary people to carry an extraordinary message of power. What is one small, faithful step you could take this week to help make the gospel visible, accessible, or heard by someone else? How would your approach to conversations, invitations, or acts of service change if your role was simply to carry the gospel and trust God with the results?
8. The phrase "the righteous shall live by faith" (v 17) suggests an ongoing way of life. What fears, habits, or control strategies tend to surface when God invites you to trust Him more deeply? How do comfort, predictability, or self-reliance subtly compete with faith in your life?



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