

# Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The State of Humanity

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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:** Humanity is R.U.S.T.E.D out. We are totally depraved and utterly helpless apart from God.

## **Read Romans 3:1-20**

1. The Jewish people were entrusted with the words of God, which meant they didn't have to guess what God was like or what He required (vv 1-2). How has Scripture been like a "lamp unto your feet"? What is your current rhythm of connecting with God's Word? Are you satisfied with your engagement with Scripture? If not, where would you like to be?
2. Our unfaithfulness to God does not impact His faithfulness to us (vv 3-4). When we regularly fall short of meeting God's perfect standard, how can we express our appreciation to God for His faithfulness? How can we model God's faithfulness in other relationships, such as parenting, with a spouse, or with co-workers?
3. When confronted with sin or failure, it's tempting to rationalize and make excuses for our behavior rather than repent (vv 7-8). Why do you think self-justification is so appealing, especially when our identity or reputation feels at stake? What helps create a relational environment where confession



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feels safer than defensiveness?

4. Noone is righteous on their own accord. All humanity is under sin (vv 9-10). Do you regularly view yourself through rose-colored glasses? Why do you think our natural inclination is to hide character blemishes? How do you think your close relationships would change if you led from a place of common struggle rather than projecting perfection?
5. Paul describes humanity's natural tendency to turn away from God and pursue self-directed paths rather than seeking Him (vv 11-12). Drift rarely happens suddenly. Most spiritual distance develops gradually. What are some signs that your heart might be drifting from God? What pressures or distractions most often pull your focus away from seeking Him? Who or what helps re-orient your heart when you notice that drift beginning?
6. Paul calls attention to how destructive speech can flow from the heart (vv 13-14). Our words often expose what is happening beneath the surface. When you're stressed or frustrated, how do your words tend to change? What do your patterns of speech reveal about what's going on in your heart right now? How can we become more aware of the impact our words have on the people closest to us?
7. Paul identifies not having a fear of God as the root cause for the previously mentioned behaviors (v 18). In this context, "fear" isn't terror; it's a profound reverence and awareness that we are accountable to God. How does losing a sense of "awe" or reverence for God make you more prone to selfishness? If God were not in your life, who or what do you think would be the highest authority in your daily decision-making? (e.g., your ego, your bank account, public opinion?) What does it look like in your life to fear God?
8. The Law was never meant to be a means to achieve salvation, but rather a mirror to show us our need for God (vv 19-20). How has Scripture been like a spotlight in your heart that illuminates sin? How does making salvation works-based remove the need for Christ? What should be the role of "works" in a believer's life?



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