

**“HOW TO BE STRONG”****SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS****DATE: NOV 13, 2022****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:****ROMANS 14:13-18**

This week, our series continues with a deep dive into a crucial five-verse passage that is dense and challenging. We look at how one can be strong in faith. There are practical considerations for how Christians of strong, and weaker, faith are supposed to live with their brothers and sisters in ways consistent with God's Kingdom.

This installment looks at the responsibilities and the joys of walking alongside Jesus as one strong in faith. The message also encourages those who are strong to seek the highest good for their weaker siblings.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What are some of the things that you most look forward to, with the approaching holidays?
2. How does participating in the practice of Christian baptism encourage you, in your walk with Christ?
3. Share some new thoughts regarding strength and weakness, gleaned from Romans 14, as a whole.
4. Share any new insights you have regarding the importance of or the motivation for pursuing unity in the body of Christ.

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What command(s) does the apostle Paul express to his readers? (14:13)
2. What is Paul fully persuaded of regarding disputable matters (food), in the Lord Jesus? (14:14)
3. What importance does Paul place on acting in love relative to exercising personal freedom?(14:17)
4. What are the essentials regarding the kingdom of God, according to Paul? (14:18)
5. What rewards are there for prioritizing the well-being of others who are weak(er)? (14:18)?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What are some disputable matters that disrupt, divide, even destroy relationships?
2. In our culture, where do you see a focus on love and unity? How does what you observe compare to Paul's commands?
3. What's an example from your world of Brad's distinction between length of faith versus strength of faith?
4. How do maturity (or lack of it) related to judging others? What's an example of this relationship that you've observed?
5. How is the kingdom of God- characterized by righteousness, peace and joy- utterly unique and counter culture? What in our culture seeks to imitate these Kingdom qualities?

## CONTINUED:

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. Think of a time when you were judged by another believer, perhaps even one regarded as stronger. What did that feel like?
2. When have you insisted upon your preference or viewpoint in debatable matters? How you could have instead chosen to yield and to put another first? How do you feel about that, now?
3. In light of Paul's instruction, would you say the strength of your faith is proportionate to the length of your faith?
4. What potential for application of Paul's teaching is there in your family and church life?
5. Would you say your life and your relationships are increasingly characterized by righteousness, peace and joy? Why or why not?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Spend time in prayer, releasing any wounds to God that have resulted from being judged harshly by other believers.
2. Consider the week ahead, and decide how to serve Christ by showing preference to others.