



Romans:
A Life of
Faith

“BEAR WITH AND BUILD UP”

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER

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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 14:19, 15:1-6

Echoing Jesus' teaching, the Apostle Paul instructs us to go beyond bearing with one another's weaknesses and actively seek to build one another up. Pastor Alex offers us some practical advice throughout this encouraging message, beginning with: be formed by the Scriptures even as Jesus was.

In the course of our spiritual formation, we lean into humility, one of the defining characteristics of the Creator God revealed in Jesus. Finally, Alex points us to the Holy Spirit who is ever present to strengthen and guide us through the building (up) process.

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. Many will celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday this week. Who or what are you thankful for?
2. Which challenge you more, commands related to Christian freedom or to Christian unity?
3. What was thought-provoking to you regarding the necessity of boundaries in Christian life?
4. How was the distinction drawn between combat (optional) and conflict (inevitable) helpful?

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. Do you consider yourself strong or weak? (15:1)
2. What is the responsibility of the strong to the weak, despite their failings? (15:1-2)
3. What example has Christ set for believers, regarding pleasing themselves? (15:3)
4. According to Paul, why is Scripture, written so long ago, still so relevant? (15:4)
5. Reread the text, noting specific words that are repeated, in this passage. (15:1-6)

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

1. How does pleasing our neighbors differ from people-pleasing? Explain.
2. How would you describe people who live to please themselves?
3. Does the culture in which you live admire and/or reward those who live for themselves? If so, in what way(s)?
4. Does Christ's example stand in contrast to the prevailing mindset? If so, how? (15:3; Ps. 69:9)
5. How does a spirit of unity (one mind/one voice), differ from uniformity in all things?

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. Did you expect Christians/church people to be easy-or at least easier- to get along with? Be honest and share why!

CONTINUED:

2. What is your personal practice, when confronted/frustrated with the failings of others?
3. When if ever, have you experienced God's provision of endurance and encouragement, in a tough relationship? What ultimately resulted?
4. List some occasions when you were grateful for the forbearance of others, towards you.
5. How do you feel, knowing that in choosing to follow Christ's example, God is glorified in and through your life?

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. Thank God for specific times others chose to bear with you and to build you up.
2. Ask God to increase your "frustration threshold", regarding others in your midst.