



Week Five

Romans 14:1-18 "What If We Disagree?"

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Leader's Notes have been included to help in your preparation. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all.

To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

ICEBREAKER OPTIONS

1. What's a lighthearted or funny debate you've had with someone (e.g., pineapple on pizza, favorite sports teams, Coke vs. Pepsi)?
2. Growing up, what were some "rules" in your household that might seem odd to others?

1 Christians Can Disagree on Debatable Issues

Key Scripture:

"Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters."

– Romans 14:1

Discuss:

- What are some examples of "gray areas" in the Christian life where believers might disagree?
- Why do you think it's so easy to let personal convictions cause division?
- How can remembering the essentials of the faith help us stay united despite differences?

Leader's Note:

Paul reminds us that not every issue is a matter of salvation or obedience to God's clear commands. Some things fall into the category of personal conviction. In these areas, we must extend grace and resist dividing over preferences.

2 Build Your Convictions with a Clear Conscience

Key Scripture:

"Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind." – Romans 14:5

Discuss:

- How have your personal convictions developed or changed over time?
- Can you think of a situation where your conscience led you to avoid something another Christian felt free to do?
- What role does Scripture play in shaping our convictions versus cultural or personal preferences?

Leader's Note:

Convictions are good and necessary, but they must be rooted in God's Word and followed with integrity. Acting against your conscience leads to sin, even if another believer might have freedom in that same area.

3 Stop Judging Christians as If They Report to You

Key Scripture:

"Who are you to judge another's household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls."
– Romans 14:4

Discuss:

- Why is it so tempting to judge others whose convictions differ from ours?
- How can recognizing that "God is their Master, not me" change the way we view other believers?
- What practical ways can we show grace to people we disagree with in the church?

Leader's Note:

Each believer ultimately answers to Christ, not to us. When we judge others harshly over non-essential issues, we act as though they must meet our standards instead of God's.

4 Don't Be a Stumbling Block to Others

Key Scripture:

"Therefore, let us no longer judge one another. Instead decide never to put a stumbling block or pitfall in the way of your brother or sister." – Romans 14:13

Discuss:

- How do you balance exercising personal freedom with considering others' consciences?
- What might it look like in your daily life to set aside a personal right for the sake of someone else's spiritual good?
- Why is "building up others" more important than proving yourself right?

Leader's Note:

Christian freedom is real, but love limits liberty. If exercising your freedom could harm someone's faith, it's better to lay it aside out of love for them. Our goal is not to win arguments but to win people.

+ PRAY +

Spend time praying for unity in your group and church family. Ask God to help each person honor their conscience, extend grace to others, and live in ways that build up the body of Christ. Pray for wisdom in navigating disagreements with love and humility.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Grace is one of the most powerful gifts we can give.
Grace builds strong small groups and strong relationships.



The Challenge

• Small Group Conversation:

In your group this week, talk honestly about what it means to give grace to others—especially when you disagree.

• Forgive and Release:

Ask God to show you if there's anyone you need to forgive or seek forgiveness from—and take a step toward healing.



Upcoming Events to keep on your group's radar:

Forged: Men's Event - Sept. 27 | IMPACT Missions Conference - Nov. 5-9 | Illuminate - Dec. 1-4