Kindness Leads to Repentance
Romans 2:1-6 October 25, 2026

I. Opening Prayer
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage your group with today

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-40 minutes)
- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you from the sermon and scriptures.
- Don't rush. It's not intended that you get through everything. Spend time in what speaks best to your group today, but keep it on track with the scripture you are reading.
- If needed, there are insights and possible questions provided to help generate discussion.
- Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off the topic. If someone begins to stray, ask "How does this scripture / topic apply?".

The Idolatry of Morality
Read: Romans 2:1-6, Luke 18:9-11

The same root idolatry that wrecks the world in Romans 1, can wreck the church in Romans 2, when we idolize self-righteous morality. It's easy to look at the blatant sins of others and pass judgment, when moralizers are guilty of the same root sin: idolatry. This idolatry compares oneself to the righteousness of those next to us, rather than the righteousness of God above us. This hypocritical condemnation results in two tragic errors, 1) separation from the very people we are called to reach and be reconciled with, and 2) storing up a heavy collection of grudges and unexpressed wrath that weighs down the heart. True transformation occurs when we look at the mirror of scripture and see our own sin of condemnation, and commit to God's solution for reconciliation: repentance.

- Why is it so much easier to use scripture as a magnifying glass to look at the sins of others rather than a mirror to look at our own?
- The Pharisee in Luke 18, prays and compares his good deeds to the sins of the tax collector. How does a focus on our own morality cause us to separate from the people God has called us to reach?
- The 'backpack illustration' describes carrying around a heavy load of diapers; heaping up offense, bitterness, and judgment toward others. What does a daily practice of 'dumping the backpack' through repentance and forgiveness look like?
- Why is it that 'kindness leads us to repentance'? How have you experienced that?

Kindness leads to repentance
Read: Matthew 7:1-5, 5:23-24, Colossians 3:13, Galatians 6:1, Matthew 18:15-20, John 17:22-23

The goal of righteous judgment (suspending our critical heart of condemnation but not the critical thinking of discernment) is to win unity within His church through repentance. Scripture

instructs us that our judgment should never be about condemnation, but rather repentance through discernment, deep humility, truth spoken in love, and gentle restoration to win unity. This process begins with an inward examination of our own "log" through humble confession and repentance, releasing offenses and condemnation, and extending radical forgiveness. Only after we have set our heart in this posture are we capable of pursuing repentance through the kind, humble, private 'splinter removal' of gently restoring someone caught in sin. The goal of this essential activity within discipleship is always to win back our brother or sister and live out Jesus' high prayer for complete unity within His church.

- What practical habits can help ensure we are actively removing the log from our own eye, before we look at someone's splinter?
- Why is it impossible for us to remove someone's splinter, if we have not prioritized confessing and repenting to others for our own unresolved conflicts and faults?
- What does it look like to "make allowance" for the offenses or mistakes of others, rather than treating every irritation as a sin?
- How might we know that we have removed our own log such that we are ready to consider splinter removal in another?
- Why is gentleness essential for removing a spiritual splinter? What happens when people are met with harshness rather than kindness? How does privacy play into this?
- Jesus prayed deeply that we would be perfected in unity. How does His priority of unity change our tone when it comes to judging, or approaching someone to win them?
- Matthew 5:20 shows that Jesus is uniquely present when two or three gathers to build unity. How does knowing He is actively involved in striving for unity motivate us to practice kind, biblical judgment to win repentance? Why is this essential for the health of His church?
- What is a diaper you need to dump? What is an offense you need to forgive? Who is someone you need to humbly go to in kindness and win?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing
- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing "Please pray for my friend's cancer journey", include personal prayer: "Please pray as I'm struggling with my friend's cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season".

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.