Discussion Guide

Judging is Hypocrisy
Romans 2:14-24 | November 15, 2026

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group learn and hear what He would teach and encourage

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20-40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.

Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off the topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask "How does this scripture apply to this?".

Read: Romans 2:14–24, Matt 23:27-28, 1 Tim 4:2

Romans 2 confronts a subtle but dangerous sin: judging others while excusing ourselves. It is easy to identify the sins of "bad" people, but far more difficult to recognize the pride, self-righteousness, and judgmentalism in our own hearts. When we place others under a system of performance and condemnation, we place ourselves under that same standard. The problem is that none of us can perfectly keep God's law.

God has written aspects of His moral law on every human heart through the conscience. While our consciences can be corrupted, they still testify that right and wrong exist and that we are accountable to God. Ultimately, God will judge both our actions and the hidden motives of our hearts. This means no one can claim ignorance or innocence before Him.

The good news is that Christianity is not a claim of perfection but a confession of imperfection. The hypocrite says, "Look at how much better I am than others." The Christian says, "I need God's grace as much as anyone." Paul's warning is not simply against hypocrisy but against the hard, unrepentant heart that finds comfort in condemning others instead of responding to God's kindness with humility and repentance. God's kindness is intended to lead us to repentance, not self-righteousness.

- Paul says that when we judge others, we condemn ourselves. What does he mean by that?
- How does our culture encourage judgmental attitudes? Where do you see this most often?
- The sermon described judging as introducing a "performance system." How does this help us understand why judgmentalism and self-righteousness are so dangerous?
- When are you most tempted to feel morally superior to someone else?
- Why is hypocrisy especially damaging to the Church's witness?
- How can admitting mistakes, apologizing, and repenting strengthen rather than weaken our Christian witness?
- The sermon says, "Claiming to be a Christian is not a claim of perfection but a claim of humble repentance and belief in grace." How does that statement challenge common misconceptions about Christianity?
- How does remembering your own need for grace help you show grace to others?

- What is one area where God may be calling you to repentance rather than criticism of others?

The heart of Romans 2 is not simply "Don't judge." It is "Remember that you need grace too." Every person stands guilty before God's perfect standard, and every person needs the mercy of Christ. The more we understand our own need for forgiveness, the less likely we are to elevate ourselves above others and the more eager we become to extend the same grace God has shown us.

Suggested Prayer Prompts:

- Ask God to reveal areas of pride, self-righteousness, or hypocrisy in your life.
- Thank God for His kindness, patience, and grace through Jesus Christ.
- Pray for opportunities to love people with truth and compassion rather than condemnation.

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.