FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ASHLAND



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

Weekly Questions:
- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Romans: Grace Is Greater
Romans 14

Read Romans 14. What sticks out to you? What do you learn about God? What did you like about this story? Did you find anything hard to understand or problematic?

What, So What, Now What? In Romans 14, Paul addresses a diverse church—made up of Jews, Gentiles, and Roman household slaves—who are struggling to live together amid deeply held differences over food, sacred days, and cultural practices. Because God's mercy never runs out and every believer belongs to the Lord, maturity in Christ is measured not by winning arguments over disputable matters, but by practicing unity without uniformity.

- **Members of God's Household (14:1-4):** None of us are the master of the house; we are fellow servants who belong to Christ, and God has already accepted those whose convictions differ from ours. Where are you tempted to use your own preferences or convictions as the litmus test for someone else's faith?
- **A Common Root to Honor God (14:5-9):** Whether believers observe sacred days or treat every day alike, eat everything or abstain, both groups are seeking to honor the Lord. How might your relationships at church or home change if you started disagreements by assuming the other person is genuinely trying to honor God?
- **God Alone is the Judge & Love Over Stumbling Blocks (14:10-23):** Self-righteousness easily becomes self-idolatry when we elevate our opinions to God's throne. What personal habits or attitudes do you need to examine in your own mirror rather than critiquing others? Where can you lay down your personal liberty this week so that your choices lead to peace and mutual edification rather than causing a brother or sister to stumble?

Weekly Practice:
Disagree Agreeably: Identify one relationship or conversation this week where you hold a different opinion or conviction from someone else. Practice humility and active listening without trying to force them to adopt your perspective.

Pursue Peace at the Table: Echoing the historic maxim, *"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity,"* intentionally choose one concrete action this week that builds up another believer and prioritizes peace over proving yourself right.