

# dedicated to:

## Community Group Discussion Guide

July 6, 2014

Week 5 | "You Before Me"

Romans 14

Read Romans 14 before answering the following questions.

### Questions for Study

#### Introduction

The book of Romans can be divided into two major sections. The first eleven chapters are devoted to explaining the truth about God and the truth about us. Included in these chapters is how it's possible for each one of us to have a relationship with God. They show us that God's holy, just and loving. They also show us our own spiritual need because of our sinfulness, pointing us to God's grace through Jesus Christ.

In the 12th chapter Paul begins applying this truth to our lives. He shows the difference it can and should make in how we think and in what we say and do. The first of those differences is for us to have an eagerness to serve and to do this with passion. The second of those differences is the dedication we're to have to love people in real and tangible ways.

1. Read Romans 14-15:6. What are the verses in this passage that stand out to you as "summary" or "bottom-line" verses? For better understanding as you read this week's text, use this as a definition for "weak": A believer whose conscience forbids them from doing what God allows.
2. As a foundation for a passage like this, what did Jesus say in Matthew 22:37? Romans 13:8-10? How does the simplicity (and depth) of a command to "love" cover a lot of other things that could become issues?
3. What are some non-doctrinal or non-morality issues of our day that Christians argue over? How do you think this comes across to the non-believer? What kind of picture of God does it paint?
4. What are the issues that were brewing in Romans 14? How did Paul respond?
5. See what Paul says about food in 1 Corinthians 8:8. Regarding "significant days", what does Paul say in Colossians 2:16-17?
6. What does Paul say (vs. 13) that we are to do instead of having a critical spirit?
7. Verse 17-18 talk about "kingdom priorities" over "personal preferences". Where specifically would Paul point us to having our focus?
8. Read 1 Cor 10:31-11:1. What was Paul's goal (the priority), which guided him in love, and allowed him to live above arguments about eating and drinking (personal preferences)? How should this impact each of us?