

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Descent of Man

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Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Ruination occurs when we reject, reason in our mind, and replace the truth of God with a lie.

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. Despite God's revelation from heaven, there are still those who suppress the truth (v 18). Why do you think people might resist God's truth? In what areas of life do you find it tempting to ignore or rationalize away God's truth?
2. Paul notes that God's "eternal power and divine nature" are clearly perceived through the things He has made (vv 19-20). What aspects of creation most stir your awe for God? How can we use creation as a witness to God?
3. Paul suggests that a heart that stops being thankful is a heart that is beginning to darken (v 21). Ingratitude is often the first step toward self-reliance and spiritual blindness. In your own life, how have you observed a connection between a lack of gratitude and a rise in anxiety or bitterness? When you think about your prayer life, what percent of time do you spend giving thanks?
4. Paul observes a tragic irony: "Claiming to be wise, they became fools" (v 23). In our modern world, we have more access to information and "expert" opinion



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than ever before, yet peace and moral clarity often seem to be in short supply. Where have you seen "human wisdom" or cultural trends that seem smart but actually lead people away from the truths of God? Why is it so difficult to admit when our own "wisdom" has led us into a dead end? How can we cultivate a posture of intellectual humility that allows us to be taught by God rather than being "experts" in our own eyes?

5. The pagan Gentiles were choosing to worship created beings instead of the Creator (v 23, 25). Idolatry, the things we worship, can take many forms. What are modern "idols" that people tend to worship today (e.g., success, beauty, control)? Are there any "less obvious" idols that might be competing for your heart? What does it look like to actively glorify God rather than something else in your daily life?
6. The list of sins shared by Paul (v 24-31) may seem abhorrent to believers, but it is a natural part of life for those far from God. NCBC's **230K by 2030** vision calls us to bring the hope of Christ to those who have not yet believed. What barriers (internal or external) keep you from engaging people whose lifestyles may seem very different from yours? Why is it sometimes easier to judge or avoid people living in open rebellion rather than move toward them with compassion and hope?
7. Three times in this passage, Paul says "God gave them over" (vv 24, 26, 28). This suggests that God allows us to have what we insist on, the freedom to live without Him. Have you ever gotten exactly what you wanted, only to find that it didn't satisfy you or that it led to unexpected brokenness? How does the idea of God "giving us over" change your view of His discipline? Is it possible that the "natural consequences" of our choices are actually God's way of showing us our need for Him?
8. It is one thing to do wrong, but another thing entirely to "give approval" (v 32) to those who practice such things, creating a culture where brokenness is celebrated. In what ways do you find yourself subtly "giving approval" or making excuses for behaviors, either in yourself, your social circle, or the media you consume, that you know are contrary to God's heart? What makes



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it difficult to stand firm in biblical truth when it's unpopular? How can we stand for the truth in a way that is firm and deeply kind?



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