

# June Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *June 5 - Week 22 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is the most embarrassing (but appropriate to share) thing you have ever done?

### **New Testament**

Acts 17 ~ Acts 18 ~ Acts 19 ~ Acts 20 ~ Acts 21

1. How does Paul “reason with people” (Acts 17:2) to try and persuade them to place their faith in Jesus? How is this a helpful example and reminder to us? How did people respond (Act 17:4-9)? How do people respond to our Gospel sharing attempts today?
2. Are we known as people “who turned the world upside down”? (Acts 17:6) Should we be? Why would the early disciples be described this way? How should the world see and hear our message as “upside down”?
3. Read Acts 17:11. What were the Bereans doing right? How can we imitate their example better in our own lives?
4. Paul was provoked by the many idols in Athens (Acts 17:16) and then finds an opportunity to lovingly but clearly share the Gospel. What are some of the idols of our society today? Are we rightly provoked? How can we bridge from our cultural idols into a better, loving, and clear Gospel witness?
5. What can we learn from the example of Priscilla and Aquilla privately help Apollos understand “the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:26)? What might that look like in our Sunday School classes and small groups? In our relationships with family and friends who are believers? Based on this example, do you think social media is a helpful place to correct someone in the Christian understanding? Why or why not? What guidelines might be helpful to follow with an online presence?
6. Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:11) and Ephesus for three years (Acts 20:31). What are the challenges to living in the same place for a long time? What are the joys and opportunities that come with that sort of longevity?
7. What does it mean when the demon says to the sons of Sceva that “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” (Acts 19:15)? What does that mean we need for protection against the demonic?
8. In Ephesus in Acts 19:19 new believers burned their magic books (worth \$6 million US in today’s currency) as a sign of their repentance. What might be some practical signs of repentance to show up in the lives of new, true believers today?
9. What does it look like to declare “the whole counsel of God” in our marriages, homes, workplaces, and church? (Acts 20:27)
10. What is the purpose of work? Is there a good work ethic in our society today? Why do you think that is? What do Paul and Jesus tell us about the purpose of work in Acts 20:35?
11. What is helpful to you in Acts 21 from Paul’s example of endurance and suffering? To learn about God? Yourself?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# June Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *June 12 - Week 23 – Questions to Consider*

*Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is the best dessert or candy ever created?

### **New Testament**

Acts 22 ~ Acts 23 ~ Acts 24 ~ Acts 25 ~ Acts 26

1. When Paul gives his defense in Acts 22, what do you think his motive is? When we find ourselves being defensive what are some of our motives? What can we learn from Paul?
2. Some people have a sudden, dramatic testimony of salvation like Paul, while others have a testimony of growing up and believing in Jesus at early age. Is one testimony more “powerful”? Why or why not? What is your testimony? How does God use our testimonies to save others?
3. Why do you think they interrupted Paul’s testimony when they did (Acts 22:22)? Paul avoids a flogging at this point by exerting his rights as a Roman citizen. How does this example help us think through the role of government today?
4. God tells Paul “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome” (Acts 23:11). How is Christian witnessing simply “telling the facts” about God? Why do we need the Lord’s exhortation to “take courage”?
5. In Acts 23:13 Paul has 40 people making a pact together to find and kill him. How does Paul’s suffering for Jesus put our own suffering in perspective?
6. Paul says in Acts 24:16 “I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.” What does it mean to have a “clear conscience”? How do you maintain a “clear conscience”?
7. Governor Felix seemingly has an interest in hearing the Gospel and is alarmed (Acts 24:24-25). When have you seen someone seem to understand the Gospel but yet fail to submit to Jesus as Lord and Savior? How do you think Paul was feeling when Felix left him in prison for two years? (Acts 24:27) What doubts, fears, regrets, or worries might he have encountered?
8. When Paul meets King Agrippa (Acts 26) what does he water do? Does he try to smooth things over in a way to benefit himself? How does Paul’s example encourage your faith?
9. How does Festus reply to Paul’s witnessing? (Acts 26:24). How do people in our culture today similarly mock Christian beliefs?
10. What do you think about Paul’s response to King Agrippa in Acts 26:29? How should this be our motive for everyone we encounter?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# June Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *June 19 - Week 24 – Questions to Consider*

### **Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:**

What is your favorite summer activity or childhood memory?

### New Testament

Acts 27 ~ Acts 28 ~ Romans 1 ~ Romans 2 ~ Romans 3

1. If you were headed off to jail unjustly, what would be going through your mind? How would you be doing emotionally? Physically? Relationally? Spiritually? If you had been imprisoned unjustly for over 4 years like Paul (Acts 24:27 & 28:30-31), with no clear end in sight how would you endure? How would you find purpose in your imprisonment? How might you be tempted?
2. If you work in a secular, Christian-hostile, environment, how might you find practical ways to show God's kindness and love? How have non-believers shown you kindness when you didn't deserve it? The Roman centurion Julius "treated Paul kindly" (Acts 27:3) and "gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for." How do you think God was working through Julius? Why should we intentionally invest in relationships with the lost? What are some boundaries and precautions we should take in our relationships with the lost?
3. Later Julius has to make a decision about their sailing trip and Paul offers his advice to discontinue the journey due to the season and weather risks. Julius "paid more attention to the pilot and the owner of the ship than to what Paul said" (Acts 27:11) and subsequently their ship becomes lost at sea for two weeks and in great danger. While Paul then says "you should have listened to me" he also proclaims an angelic vision and asserts a confident "faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." (Acts 27:21-25). How does this example encourage you to look for opportunities to reprove, rebuke, and exhort the lost (2 Timothy 4:2)?
4. See how Paul remained faithful to God throughout the storm, when eating even "giving thanks to God in the presence of all" (Acts 27:35). How might our public meal times prayers be used by God to show faith to the lost and encourage faith to the saints? Do you have a meal time prayer story that has encouraged you?
5. Read Acts 27:42-43. How does this encourage your faith to see the Lord's protection and provision in a moment where Paul and the prisoners likely felt that their death was imminent?
6. Although Malta wasn't a desired, planned or expected stop, on Malta God performed miracles on and through Paul (Acts 28:1-9). When have you seen God work on or through your life in undesired, unplanned, or unexpected detours in life?
7. When Paul finally makes it to Rome, he looks for Gospel opportunities for "trying to convince them about Jesus" from the Scriptures (Acts 28:23). Whom are you currently trying to convince about Jesus now? How? How do you want to try to grow and improve in the area of evangelism and witnessing?
8. How would you describe yourself in one sentence? How would you explain your purpose in life in one sentence? How does Paul introduce himself in the letter to the Romans (Romans 1:1-7)? What stands out to you?
9. Read Romans 1:16-17. When are we tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel and the Bible? Why? What do you think gave Paul such courage to be "unashamed" in his words and actions?
10. Read Romans 1:19. Does God believe in atheists?

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11. In our lostness we did not “honor” or “give thanks” to God because we were “futile in our thinking” and our “foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:21). How should this reminder of our sinful past make us more thankful for God’s mercy and grace upon us? How should this make us more compassionate towards the lost around us?
12. Read Romans 1:26-27 about the sin of homosexuality. Are we ashamed of this truth today? Should we be? How can we best speak the truth accurately and boldly while being loving and kind? How have you struggled to believe or communicate the seriousness of LGBTQ+ sins as the Scripture reveals?
13. Paul continues to describe what it looks like to be lost and under God’s wrath (Romans 1:28-32) with a laundry list of sin, ultimately covering the breaking of all 10 commandments in Romans 1. In Romans 2:15 God says that the “law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness.” Romans 3:19 says we are given the law “so that every mouth may be stopped” from making excuses and that the “whole world may be held accountable to God.” Although the world may not like or receive biblical truths about God’s commandments, why is it so essential for salvation that people hear God’s law?
14. How is a good summary and understanding of the lost “who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness” (Romans 2:8)?
15. While the law isn’t sufficient to save, only to condemn, our obedience to the law is part of God’s evidence of salvation (Romans 1:7,13). How does that truth encourage your personal assurance of faith? How does that truth encourage your desire to grow in obedience to the Lord?

## General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

# June Sunday School Discussion Questions

## *June 26 - Week 25 – Questions to Consider*

*Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.*

### **Warm Up Question:**

What was something good that happened this past week?

### **New Testament**

Romans 4 ~ Romans 5 ~ Romans 6 ~ Romans 7 ~ Romans 8

1. Have you found Romans challenging so far? Why or why not? How has it been helpful to you in these first 8 chapters? Why do you think Romans is such an important book for us to understand and grow through?
2. How does God describe Abraham's salvation in Romans 4:3? Is anyone saved by "good works"? What does saving belief, or trust, in Jesus look like? If someone asked you how someone is "saved", how would you answer?
3. When God is described as Him "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (Romans 4:17), how does that help you to "believe" and "not weaken in faith" (Romans 4:18-19)? Why does seeing and remembering God's goodness and greatness help us to grow "strong" in our faith and be "fully convinced that God" will "do what He promised" (Romans 4:20-21)?
4. How have you experienced "peace with God" (Romans 5:1) since becoming a Christian? How would you describe that experience to a non-believer?
5. Read Romans 5:8. Why is this so humbling? Overwhelming? Amazing? Different than human "love".
6. Read Romans 5:17. How many ways are there to experience God's "free gift of righteousness"? (see also Acts 4:12 and John 14:6)
7. God tells us that our salvation is purposed for us to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). What does that practically look like and sound like? How have you seen God change the path and pace of your life?
8. What does it mean to consider ourselves "dead to sin" and "alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:11)? Why does God give us the commands and responsibility to "let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God" (Romans 6:12-13)? Why do our little, momentary choices in life matter in big, lasting ways?
9. John Owen said "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you!" Do you agree or disagree? Why? How do we practically "kill sin"?
10. Why is Romans 6:23 one of the best verses to memorize and summarize the whole Gospel in one verse?
11. Romans 7:1-3 (and 1 Corinthians 7:39-49) speak of God's "law of marriage" only ending in death. Why is God's "law of marriage" so difficult for our society and us to accept? Why is doing life and marriage God's way always the better choice? When we are convicted that we have broken God's commands, what should we do?
12. God describes His law as "holy and righteous and good" but describes its purpose that "sin might be shown to be sin" and reveal how we are "sinful beyond measure" (Romans 7:12-13)? Is ignorance of the law "bliss"? How does God use the law to bring conviction?

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Although conviction doesn't feel good at the time, how does it feel after you have confessed and repented from your sin?

13. Read Romans 7:15. Paul sympathizes with our struggles against sin. How does this comfort you in your own struggles with daily temptations?
14. When you resolve to do something that pleases God (obedience, renewed devotion, a mission trip, etc.) have you ever noticed Satan counterattack you? Read Romans 7:21. Why do you think this is? How is Romans 7:22 a perfect solution to those attacks?
15. Romans 8:1 says "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Why is this such a beautiful offer to the lost? Why is this such a needed reminder to the saved? How does Satan work against Romans 8:1?
16. How can believers practically take steps to "set their minds on the things of the Spirit"? (Romans 8:5)
17. Some people teach that receiving the Spirit of God is later experience in one's faith. Romans 8 describes clearly that all true believers are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11). How have you experienced God's Spirit within you?
18. What have been your greatest sufferings and hurts in life? What does God mean when He says "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18)? What does He mean when He says "for those who love God all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28)?
19. Read Romans 8:29-30. How do these truths amaze you with God's saving love? Why should our conclusion to these truths be a confident declaration of "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)?
20. Romans 8 finishes with some awesome facts that nothing can "separate us from the love of Christ" and that we "are more than conquerors" (Romans 8:35-39). When you hear these realities, how is your soul affected? How is your mind renewed? How is your purpose in life energized?

## General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)