



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WEEK 29: AUGUST 2 & 5

LEADER INFO:

PLEASE remember to take attendance each week through your email reminders or your church community builder LEAD app.

As a Disciple Group Leader, you are required to become a Covenant Member. There is one more opportunity for you to go through the class before the Fall Semester begins: August 19. Classes begin at 1:00pm.

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Encounter Retreats - This year we are adding more Encounter Retreats, a chance to get away from your normal routines and dive deeper into your relationship with Jesus and connect with others.

Visit coe22.com/deepen for more information!

Spiritual Disciplines Encounter – September 21 - September 23

Marriage Encounter B – September 28 – September 30

Women's Encounter B – October 19 – October 21

Golf Encounter – October 19 – October 21

Sporting Clays Encounter – December 8

Covenant Member Classes - If you are ready to move from attending to fully partnering in the mission, vision, and values of Eleven22, then join us for an upcoming covenant membership class at your campus August 19 at 1:00pm.

Saturated Baptisms - If you'd like to be baptized during Saturated, there will be baptism classes after every service August 23-September 9. If you're interested, you can [fill out this form](#) or come to a baptism class. **If you'd like to serve** during Saturated baptisms with the Spiritual Formation team, [sign up here](#).

TEXTS: ROMANS 13:1-7, 1 PETER 2:13-17

THE RECAP: (10 MINUTES)

In week 29 of the Romans series, we see Paul explain the role that authorities have in our lives. Last week we learned that we are to live in harmony with one another, which sets the tone for learning about authority. Ultimately, God is in control of all things, so we should honor those that God has sovereignly placed in authority over us. After all, He is the One who we can trust to be above all things.

THE POINT: "AND JESUS SAID TO THEM, "WHOSE LIKENESS AND INSCRIPTION IS THIS?" AND THEY SAID, "CAESAR'S." THEN HE SAID TO THEM, "THEREFORE, RENDER TO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR'S, AND TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S." – MATTHEW 22:20-21

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read Romans 13:1-7 out loud.

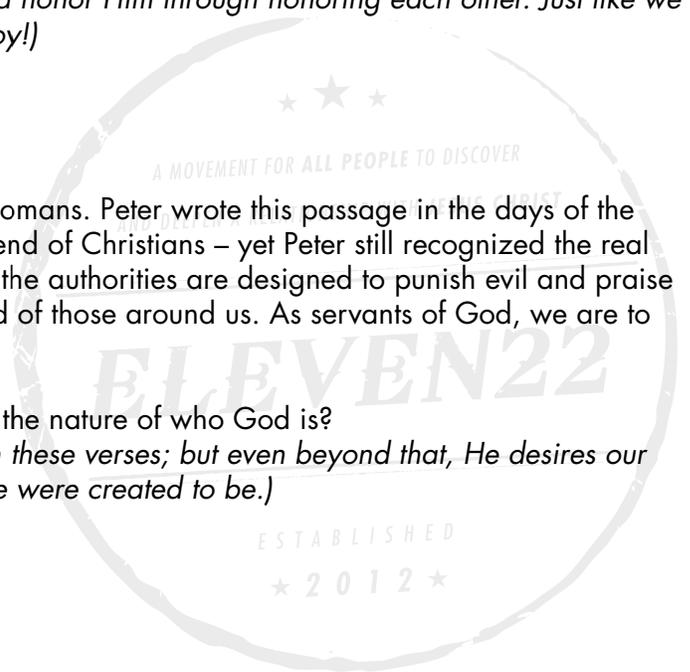
During this time in history, the Jews were returning to Rome after being kicked out — many of which were returning as Christ followers. The government was nowhere near a just government, especially with an emperor who was known for killing Christians. In light of this, Paul writes these verses to point to God as being the ultimate authority and to encourage the returning Jews to be good citizens despite the unjust government. Ultimately, God is in control of all things. Whether the authorities in our lives are considered good or bad, God has placed them there purposefully in His sovereignty. Even when governments are unjust, God still uses them to bring forth His will — just as He did with the cross.

1. What do we learn about God's character through these verses?
(God is sovereign over every authority in our lives. Regardless of our opinion on whether those in authority are good or bad. He is a good, good Father and we can most certainly trust that He knows what He is doing.)
2. Are there some authorities in your life you find it hard to follow? Why is it difficult for you to honor them?
(Try and use an example from your life and then dig a little deeper to see why it is that it's hard for you to follow them. Is it because you would rather have control? It is your pride? Etc. Ex: Parents while you were growing up, teachers, etc.)
3. In verse 7, it says we are to pay what is owed when it comes to taxes, revenue, respect, and honor. How do you show honor to someone who you know should have it, but in your estimation does not deserve it?
(We are called to love all people because they are the image bearers of God. In the same way, we should honor in word and action those who may not deserve it. Respect is earned, but honor is given.)
4. Why are we to submit to the authorities in our lives? When it comes to your heart in following the authorities, do you find you are cheerful or begrudging in giving what is due?
(It is ultimately for our good that there are boundaries in our lives, even if we want to fight them. In Mark 12:17, Jesus is clear that we are to "pay Caesar what is Caesar's." In response to God, we can cheerfully pay our taxes, respect one another, and honor Him through honoring each other. Just like we learned a few weeks ago, obedience produces joy!)

Have someone read 1 Peter 2:13-17 out loud.

These passages mirror in some ways what Paul wrote in Romans. Peter wrote this passage in the days of the Roman Empire, which was not a democracy and not a friend of Christians — yet Peter still recognized the real authority of the Roman government. Peter is telling us that the authorities are designed to punish evil and praise good. They are designed to be for our good and the good of those around us. As servants of God, we are to honor one another.

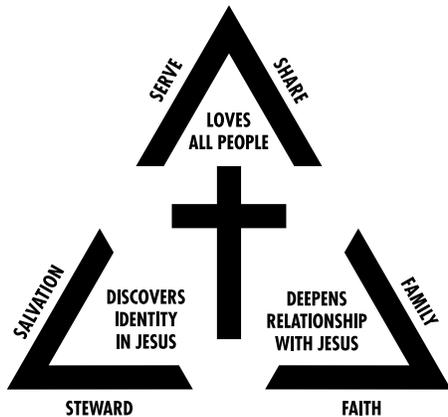
5. Based on this passage, what can we learn about the nature of who God is?
(The fact that God is in control is also repeated in these verses; but even beyond that, He desires our freedom. That way we can live as the servants we were created to be.)



6. How are we to live in the freedom that God gives us in knowing His Son?
(As Christians, the way we conduct ourselves says a lot about who we are and Who's we are. Those who never read the Bible will most definitely read our lives. We are not to use the freedom God has given us to cover up evil, but rather, it is to shine the light of God to the world. The reason we get to honor and love those around us is because of the saving work Jesus did on the cross.)
7. Both of these passages show us that God is in control of every authority. How can we begin to honor the authorities in our everyday lives?
(Try to think of some practical ways this would look. For example, not making excuses to your boss, honor those around you by showing their love language, calling your family more regularly, etc. What are some things you could do?)

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY ACTION STEP

DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY
A disciple is someone who...



This week, we challenge you to do something specific to honor the authority in your life. This could mean simply calling someone you've failed to show honor to in the past and apologizing. This could be making a meal or dessert for your local fire station or police station to show honor and say thank you. Whatever this means for you personally, we challenge you to take that step and show honor where it's due!

