

**Romans**  
**The Beauty of Submission- Week #8**  
**Small Group Notes**  
**April 2 and 5**

Note to parents: This week's lesson includes questions and learning activities that you can do as a family as well as a group. In each section there will be a question called "Family Talk" that is a question that you can ask your children as you are reading the Bible together. We hope that as you are spending time together watching the services online that this is a time to ask questions that encourage discussion about faith that you may have never been able to do before. Be sure to reference the family discussion notes as well from the Children's Ministry for additional resources.

**Main Point:** The best display of who we are submitted to is through the way we love those around us.

**Introduction:** Read the definition of submission: To accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person.

**Family Talk: Share about a time that you disobeyed an authority in your life: parents, coach, teacher, etc. (don't worry parents, it's ok to share)**

**Generally speaking, how do you respond to authority when you are asked to submit (i.e. by rebelling, with fear, questioning/challenging, etc.)? What does our response to authority figures reveal about us?**

For our discussion, we are going to see how Paul wanted to teach the people of the church how they are to interact with the authorities that God has placed in our society, in particular, those that have governing authority.

**Discuss:**

1. Read Romans 13:1.

- God is in charge of who is in charge.

Explain: God commands Christians to submit to the governing authorities and to respect those in authority. Government was put in place by God to keep us safe, and we all know that this is not an easy job.

**Read Daniel 2:20-21. How does this verse show who is ultimately in charge?**

**How does submission to God translate into submission to other authorities in our life?**

**Do you believe that God can use all governments for His greater plan? Why or why not?**

**Family Talk: Why should we pray for our government leaders?**

2. Read Romans 13:2-4.

- God has a purpose and a plan for those who are in authority.

Explain: Serving God by respecting the government means that we ought to be encouraging when our government does well, and when things might be done that are evil, we serve government by speaking up for justice and righteousness.

**Read 1 Kings 15:11-15, Asa's Kingdom vs 1 Kings 16:29-33- Ahab's kingdom. How do these verses show us how God was in charge of both kings?**

**Look back at verse 3. What is the command and promise given? (Then do right...) What does it look like for us to "do right" for our governing authorities?**

**Read verse 4, What is the warning given in this verse? (But if you do wrong...There are consequences for disrespecting the authority God has placed in our lives). How can we be disrespectful to our government in these days?**

**Family Talk: What is a something we can do to show respect to our government?**

3. Read Romans 13:5-7.

- Submission does not always mean agreement.
- Our submission to authority reveals whom we are ultimately submitted to.

Explain: Throughout our world's history, there have been times when the call to speak out as the people of God rose above the law that was being imposed. Paul also shows us how we can respect our governing authorities, while also keeping our devotion solely upon Christ and sharing the gospel.

**Why is submission such a hard posture to walk in? What is one of the chief things that stand in our way from submission?**

**What are some ways that you have seen that it has become harder to be a Christian in public? How can these challenges encourage us to grow more in our faith?**

**Family Talk: Who is someone in your life that needs to hear that you honor and respect them? How can you share that with them?**

4. Read Romans 13:8-10.

- The best display of who we are submitted to is through the way that we love those around us.

Explain: Paul ends this passage with the call to love above all else. It's from our love for Christ that we obey His Word and what He has called us to obey. It's also from the love of Christ, that we have an opportunity to show His love to others.

**Read John 13:34-35, During this season, what are ways that you have been encouraged to show love to others? How have you found it challenging to show love to others?**

**Why does submission feel like it can be suffocating sometimes? How has this season of our lives helped us to understand more about the love of God and the call to share that love with others?**

**What is something positive that has changed about how you are loving others during this time? What does submitting well look like to you?**

**How can you use your submission during these times as a witness for the Good News of Jesus Christ?**

**Family Talk: Who is someone that we know that we need to show love to this week? What is something we could do?**

#### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Select an activity below to do together as a family.

1. Write a letter to a government leader letting them know that you are praying for them.
2. Send an encouraging note to a police officer or fireman, letting them know that you are grateful for their service in our community.
3. Gather to pray each night this week at 7:30 on your front porch or yard and pray as a family for our nation and community.
4. Write encouraging Bible verses on your sidewalk with chalk for people that may be passing by.
5. Have a game night as a family and respect the encouragement to be safer at home.