

Activity #3: Print this out for the older student group leaders.**Group Discussion for 14:1-23**

6th-10th Grade: "Real-Life Decision Breakdown"

Purpose:

Explains the difference between biblical commands and personal convictions & gives historical context for Jewish believers' concerns.

What You Need:

- Whiteboard or paper
- Markers
- Scenario sheet (or read aloud)

Activity Steps:

1. Break into small groups (3-4 students)

Each group answers:

Part A – Strong and Weak Believers - Romans 14:1–12**Discuss:**

- What issues were causing disagreements among the Roman believers?
- Why did some Jewish believers avoid certain foods or observe special days?
- What does Paul mean by a believer who is "weak in faith"?
- How should stronger believers treat those who are still growing?

Have students discuss:

- Jewish believers had grown up following dietary laws and special days.
- Some struggled to understand their freedom from the Law.
- These personal convictions were not requirements for salvation.
- Stronger believers were not to mock or pressure weaker believers.
- Weaker believers were not to condemn those who used their freedom.
- Each believer belongs to the Lord and will answer to Him.

A weak believer is not less valuable or less loved by God. This person is still growing in the understanding of Christian freedom. Paul tells believers to welcome one another patiently instead of arguing over personal convictions.

Part B – Judgment vs. Grace/ Romans 14:13–23

Have them discuss our attitudes towards others:

Discuss:

- What it means to place a stumbling block before someone

Judgmental Attitudes	Grace-Filled Attitudes
Look down on others	Welcome other believers
Argue over opinions	Pursue peace
Force your convictions on others	Allow room for growth
Show off your freedom	Consider another person's conscience
Focus on winning	Focus on loving
Cause someone to stumble	Build others up
Tear down God's work	Protect unity in the Church

- Why Christian freedom should be guided by love
- Why God's Kingdom is greater than food and drink
- How believers can pursue peace and build one another up
- Why someone should not violate his or her conscience

Christian freedom should never be used selfishly. If our choice pressures another believer to violate their conscience or return to sin, love may require us to give up that freedom.

Part C – Use Freedom to Love

Ask: "How can we help and encourage people who have other belief systems?"

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 - Believers must be careful that their freedom does not become a stumbling...
- Colossians 2:16-17 - Believers should not be judged over food, drink, festivals...

Discuss:

- Christian freedom is meant for serving, not selfishness.
- Personal convictions should not be treated as commands for everyone.
- Clear biblical commands must never be dismissed as personal opinions.
- Love may require us to give up a freedom for someone else's good.
- Spiritual maturity seeks peace and protects others.

Group Discussion Questions:

- What were the Roman believers arguing about?
- Why were some Jewish believers uncomfortable with certain foods?
- What is the difference between a biblical command and a personal conviction?
- Why should we not look down on believers who think differently about a disputable matter?
- When might love require you to give up a freedom?

2. Personal or Out loud Reflection (Silent – 5 minutes)

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "Are my words building other believers up or tearing them down?"

Prayer & Reflection: *Ask students to silently discuss these truths with God through prayer.*

God, forgive me when I judge others, argue over personal opinions, or try to force my convictions on them. Give me wisdom to recognize the difference between Your commands and disputable matters. Help me use my freedom to serve others rather than please myself. Teach me to protect the consciences of other believers, pursue peace, and build up Your Church. Amen.

(No sharing required if done silently- keep it personal)

Key for Lesson: Believers should show grace in personal disagreements, use their freedom lovingly, and pursue peace without compromising God's Word.