

Activity #3: Print this out for the older student group leaders.

Group Discussion for Romans 2:17-29

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

Purpose:

Connects Romans 2 to modern struggles with image and appearances.
Challenges students to examine authentic faith.

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 – Knowing Truth vs Obeying Truth

Discuss:

- Why is hearing God's Word not enough by itself?
- Can someone know a lot about God but still disobey Him?
- Why does God care about obedience from the heart?

Romans 2:13 "It is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers..."

Have students discuss:

- Knowledge vs obedience
- Religious appearance vs heart
- Genuine faith
- Heart attitude

Part B – Outward Religion vs Inward Change

Have them discuss outward religion vs inward change:

Example:

Romans 2:28-29 "A person is a Jew who is one inwardly..."

Discuss:

- Why can outward religion fool people?
- Why can't it fool God?
- What does heart change look like?

Outward Religion	Genuine Faith
Looking righteous	Loving God truly
Knowing Bible facts	Obeying God sincerely
Trying to impress people	Wanting to honor God
External actions only	Heart transformation

Part C – God Looks at the Heart

Ask: "What kind of heart does God desire?"

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God..."
- Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart..."
- John 4:24 "Worship in spirit and truth."

Discuss:

- God changes people from the inside out
- Christianity is more than rules
- True faith affects how we live

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why do people sometimes focus more on appearance than the heart?
- Can someone act religious without truly knowing God?
- What are signs of genuine faith?
- How does God transform someone over time?

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

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "Am I more focused on looking Christian or truly following Christ?"

OR

What is one area where I need God to change my heart?

Prayer & Reflection: Ask God to help you to desire to know Him through His word given to us, not to rely on your attendance at church or how much you know about God. Spend time in prayer with Him.

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

Key for Lesson: God is not impressed by outward religion alone, He desires hearts that genuinely trust, love, and obey Him.