

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

Group Discussion for 13:1-14

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

Purpose:

Explains why God established government & addresses when believers must obey God over human authority.

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 – How Should Christians Respond to Authority? Romans 13:1-7

Discuss:

- Who establishes human government?
- Why does God give governments authority?
- How should Christians respond to laws and leaders?
- Are Christians ever required to disobey an authority?

Have students discuss:

- God establishes the institution of government.
- Human leaders are imperfect, but government helps restrain evil and maintain order.
- Christians should obey laws and treat leaders respectfully.
- Believers should pay taxes and fulfill their responsibilities honestly.
- Christians must obey God when a human authority commands them to disobey Him.

God created government to promote order, restrain wrongdoing, and protect society. Christians show their trust in God by obeying laws, respecting leaders, and acting responsibly. However, God's authority is always greater than human authority.

Part B – Darkness vs. Light / Romans 13:8–14

Have them discuss deeds of darkness vs. living in light:

Discuss:

- Why love is called an ongoing debt
- How loving our neighbor fulfills God's Law
- What it means to "wake up" spiritually

Deeds of Darkness	Living in the Light
Selfishness	Love others
Dishonesty	Live honestly
Fighting and jealousy	Pursue peace
Disrespecting authority	Show respect
Ignoring responsibilities	Fulfill obligations
Feeding sinful desires	Put on Jesus Christ
Living only for yourself	Serve your neighbor

- What Paul means by putting aside darkness
- How believers can “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”

Paul teaches that Christians should be known by their love. Because Christ’s return is drawing closer, believers must stop living like the sinful world and allow their choices to reflect Jesus.

Part C – Honoring God in Society

Ask: “What does it look like for you to honor authority in your life?”

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- Matthew 22:21 - Jesus taught people to give the government what it is owed...
- Acts 5:29 - The apostles obeyed God when human leaders commanded them...
- 1 Peter 2:13-17 - Believers should submit to authorities, honor all people, fear God....
- Ephesians 5:8-11 - Believers were once in darkness but must now walk as children of Light

Discuss:

- Respecting authority is part of our witness.
- God’s authority is always greater than human authority.
- Christian freedom is not permission to sin or rebel.
- Love seeks what is good for another person.
- Believers should live differently from the sinful world.

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why did God establish human government?
- How can we respect a leader even when we disagree?
- When must a Christian obey God instead of human authority?
- What does it mean to owe others a continuing debt of love?
- What deeds of darkness should believers remove?
- What does it mean to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”?

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

Ask students to write or answer out loud: “Do I respect authority figures in my immediate life?”

OR

Do I respect governing authority in society, as a witness to Christ?

Prayer & Reflection: God, thank You for placing authorities in my life. Forgive me when I am disrespectful, rebellious, or unwilling to follow instructions. Give me wisdom to obey You above all while treating others with respect. Help me love my neighbor, reject sinful choices, and live honestly. Teach me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ so that my attitude and actions show others what He is like. Amen.

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

Key for Lesson: God is perfectly just and amazingly merciful. He owes salvation to no one, yet He freely offers mercy & forgiveness through Jesus Christ according to His perfect plan.