<u>Activity #3:</u> Print this out for the older student group leaders.

Group Discussion for 15:1-13

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

Purpose:
Shows that spiritual maturity should produce humility &
encourages unity without compromising truth.

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:

<u>Part A – How Should Strong Believers Help the Weak? - Romans 15:1-13</u>
Discuss:

- Who are the "strong" and "weak" believers in this passage?
- What responsibility do stronger believers have?
- What does it mean to bear another person's weakness?
- Why should believers not live only to please themselves?

Have students discuss:

- Some Jewish believers still felt responsible to follow food laws and special days.
- Stronger believers understood their freedom from these requirements.
- Strong believers should support those who are still growing.
- Believers should seek what is good for others.
- Jesus accepted suffering and rejection instead of pleasing Himself.

Paul was not telling believers to excuse clear sin. He was teaching them to show patience in disputable matters where Scripture does not command or forbid something. Mature believers should use their freedom to strengthen others.

<u>Part B – Pleasing Myself vs. Building Others Up - Romans 15:1-7</u>

Discuss:

- Why spiritual knowledge can sometimes produce pride
- How Jesus placed the Father's will and our salvation before His comfort
- Why patience is necessary when someone is still growing
- What it means to accept others as Christ accepted us
- How believers can disagree without creating division
- Why Christian unity brings glory to God

Pleasing Myself	Building Others Up
Demand my own way	Consider another person's needs
Show off my freedom	Use freedom with love
Become impatient	Give others time to grow
Look down on weaker believers	Welcome them with grace
Focus on winning arguments	Focus on spiritual growth
Create division	Pursue unity
Seek personal praise	Glorify God together

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Jesus did not live to please Himself. He willingly endured rejection and suffering to accomplish the Father's will and save sinners. Believers should follow His example by setting aside selfish preferences to help others grow.

Part C – One People Praising God

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- Isaiah 11:10 — The promised descendant of Jesse would rule, and the Gentiles would place their hope in Him.
- Ephesians 2:13-18 — Through Christ, Jewish and Gentile believers are brought near to God and united in one body.
- Philippians 2:3-5 — Believers should reject selfish ambition, consider the needs of others, and develop the same humble attitude demonstrated by Jesus.

Discuss:

- Jesus demonstrated that God is truthful and faithful.
- God always planned to extend mercy to the Gentiles.
- Gentile salvation does not cancel God's promises to Israel.
- Jewish and Gentile believers are united through faith in Christ.
- The Church should worship God with one voice.

Group Discussion Questions:

- What is the difference between supporting a weak believer and excusing sin?
- How can spiritual knowledge become a source of pride?
- What does it look like to bear someone else's weakness?
- How did Jesus put others before Himself?
- How can believers pursue unity without compromising biblical truth?

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

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "Who can you patiently encourage in their faith this week?"

Prayer & Reflection: *God, forgive me when I become prideful, impatient, or more concerned with proving that I am right than helping someone grow. Thank You that Jesus did not live to please Himself but willingly served and saved sinners. Help me use my freedom and spiritual understanding to encourage others. Give me patience, humility, and love so that I can pursue unity and glorify You with other believers. Fill me with joy, peace, and hope through the Holy Spirit. Amen.*
(No sharing required if done silently- keep it personal)

Key for Lesson: Mature believers follow Jesus by patiently helping others grow, welcoming one another, and pursuing unity that glorifies God.

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