

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

Group Discussion for Romans 4:1-12

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

Purpose:

Encourages a deeper understanding of faith and grace & connects forgiveness to real-life identity and freedom.

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 – Can Good Works Save Us?

Discuss:

- Why do people naturally think they can earn their way to Heaven?
- Why is salvation by works attractive to people?
- What does Abraham's life teach us about faith?

Romans 4:1-3 "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Have students discuss:

- Pride
- Human effort
- Trusting God
- Faith vs works

Part B – Faith Over Works

Have them discuss earning vs receiving:

Romans 4:4-5 "To the one who does not work, but believes..."

Discuss:

- Why salvation is a gift
- Why nobody can boast before God
- Why faith requires humility

Earning Something	Receiving a Gift
Must work for it	Freely given
Based on performance	Based on grace
Creates pride	Produces thankfulness
Depends on self	Depends on God

Part C – Blessed Through Forgiveness

Ask: "Why is forgiveness such a big deal?"

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- Romans 4:7-8 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven..."
- Psalm 32:1-2 "Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will not take into account."
- Colossians 2:13-14 "He forgave us all our transgressions..."

Discuss:

- Sin separates people from God
- Forgiveness removes guilt
- Jesus paid the debt sinners owed

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why can't good behavior erase sin?
- What does real faith look like?
- Why is humility necessary for salvation?
- How should Christians respond to being forgiven?

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

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "Do I ever try to 'earn' God's approval?"

OR

How should knowing I'm forgiven change the way I live?

Prayer & Reflection: Ask God to help you walk wisely in the grace and forgiveness He has freely given you, never treating it lightly or taking advantage of His mercy. Confess the areas where you fall short, and honestly bring before Him the times you have misused or neglected the forgiveness He has so graciously extended to you.

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

Key for Lesson: Salvation is not earned through good works; it is received through faith in God's grace and forgiveness.