

Activity #3: Print this out for the older student group leaders.**Group Discussion for Romans 16**

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

Purpose:

Shows how many different people helped the early Church grow & helps students identify characteristics of false teachers.

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 – Why Did Paul Name So Many People? - Romans 16:1-16**Discuss:**

- What kinds of service did Paul recognize?
- What do these names teach us about the early Church?
- Why is every believer's contribution important?
- How can we show appreciation to those who serve faithfully?

Have students discuss:

- Phoebe faithfully served the church and helped many believers.
- Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives for Paul.
- Some believers opened their homes for churches to meet.
- Others worked hard, traveled, suffered, or were imprisoned.
- Ministry was accomplished by a united body, not one person working alone.

Paul had never visited the church in Rome, yet he knew and appreciated many believers there. His greetings show that every person who serves Christ faithfully has an important place in the Body.

Part B – Faithful Service vs. Divisive Influence - Romans 16:17-20**Discuss:**

- Why Paul warned believers to watch for divisive people
- How false teachers use smooth words and flattery
- Why kindness does not require trusting every teacher
- How Scripture helps us recognize false teaching
- Why believers should remain innocent concerning evil
- How God will ultimately defeat Satan

Paul taught believers to welcome faithful servants warmly but avoid those who deliberately opposed biblical teaching and

Faithful Servants	Divisive People
Serve Christ	Serve their own desires
Teach biblical truth	Contradict biblical teaching
Build up the Church	Create division
Speak honestly	Use smooth and flattering words
Protect other believers	Take advantage of trusting people
Work humbly	Seek influence for themselves
Promote unity	Create confusion

created division. Christian love does not mean ignoring dangerous doctrine.

Part C –Serve Faithfully and Guard the Truth

Have students look up tie-in scriptures and connect:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 — Every believer is an important part of Christ's Body, and each member needs the others.
- Acts 20:28–30 — Church leaders must remain alert because false teachers can arise and lead people away from truth.
- Ephesians 4:14-16 — Believers should grow in biblical maturity so they are not carried away by false teaching.

Discuss:

- Every believer has a meaningful role in the Church.
- God sees faithful service even when other people do not.
- False teaching can enter the Church from outside or within.
- Biblical knowledge helps believers recognize deception.
- Spiritual maturity includes both love and discernment.
- Jesus has already secured the final victory over Satan.

Group Discussion Questions:

- Why did Paul publicly recognize so many believers?
- Why were house churches important to the early Church?
- What kinds of service often go unnoticed today?
- What warning signs may reveal a false or divisive teacher?
- Why can flattering words be dangerous?
- How can you become wiser in what is good?

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

Ask students to write or answer out loud: "How can you thank someone who has helped you grow spiritually?"

Prayer & Reflection: *God, thank You for the believers who have served, encouraged, and taught me. Show me how to use my gifts to help Your Church. Keep me humble and faithful, even when my work is unnoticed. Give me wisdom to recognize false teaching and courage to avoid those who create division. Strengthen me through the Gospel and help my life bring glory to You alone. Amen.*

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

Key for Lesson: God uses faithful believers to build His Church and calls us to serve one another while guarding against false teaching and division.