

Youth



Prepare in Advance

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).

Issues

Read Romans 14:1-12.

Use these questions to facilitate discussion.

- What do you think is going on in this text?
- Why doesn't Paul just tell them how they should behave?
- Why are church people disagreeing about such seemingly simple issues?

Choices

Watch the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

- Do you believe that in every circumstance there is either a right or wrong decision? Why or why not? Was there a right and wrong decision for the issues that Paul is talking to the church in Rome about? Why?
- Which is easier: to have a right vs. wrong (black and white) decision or to have a grey area? Explain.
- Why might God want us to be in situations where we have to make up our own mind about what to do? Wouldn't it be easier and help us to do the right thing if there was a simple right way to do things? Who or why not?
- How does making our own decisions help us grow closer to God? What would faith be like if we only had to follow a simple rulebook?
- In situations where there may not be a right or wrong answer, how do you decide what to do?

Disagreements

For the following situations, role play and give both spiritual sides of the arguments:

- Should teenagers date?
- Should we listen to secular music?
- Should we go to parties?
- Should we see R-rated movies?
- Should we skip church to play a sport?
- Should we read popular literature like *Twilight* and *Harry Potter*?

- What other spiritual issues would you add to this list?

Judging

- How do you respond when someone disagrees with you about these or any other subjects? Why?
- Could people on both sides of these issues still be giving their best to God? How?
- Do you have a problem with judging other people who do not behave in the same way you do? Why? Why are those things really not that important?
- How can this group help you to love and accept others rather than judge them?

by Don Breeden