



## SDG Discussion Guide

"Welcome One Another  
with Open Arms"

Romans 14:1-13

April 23, 2017

Opener:

What are some "exotic" things you have eaten?

Can you think of a time when a disagreement or a confrontation led to discovery or understanding for you? What was that like?

Group Interaction: [The following content is meant to supplement the sermon, to offer further points of interaction with the sermon text. Also, feel free to ask your own questions to facilitate your own discussion regarding the sermon or text.]

1. Do you ever grapple with wanting to quarrel with another believer when he or she expresses a different opinion on a "disputable matter"? Why is that?
2. Reread Romans 12:3. Now reread 14:1. How do the verses relate to one another?
3. What does the "weak" brother believe and what does the "strong" brother believe (vv 1-5)? What instruction does Paul give to each brother -- in verse 3, then in verse 5?
4. When you examine the issues Paul is addressing in the passage, particularly whether or not to eat certain food and observe certain days, would you describe these issues as essential beliefs or non-essential beliefs?
5. What makes an issue essential or non-essential to the Christian faith?
6. Do you understand your Christian liberty in general, but struggle with frustration between you and a Christian brother or sister that seems unnecessarily rigid to you?

What are examples of issues where we can agree to disagree and remain in Christian fellowship?

7. Do you struggle with internal judgment of other believers who do not share your list of "do's" and "don't's"? Have you ever felt judged by another believer because you shared different "do's" and "don't's" than him or her? Were you able to reconcile the issue(s) with this person? If so, did it improve or hurt your relationship?

Spend some time in prayer. Take your time. Ask the Holy Spirit to usher in his great presence and help you to pray. Ask him to show you what you need to see in your own heart. Pause. Ask him to grant you wisdom and guidance in how to be reconciled in your relationships. Then sit in silence and see what else God may be speaking to you. Be encouraged this week in how this study of Romans has encouraged you to grow in your faith and your relationships.