

11NT6C

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

The Epistle to the Romans : 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson: 22/5/2011.

To the servants:

This lesson covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Epistle to the Romans: Chapters 9-16.

I will ask Daniel to email you as well the aims and outcomes sheet from Uncle Magdi, to have a read.

For this lesson, being the 3<sup>rd</sup> on Romans, I received a suggestion from one of the servants to run it as an activity.

The power point here is only for Revision/Quiz on what was said about Romans so far. You can again, if you wish, have some confectionary for the class as a reward for their answers.

For the rest of the lesson, I thought we can concentrate on 2 main points:

1. Chapter 12 and 13: these talk about how to live and behave as someone “justified by faith” and “renewed” through baptism.
2. Chapter 14: this talks about the “weak in the faith” and how we need to accept them.

You can divide the class into 2 groups, each to read the material outlined below and present a short skit to the class. I have included examples of the skits to guide the teens. They can modify it if they want.

If you get a chance, you can prepare items beforehand to give to them to use in the skits.

Group 1: Read Chapter 12 and Chapter 13: 1-10. Make sure you have a Bible each and read them separately. Think about these points:

1. Verse 2: how we are not to “conform” or follow “the world”. The world talks, dresses, acts, lives, enjoys etc , things which may not be godly.
2. Verses 3-8: St Paul encourages us to be humble when we are enjoying a certain gift from God: eg intelligence, ability to teach and communicate, being cheerful, being loving , being giving etc.
3. The rest of chapter 12 talks about how we should behave with one another.
4. Chapter 13:1-10: talks about how we need to be subject (obey) governing authorities, rules and regulations.

As a group, you need to come up with a skit (an example of one is given to you) to present these points to the class.

Group 2: Read Chapter 14. Make sure you have a bible each and read separately.

The message in this chapter is to accept all, not to be judgemental and not to condemn. This is especially towards those who St Paul calls “weak in the faith”.

1. Look at verse 1:

Those “weak in the faith” here refers to Christians whose faith revolves around feasts and fasts. What shall we eat? What shall we wear?

2. From verse 2 onwards, St Paul concentrates on “eating”. To understand what he means, we need to understand what was happening with the Christian Jews at the time. They were struggling to understand that our Lord Jesus Christ freed them from the do’s and don’ts of the law of Moses.

They were confused. Should we eat pork? This was forbidden in the Old Testament. Yet, now, the gentiles eat all sorts of things and here St Paul tells them that God accepts that.

Some of the Christian Jews, out of confusion, became vegetarian (verse 2).

This behaviour is what St Paul calls “weak in faith”.

Amongst us, sometimes we behave also this way. We become obsessed with ingredients and we try and find ingredients that are fasting but taste or mimic non fasting food. Verse 17 sums it up for you! St Paul doesn’t want us to behave that way, but also doesn’t want us to condemn those who do (verse 3).

3. Verses 5-8: whatever we do, we do for God. He alone stands to judge our hearts. We do not judge one another.

As a group, you need to come up with a skit (an example of one is given to you) to present these points to the class.

Group 1 : Skit

You can change the names/ modify the script if you wish.

In this script, 2 officers come to a group of people. Each of those people harbours a sin and doesn't want to give it up.

You need:

Sunglasses for the 2 Police Officers.

Rubbish bags for the 3 people (1 each). Each rubbish bag needs to have something in it (rubbish paper ; anything really to take out and expose). This represents sin.

The skit starts:

The officers knock on the door.

**MARK:** Yes? (sounds lazy and doesn't want to get up from watching TV).

(Mark opens the door).

**Officer 'don't curse':** I'm Officer 'don't curse' and this is Officer 'be humble'. We are here to investigate a report that you guys are harbouring some sins.

**JOHN:** Us? No!!! That's ridiculous. We are Coptic orthodox.

**MINA:** Yeah! We attend the mass every Sunday, have confession and we have excellent Sunday School servants. There they are, look at them! (grins at Sunday School servants).

**OFFICER 'BE HUMBLE':** Well! Let's have a look, what are all these rubbish bags?

(carries one of them and pretends it's very heavy).

What's in these bags? Can we have a look?

**MARK, JOHN and MINA (confused):** Yeah, sure, we have nothing to hide.

**OFFICER 'DON'T CURSE':** Mark, sir, can I get you to open your bag and get out what's in it?

(Mark slowly and carefully gets out what's in the bag). Oh! That smells fowl! What is it?

**MARK:** Nothing much really. It's music and clothes and some words I like to use when I am with my friends. Everyone's like that!

(John goes near to have a look).

**JOHN:** Man! That's nasty! I can't believe it's you! Don't you know Romans 12:2. "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Group 1: skit (Cont.)

(Mark looks down in regret. John moves away murmuring disapproval comments and shrugging his shoulder).

**OFFICER 'BE HUMBLE'**: John, sir, can you open your bag for us, please?

**JOHN**: G-L-A-D-L-Y (says it slowly and emphatically). I am just wonderful. I am kind, affectionate, hard working, give to the poor, peaceful (John goes on and on and is cut short by Officer 'be humble')

**OFFICER 'BE HUMBLE'**: Well, what have we got here? Why, that's just as stinky as Mark's bag.

**JOHN**: It is??!!

**OFFICER 'BE HUMBLE'**: Don't you know Romans 12:3? 'I say—to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think---, as God dealt to each one a measure of faith.'

(Now Mina tries to run out the door, but Officer 'don't curse' grabs him)

**OFFICER DON'T CURSE**: Where are you going Mina? It is time you open your bag.

(Mina opens his bag and gets the rubbish paper out). What have we got here? MSN chat/ facebook, etc. Etc. Mina, Why are you making other people's lives hell on the web? Why are you writing and hinting about all those bad things?

**MINA**: Well, they upset me. They are taking away my popularity! It is in self-defence.

**OFFICER 'DON'T CURSE'**: Don't you know Romans 13:14 "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse". ?

(the2 officers face the class and say)

Officer 1: "Do not be overcome by evil

Officer 2: but overcome evil with good". (Romans 13:21).

**THE END.**

Group 2: script:

You can change the names/ modify the script if you wish.

In this script, the scene takes place in the car park of St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church. A big fight erupts with gunfire and fighting. 2 journalists are sent to cover the scene.

You need: 2 objects to be used as microphones.

The skit starts:

The journalists lie low, crouched, listening to what is happening until it is safe enough to interview some people, to know what's going on.

**CHURCH MEMBER:** (while fighting with another; speaking in Egyptian accent): I told you, ya Magdy, you must eat kolkas , in Epiphany feast. You don't want to listen. I am tired of you not doing the right thing.

**MAGDY:** (trying to pull away) :No! My faith is not about kolkas and Taemeya. It doesn't matter what I eat in epiphany feast. I came to attend the mass.

Another 2 people take centre stage also fighting:

**ANDREW:** How many times did I tell you, that you must attend the mass on Sundays?! You insist on the Saturday mass and you say I have to study.

**MICHAEL:** I do have to study, and Abouna knows about it.

**Journalist 1** (to journalist 2): This kolkas guy looks scary, lets talk to this Andrew.

(then going to Andrew asks). What's going on here?

**ANDREW :** (angrily): People don't want to do the right thing. They don't want to eat the right things for the feasts. Some of them don't even want to buy new clothes for Easter. And this one here (grabs Michael and PRETENDS to hit him) thinks that an early Wednesday or Saturday mass is OK as long as Abouna knows.

**JOURNALIST 2:** That's all good, but don't you know what Romans 14:17 says: "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

**MICHAEL: (to Andrew):** See, I was right, you weak in the faith. (and starts to PRETEND to hit Andrew).

**JOURNALIST 1:** No Michael! Stop! It also says in Romans: "Who are you to judge another's servant?". We all serve God. He is the one who judges and condemns.

## Group 2 skit (Cont.)

**CHURCH MEMBER:** (in Egyptian accent): You are right. I remember in Romans: "if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord."; But, it still feels good to hit elwad Magdy. (continues to hit him jokingly).

**THE END.**