



Week 1 Discussion Guide

Scripture: Romans 13:7–8

Main idea: Taking responsibility for my life is one way I love the people in it.

Get started

1. When has someone's response to a mistake increased your trust in them? What did they do that made the difference?

Explore the message

2. What is the difference between “Am I a responsible person?” and “Am I taking responsibility for my life”? How might someone meet their everyday obligations while overlooking their impact on others?

3. Rich described this progression:

Disappointment → Defensiveness → Distrust → Distance

Why can defensiveness make an unmet expectation more damaging? What could taking responsibility sound like at that moment?

Read Scripture

Read Romans 13:7–8 together.

4. Paul names taxes, revenue, respect, and honor before speaking about love. What do these obligations reveal about how faith connects with everyday life?

5. What do you think it means to have a continuing debt to love one another? How could love change your attitude toward a responsibility that feels inconvenient or goes unnoticed?

6. Rich emphasized that responsible living is a response to God's grace and mercy, rather than a way to earn his love. How does that change the way we acknowledge our failures and approach growth?



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Make it personal

7. “If you own your slice, you have to be nice.” Think about an ordinary disagreement or unmet expectation. Without focusing on the other person’s part, what might it look like to acknowledge your own contribution? How could that awareness change your tone or response?

The pie chart illustrates self-examination; it does not assign actual percentages of blame. Owning your part does not mean accepting responsibility for another person’s harmful choices.

8. Which of these questions most needs your attention this week?

- Who is affected when I fail to follow through?
- Who carries the uncertainty when I avoid communicating?
- Who benefits when I handle my responsibilities well?
- Am I neglecting something that could create a future difficulty for someone else?

Share as much as you are comfortable sharing.

Take a step

Complete this sentence:

Because I love _____, I will take responsibility for _____.

Your step might be:

- Completing a task.
- Giving an honest update.
- Keeping a commitment.
- Having a needed conversation.
- Offering a practical act of care.

When will you take that step, and how can the group support you?