SMALL GROUPS

STUDY SHEET

Winter Session Week 8

Citizens of Heaven on Earth | Romans 13:1-7 | March 1, 2026

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS:

1. What has stayed with you from the sermon this week?

2. Read Romans 13:1-7 as a group. What is God's purpose for putting people in positions of authority? What does God ask us to give them so they can carry out their role?

3. Are you someone who tends to trust authority or push back against it? How does that affect how this passage lands on you?

4. Whenever those in authority use their power to oppose God's design, the Bible speaks of *dragons*. These monsters represent a kind of de-creating power that can take hold of people and kingdoms, turning them into agents of disorder and death. Watch the BibleProject video and then discuss how Jesus confronts and overcomes this kind of power.

5. What does it look like to submit to authorities when they ask us to deny or disobey God? (Optional) Read how Jesus (Matthew 26:47–57), Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:1–23), and Paul (Acts 25:6–11) responded to authority.

Case Study

Your friend Simon from church is upset because your city's mayor just approved a new policy allowing a power plant to be built near the river—a project that would increase air pollution and disrupt trout habitats where you two like to fish. He says the decision is short-sighted and plans to join a group that will blockade a street downtown until it's reversed. He tells you Jesus flipped tables when leaders were corrupt and says sometimes faithful obedience means causing a scene. He asks what you think and whether you'll join him.

How would you respond to Simon? How might Romans 13 help here?