WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: When God Removes His Hand
Key Scripture: Romans 1:24-32
Recorded Sermon:
https://youtu.be/pMN0jdXONhw?si=inlQ5gSjwkko08nN
Date + Speaker: March 8, 2026 Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter:

1. What's a simple instruction you ignored (like assembling something, cooking directions, or GPS) that caused more trouble than expected?

The Big Idea: There are consequences in individual lives, the life of a church and potentially a nation when God gives them over to their sinful desires or 'removes His hand'. It is important, then, for every person and faith community to live under the authority of God's Word to experience His hand of blessing.

Discussion:

2. Read **Romans 1:1–32**. What stands out to you in this passage? How does Paul's description of the consequences of rejecting God reflect what we see in the world around us today?

3. Reference in Scripture to the 'hand of God' typically refers to His blessing, His anointing, His protection and His Power. Read **Nehemiah 1:10, Nehemiah 2:8 and Nehemiah 2:18**. What adjectives are used to describe God's hand? How is God's blessing evident in these passages?

4. Read **Ezra 8:31, Psalms 44:2, and Isaiah 41:10**. What do these passages reveal about the nature of God's protection? Consider a problem or trial you have encountered. Were you delivered FROM it? (John 8:59) Were you delivered THROUGH it? (Exodus 14:21-22) Share an example if you are comfortable.

5. The word POWER has two main meanings.
    a. the ability to do something or to produce an effect (perhaps with strong physical force or energy)
    b. control over people, resources or decisions.

   Read **2 Chronicles 20:6 and Psalms 118:15 and Psalms 19**. What do these passages teach about the nature of God's power? How does God's use of power differ from the way power is often used in the world, and what are the consequences of each?

Diving Deeper:

6. Compare **Romans 1**, **Psalm 81:11–12**, and **Hosea 4:17**. What similarities do you see in how God allows people to follow their own choices? Where do you see this pattern in today's culture?

7. Read **Luke 11:28, Matthew 7:24, James 1:22 and John 14:15**. Obedience means 'doing what someone in authority tells you to do'. Thinking back to **Romans 1(-4)**, if humans CANNOT fulfill the righteous requirements of God's law on their own, how can we live faithfully and obediently? How does the Gospel enble us to remain under His hand of blessing, anointing, protection and power?

8. Read **1 Peter 5:6-7**. How are self-sufficiency and pride at odds with living under God's hand of blessing, anointing, protection and power? What does it practically look like to humble ourselves before God and cast our cares on Him?

9. Read **Revelation 2:4–5**. What are some signs that a believer—or a church—may be drifting from its first love? What practical steps help us remain faithful, humble, and ready with an answer for the hope we have in Christ?

Final Thoughts:

Our not-yet-believing family members, neighbours, and the world around us need the **Good News of Jesus**. How can we remain both faithful to God's truth and compassionate toward those who do not yet believe?

Additional Notes:

1. As you prepare for this study, pray and ask God to help you balance a safe space for individuals to share their perspectives about hard topics while resisting the devolution of the conversation to unconstructive debate.
2. It is important to have context for these verses that Pastor Mark leads with (Romans 1:24-32). What is happening in Canada right now? (Bill C-9 for example) Who is Paul writing to? What is he trying to accomplish in the first part of this letter to the Roman church (made up of Gentile and Jewish followers of Jesus)? Consider listening to The Bible Project's summary of Romans 1-4 cited below.

Additional Resources:



Additional resources appealing to those groups with a more studious or intellectual bent:

The Bible Project's overview of Romans 1-4
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CAGFGbNJt/