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Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

32. Chapter One (AD 64-177) — Discussion and Review Session

This is a leader's guide for running a group study session on Chapter One, not the historical content itself. It lays out the session plan: preparation, worship, review of a learning activity, group discussion, and life application. The theme it drives home is that God uses human factors and even human failures to accomplish his purposes.

Key takeaways

- Session theme: 'God uses human factors to produce spiritual results.'
- Rome first saw Christianity as a Jewish sect; after the temple burned in AD 70, Christianity became distinct and could no longer blend back into Judaism.
- Christians were persecuted for excluding other gods, refusing emperor worship (Domitian demanded 'Lord and God'), and challenging the social order.
- Roman misunderstanding of terms like 'flesh,' 'blood,' and 'love-feasts' led to false charges of cannibalism and incest.

- Application: God can use what people long for — moral guidance, meaning — even when believers can't yet see how he is working.

Scripture referenced

- **Acts 18:12-15** -- Romans treated Christianity as a Jewish sect
- **2 Timothy 4:16-18** -- Paul's second arrest under Nero; likely beheaded
- **1 Timothy 2:5** -- one mediator — offended Roman polytheism
- **1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Jude 1:12** -- Lord's Supper and love-feasts misread as cannibalism