



ROMANS CHAPTER 12 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Are you a person who overthinks almost every decision you make or a person makes a decision, goes with it, and deals with whatever may come from that decision?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Romans 12:1-21)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Romans 12:1

- Why is the phrase “in view of God’s mercy” or “by the mercies of God,” significant to this text and to the life of all Christians?
 - Paul is appealing to all Christians to live for Jesus Christ from places of love and devotion rather than places of routine and obligation. In other words, we are called to remember all the ways in which God showers His mercy on us, giving us what we do not deserve and not giving us what we do deserve.
 - In what ways do you actively seek to remember how God showers His mercy upon you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- First century individuals would have been very familiar with the idea of sacrifices and this idea of a living sacrifice would have been sobering, especially in light of Leviticus 1:10 and Deuteronomy 15:21. God is calling us to bring our entire being to His altar without holding back anything.
 - What is difficult for you about giving God full access to every part of who you are?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 12:2-8

- Notice that “the renewing of your mind” in verse 2 doesn’t have to do with feelings or external actions. Why is this important to recognize and understand?
 - Many times, we as Christians reduce living as Christ followers to following our feelings or getting it right all of the time. Living for God in fact is about allowing God to change and transform my mind and external actions flow from this transformed mind. It’s not that God desires that I run away from my feelings or emotions. Quite the opposite. God desires that I bring all of those feelings and emotions, whatever they are to Him.

This word for “transformed” in verse 2 is the same word that is used about Jesus’ transfiguration in Mark 9:2-3. In other words, this is the type of transformation that God desires to do in us, something glorious and that we can’t do or achieve on our own. We get our word metamorphosis from this word transformed.

- Do you ever fall into the trap of comparing yourself to those around you? Why or why not? How do verses 3-8 speak to this?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Romans 12:9-21

- Read 1 John 3:18 and consider that this section of text has everything to do with love in action resulting from this transformed mind that Paul has spoken about earlier. The things that Paul is speaking about aren't feelings although they involve emotions.

Pick one or two of the areas in this text that aren't easy for you to live. Why do you think this is and what can you do to more fully submit to God in these areas?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Romans chapter 13)

ROMANS CHAPTER 12 (STUDENT)

Romans 12:1

- Why is the phrase “in view of God’s mercy” or “by the mercies of God,” significant to this text and to the life of all Christians?
 - In what ways do you actively seek to remember how God showers His mercy upon you?

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What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

