

LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Romans 12:12-17

LEADER'S STUDY

We're All In This Together

Romans 12:12-17

What is happening?

Through the first seven chapters of this letter to the church at Rome, Paul reminds all believers of what Christ has given us. In chapter 8, he begins to show how that truth affects our everyday habits, perspectives, attitudes, and actions. Then, here in chapter 12, he begins to delineate some specific ways in which this supernatural transformation will be evident in the lives of believers. This not a "to do" list in order to be saved, but a list of "because of" qualities (because we *are* saved) that His people display.

In verses 12-17, Paul advises believers to encourage and pray for one another, in good times and in bad; to share our resources; and to be on the same page with one another as we share the love of Christ with the world. The church is made up of myriad individuals, but we are all redeemed by the same blood, adopted into the same spiritual family, entrusted with the same mission under the same divine leadership. We naturally have different perspectives, different interests and abilities, different likes and dislikes, but our oneness in Christ is supernatural. And when others see the results of this transformation, they'll take notice that something truly remarkable is going on here.

Where is the gospel?

We have nothing to prove and nothing to earn, because Christ has redeemed us despite our unworthiness. We are, therefore, free to be vulnerable with each other, to be generous in sharing our blessings and our hope, and to encourage others when they struggle. Rather than dragging one another down in an effort to climb to the top, we can lift each other up as we travel together. Instead of being defensive when offended, we can share with our enemies the love Christ poured out upon us when we were His enemy.

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: When I learn of other peoples' difficulties, how do I respond? Am I inclined to feel as if nobody knows what I'm going through? If so, what might be the reason for my sense of isolation? How is Christ glorified when we allow His attributes to be seen in the church? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on this passage as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to "follow Him" and make clear "I" statements about how you are going to align with Him.

Some helpful scriptures: 1 Cor. 12:26-27; 2 Cor. 1:3-7; Gal. 6:1-2; Heb. 10:23-25. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Romans 12:12-17

and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-for-thought perspective. (The New Living Translation is particularly helpful with this passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your own words.

Every verse of scripture points to the gospel. Look for how this passage points to Jesus and what He has done.

POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

These are just questions you might ask to help your group discussion. Don't feel like you need to answer all of these as a group

What is significant, surprising or confusing from these verses?

What seems to be the main point of this letter?

How does this portion of scripture point to Jesus and the gospel?

What parts of this passage are challenging to your current way of thinking?

What did you discover or learn about God and His character from this passage?

What parts of this passage can you relate to?

Look at one or two key words and define them really clearly, then look at them in context with that definition. Does this change your understanding?

Why did God bring me to this scripture today?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How is God calling you to obey, based on this passage?

or

What is your "I will" statement?

(Encourage everyone to steer clear of "we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

With whom are you going to share what you have learned?

(This is a critical part of growth that is often overlooked. If we can share it with someone else it means we really understand it, it cements it in our own minds, it makes us accountable to the truth and it blesses the one who hears it. Rom 10:17)

Based on this passage, what can we pray about and how should we pray?