



ROMANS 12-16
A Devotional Guide of Romans
for Individuals, Families, and LifeGroups
to Accompany the Sermon Series



DAY 2

Romans 12:1, I Corinthians 6:19-20



HEAD

The phrase “spiritual act of worship” can also be translated as “rational service of worship.” What point is Paul making about the logical response of a believer to God?



HEART

What prevents you from fully offering yourself fully to God as a response to His mercy?



HANDS

What physical act of service for someone else can you do this week as a response to God’s goodness?

DAY 3

Romans 12:2, Psalm 46:10, Joshua 1:8



HEAD

Paul's use of the word "world" is indicative of our current age/time. What are some of the ways of our world (like consumerism and the prosperity gospel) that we have bought into as Christians?



HEART

What would transformation look like in your attitude toward those around you?



HANDS

How does a renewed mind prompt you to follow God's will in caring for the orphan, widow, prisoner, and alien? See Chapel Hill's missions department for opportunities. Visit chapelhillpc.org/missions or contact Beth Burgess at bburgess@chapelhillpc.org.

DAY 4

Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 3:18



HEAD

The word “transformed” is the Greek word metamorphousthe which is where we get the word “metamorphosis.” Re-read these verses with the image of metamorphosis (like a caterpillar to butterfly) in mind; how does this change your understanding?



HEART

Look at how these two verses flow into one another. How might sacrificing yourself as an act of worship transform you so that you are better able to know God’s will? Is there an aspect of your life God is asking you to sacrifice because He wants to transform it? What is your next step?



HANDS

Who is someone you can tell about the power of Christ’s transformational power this week? Invite someone to try Alpha (chapelhillpc.org/alpha)

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 1

Romans 12:1-2



HEAD

What does this passage teach about the mercy of God and his desire for holiness?

What does this passage teach about who we are and what we do as believers?

What can we learn about the nature of worship from this passage?



HEART

Where are you conforming to the world's values?

How have you seen God transforming your life through the renewing of your mind as you look back at your life story?

What areas of your life are easy to offer up in sacrifice to the Lord, and which are harder for you?



HANDS

What does it practically look like to present your body as a living sacrifice? How can you take one step this week to make your sacrifice "holy and acceptable to God"?

Where do you need help discerning the will of God right now? Pray together for one another that God would renew your minds to help you make those decisions wisely.

DAY 2

Romans 12:3, John 3:27-30, I Corinthians 4:7



HEAD

Vernon Grounds wrote, “[Humility] is the spontaneous recognition of the creature’s absolute dependence on his Creator ... Humility is the logical corollary of sin-consciousness” (Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, ed. by Merrill C. Tenney [Zondervan], 3:222). How does this understanding of humility shed light on the meaning of this verse?



HEART

What is God’s perspective of you? Take some time to listen, journal, etc. to what God has gifted you with and ask Him to give you humility and confidence in His plan for you.



HANDS

Talk to God this morning by actually getting on your knees. Reflect: How does this posture put you in a position to receive? How does it impact how you feel about who you are in front of God?

DAY 3

Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 4:2-8, John 13:34-35



HEAD

What does it mean to be “members of one another”?



HEART

Are there times when you look down on others or on yourself for not having certain gifts? Pray to have a “renewed mind” (12:2) with God’s perspective on others and yourself.



HANDS

Pray for someone today who is very unlike you in your LifeGroup, perhaps even who you have a difficult time loving. Ask Jesus to see them as you see them, and pray blessing over them.

DAY 4

Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:4-11



HEAD

Why is it important for the Body of Christ to have different gifts? Do you know what your gifts are?



HEART

Ask God to use your gifts according to His purpose. Set your expectation to feel God prompting you to use them this week, and then act!



HANDS

Use your gift this week to bless someone, be ready to talk about Jesus if they ask, "Why are you doing this?"

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 2
Romans 12:3-8



HEAD

What attitude are believers to have when thinking about themselves?

What are the different gifts listed in this passage?



HEART

Which of the gifts listed resonate with you? How has God gifted you and are you using that gift?

How do you see the variety of gifts displayed in your LifeGroup, Chapel Hill, or the broader Church body here in Gig Harbor?

Which is more challenging to you? Diversity of gifts, or unity of the church body? Discuss with your LifeGroup.



HANDS

Spend a few minutes as a group encouraging each person in the room, one by one, how you see God has gifted them. These can be gifts listed in this passage, in other passages about spiritual gifts in Scripture (e.g. Ex 31:3, 1 Cor 12:8-10, Eph 4:11, 1 Peter 4:11), or any other ways you see God has gifted them in ways he could use for his glory.

This week, be thankful for diversity within the body of Christ. Spend time each day praying name by name for each of the churches in Gig Harbor, and pray for opportunities for growth in church unity.

DAY 2

Romans 12:9-10, Matthew 22:37-40, I John 4:19



HEAD

Remind yourself what you have learned about these kinds of love-- agape, unconditional, eternal love in verse 9 and phileos, brotherly love in verse 10.



HEART

Re-read each statement of these two verses slowly, take time to marinate and allow these verses to search your heart – what is the Lord prompting you toward? Is there someone you need to ask for forgiveness? To forgive? To contact? To serve? To love?



HANDS

What would it look like to love someone in our church community with “brotherly affection”? Make a plan and do it!

DAY 3

Romans 12:11-13, Revelation 3:15-16, Philippians 4:4-7



HEAD

List the action words/commands in these verses, what stands out to you about them?



HEART

Take a moment to do an inventory of your heart. Where are you lacking zeal or slow to rejoice? What is preventing you from being quick to respond? Take time to pray, asking God to remove these blocks.



HANDS

What is one way you can “seek to show hospitality” consistently to others in your life? What habits or scheduling can you make for this to happen?

DAY 4

Romans 12:14-16, Philippians 2:3-7, Matthew 5:43-48



HEAD

What is the value and result of empathy and compassion in these verses?



HEART

Is there someone who has “persecuted” or spoken against you? What has your response been? Take time to ask God to teach you to “bless them” and live in harmony with them, and then do it.



HANDS

Is there someone in your life who is rejoicing or mourning? Pursue them and be with them as a friend in their current state.

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 3
Romans 12:9-16



HEAD

List all the different ways this passage exhorts us to love one another.

How do these instructions on how to live reflect God's character?



HEART

Who comes to mind as you read this passage as an example of someone who loves well? Share with the group who that is and why they inspire you.

Who in your group is in a season of rejoicing, and who is needing patience in tribulation? Take some extra time today to hear an update from those individuals, rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and pray for those needs together as a group right now!



HANDS

What area does God want you to grow in this week? Think of one small practical way that you can love better, and text or email your group a story of how it went. See if you can outdo each other showing honor!

How can you show "brotherly affection" to someone going through a hard time in your life? Think of one small way to bless them this week.

DAY 2

Romans 12:17, Matthew 5:38-42; I Peter 3:13-17, I Thessalonians 5:15



HEAD

What does it mean to “do what is honorable in the sight of all” in light of attack, persecution, and cursing?



HEART

What in you causes you to want to “repay” someone with evil? Ask God to work on your heart so that you can respond with blessing and honor in the midst of personal attack.



HANDS

Is there someone you need to reconcile with because you have repaid them with evil or dishonor? Or is there someone you can forgive even if they have not asked for forgiveness?

DAY 3

Romans 12:18, Luke 6:27-28



HEAD

What does the phrase “as far as it depends on you” mean?



HEART

Is there someone with whom you are in contention? Are you withholding forgiveness or holding a grudge against anyone? Go to God and ask for forgiveness. If possible (and safe) go to that person and reconcile.



HANDS

Think about how our attitudes and behavior affect environments and people we don't specifically know. How can you “live peaceably” with those at the grocery store, as you drive, when you talk on the phone, etc.?

DAY 4

Romans 12:19-21, I John 2:3-6, Proverbs 25:21-22



HEAD

What is the implicit purpose of doing good? Who does it change and how?



HEART

Do you believe it is truly possible to overcome evil with good?



HANDS

Commit to proactively seeking to show God's goodness this week and see how God moves.

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 4

Romans 12:14, 17-21



HEAD

How does this passage remind you of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount? (Matthew 5-7)

What does this passage teach us about how we are to treat our enemies?



HEART

Where has it been a struggle for you to live peaceably with someone? How has God helped you in the past and where do you still need to grow?

What is most challenging for you - to not take revenge, or to bless and serve those who are against you?



HANDS

Consider where you see evil or enemies. What is one small act you can do this week to "not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"?

Spend time as a group praying for the greater authorities who counter evil actions through their line of work. Pray for the government, the military, the police, and especially any individuals known to the group who face this challenge on a daily basis.

Day 2

Romans 13:1-7, Daniel 3, Matthew 22:15-22, Acts 5:27-32



HEAD

How do Romans and the Matthew readings instruct us to interact with the government?

How might the Daniel and Acts readings be seen as exceptions?



HEART

What emotional reaction do you have to reading these passages?



HANDS

In what ways are you currently “subject,” willingly, to our “governing authorities” (Romans 13:1)? Pray, thanking the Holy Spirit for shaping that in you. Are there ways in which you are “resisting what God has appointed” (Romans 13:2)? Pray, asking God for the discernment and willingness to follow his way in this area.

DAY 3

Romans 13:8-10, Matthew 22:36-40



HEAD

How do we fulfill the law of God?



HEART

Re-read Romans 13:10, have you ever considered love to be a fulfillment of the law?



HANDS

In what relationships is God calling you to love more truly?

DAY 4

Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:42-44



HEAD

Consider the earlier verses in Romans 13. Why would this commission to holy living follow Paul's previous statements about the government and love?



HEART

Do you sense any time pressure in these verses? Do you feel urgent, apathetic, etc?



HANDS

Pray, asking the Lord to reveal to you what he can transform in order to reflect this way of love and submission.

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 5

Romans 13:1-14



HEAD

What is the Christian responsibility toward governing authorities?

Use a study Bible to examine a few stories of how God used governing authorities to either bring blessing or judgement on the people of God in the Old Testament. Discuss what it looks like for God to institute governing authorities. Who is our ultimate authority if God is involved in instituting governing authorities?

How does God use the governing authority for our good?



HEART

Examine your heart to see how this idea of submission to earthly authorities sits with you. Where do you need to repent of a wrong attitude?

Where can you grow in loving your neighbor? Which aspect of verses 8-10 stands out most to you at this time?

How does the nearness of Jesus' return motivate you to action? (13:11-14)



HANDS

One practical way Scripture teaches us to improve our attitude toward governing authorities is to pray for our leaders. Commit to take time each day this week to pray for our government.

Do you owe anyone anything? (V8) Talk about what small step you could take this week to pay back, or return anything you owe or have borrowed from another.

DAY 2

Romans 14:1-9, Mark 7:14-23, Colossians 2:16-23



HEAD

The word translated as “accept” or “welcome” in these verses is the same word used for God’s acceptance of us in Christ; it is not tolerance, but truly taking one in. Taking this into account, what is Paul saying about choices in these verses? What are some issues we have made essential for Jesus-followers that are not actually commanded in the Bible?



HEART

How frequently do we judge others for making decisions that are not our preference? Is there a place you have become self-righteous in your judgment of being above or better than those around you? Take time to reflect and repent.



HANDS

Is there someone you have judged as “weaker”? How can you encourage him/her this week?

DAY 3

Romans 14:10-19, Matthew 18:1-6, John 7:24, Philippians 2:9-11



HEAD

How are Christians told to pursue peace and mutual upholding in these verses?



HEART

If we are to give account only for ourselves (Romans 14:12) what are ways we concern ourselves with others' behavior and belief more than our own? Specifically, what matters do we make more important than the kingdom of heaven? Ask the Lord to give you discernment to know what can simply be let go.



HANDS

One practice that will rid us of judgmentalism is to visualize ourselves standing before God's throne. As you pray right now, read Romans 14:10-12 and visualize standing before your loving, heavenly Father.

Now speak to him about those areas where you are more concerned with others' behavior. Ask Jesus for a right understanding of how we all will stand before him.

DAY 4

Romans 14:20-23, Ephesians 4:29, I Corinthians 10:23, Psalm 139:23-24



HEAD

Write a summary of Romans 14 in one sentence.



HEART

Ask the Lord to search and know you (Psalm 139:23-24) so that you may be unconcerned with what everyone else does and so the freedom spoken of in verse 22 may be true of your life.

HANDS

Where could you exercise greater freedom as a follower of Jesus? That is, what matters of disagreement with fellow Christians are you going to let go of as a result of studying Romans 14?



Where could you exercise greater restraint as a follower of Jesus? That is, has God shown you anything that you're not going to push anymore because others don't feel liberated in the same way?

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 6

Romans 14:1-23



HEAD

What sort of variety of spiritual stages is the church supposed to welcome?

How does this passage challenge both the strong believer and the weak in faith to live in harmony together?

What will happen on the future day of judgement?



HEART

Where are you guilty of passing judgement on another, or ridiculing the way that another person practices their faith?

Even with provisions for different ways of living out matters of faith, Paul commends a common theme of honoring the Lord and giving thanks to God for all. Would you say this is your attitude as you make decisions about when to observe the Sabbath and other such matters?

“None of us lives to himself and none of us dies to himself”. In what areas of your life do you need to change your attitude to be in line with the belief that your life is not your own? Who do you look at as a role model for doing this well?



HANDS

Does your group include a variety of spiritual stages? How can your LifeGroup do a better job of welcoming the spiritual infant, or the one “weak in faith”? If you have someone in your group who is new to faith, or who has a lot of questions, ask them how you can better support them, and apologize if you haven’t done a great job! If you don’t have anyone at this stage, discuss what you can do this week to get to know and invite such people into your group.

How can your group focus more on “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (v. 17) in your time together than on debating rules? What practical ways can you pursue “peace and mutual upbuilding” (v.19) of each other?

DAY 2

Romans 15:1-7, I Peter 5:1-4, Romans 12:9-13



HEAD

Who are the "strong" and "weak" in these verses?

What is verse 4 referring to? What is this hope?



HEART

How have you experienced God to be a God of endurance and encouragement? When things get hard do you look to Him and His Word (the Bible) expecting to find hope? Why or why not?



HANDS

How can you welcome someone as Christ welcomed you and show hospitality to a neighbor or acquaintance this week?

DAY 3

Romans 15:8-12, Psalm 117:1-2, 2 Samuel 22:50-51



HEAD

Look up the respective cross references from verses 9-12 and notice how they encompass the entirety of the Old Testament: Law, historical, prophets, and songs. (2 Samuel 22:50 - repeated in Psalm 18:49, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 117:1, Isaiah 11:10)



HEART

When was the last time you took time to praise God for your salvation? Take some time to do that now (journal, pray, draw, etc.).



HANDS

What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 4

Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 4:14-16



HEAD

What does the God of hope fill you with? What does the power of the Holy Spirit cause you to abound in?



HEART

Do you feel full of these gifts? When did you last feel joy, peace, and/or hope?



HANDS

Make Romans 15:13 your prayer every day this week; ask for God to fill you with peace and joy and for the Holy Spirit to fill with hope.

Memorize Romans 15:13

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 7

Ravi Zacharias Preaching on Sunday

LifeGroup challenge week: Attend one of the weekend services with your LifeGroup, either Saturday night at 6:30 pm in the Memorial Chapel or Sunday morning at 9:00 or 10:45 am in the sanctuary.

- Saturday night will be a praise and worship night and we would love for you to experience it together! If you choose to do this, listen to Ravi's sermon via the Chapel Hill podcast, on the Chapel Hill app, or online at chapelhillpc.org/sermons and discuss at your normal LifeGroup meeting. The audio sermons are typically posted as soon as possible, usually Monday morning following the Sunday service.
- Sunday morning Ravi Zacharias will be preaching at both services. Afterwards, go out to a restaurant or coffee shop to discuss the content from Ravi Zacharias' sermon. You can take notes on the page for "Day 1" for Week 7 in this devotional.

What stood out to you?

What challenged you?

What inspired you?

What will you do with what you heard from Ravi Zacharias?

DAY 2

Romans 15:14-16; Romans 3:21-26



HEAD

Romans 15:14-21 begins with Paul reiterating why he wrote Romans. Why did he write it?



HEART

Do you share Paul's passion for any group of people outside of your own community of origin?



HANDS

To whom has God called you as a disciple-maker? With whom does he want you to share Jesus?

DAY 3

Romans 15:17-21



HEAD

How does Paul know he has “reason to be proud of [his] work for God” (Romans 15:17)?



HEART

What has God “accomplished through you” that you can share? (Romans 15:18)



HANDS

Write a mission statement for yourself: What will it look like for you to have “fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ” (Romans 15:19)?

DAY 4

Romans 15:22-33, Mark 8:35, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28



HEAD

How does Paul decide where to go next?



HEART

We often look at Paul and think to ourselves “I will never be like that,” but Paul had the same Spirit you and I, as followers of Christ have. Dwell on this and ask God for the courage, faith, and opportunity to see His Spirit move in and through you in amazing ways.



HANDS

Pray for individuals like Andrew Brunson and those who are imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel.

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 8

Romans 15:14-33



HEAD

What purpose does the Old Testament have in this new era?

How does God's character, as displayed in those Scriptures help us to live as he wishes?

How does Paul summarize his time of ministry and his goal in all of this?



HEART

What parts of your story can you say the same as Paul "In Christ Jesus... I have reason to be proud of my work for God"? How can you articulate your story using the same technique as him; "not venturing to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me"

Where do you see God at work bringing people to faith and obedience, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God? Share a story with your group!



HANDS

Who can you share testimony with this week of what Christ has accomplished through you so that "those who have never been told of him will see"?

Who do you know in church leadership right now who needs your prayers? Pray together on their behalf like Paul appeals the Romans to do for him.

DAY 2

Romans 16:1-16, I Peter 5:14, John 13:16; Hebrews 12:1-2



HEAD

What does this list of names tell you about how Paul did life?



HEART

Think about the last time you got together with a close friend you hadn't seen in a while, what feelings, enthusiasm, and encouragement did you give and receive? How might that inspire and inform a shift in the way you greet other believers every day?



HANDS

Practice "bragging" on another Christian this week and rejoice with someone about what another believer is doing.

DAY 3

Romans 16:17-23 [24], Ephesians 4:1-6, Jude 24-25, Matthew 10:16



HEAD

What is one way you can know more about the “doctrine which you have been taught” in order to know what’s true and what’s a lie? (Romans 16:19)



HEART

How would you describe to someone what it is to live in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ? How do you know his grace today?



HANDS

Send an email to someone who is serving Jesus who you haven’t talked to in a while. Encourage them.

DAY 4

Romans 16:25-27, Ephesians 1:3-10, Isaiah 40:27-31



HEAD

Take a moment to reflect on how Paul's closing remarks tie together the pieces of Romans you have studied for the past months. What stands out or resonates?



HEART

What happens in your heart when you read Isaiah 40:27-31?



HANDS

As you ask God for help throughout the day, address God in prayer as one of the names given to him in these verses, "eternal God," "the only wise God," "Jesus Christ," or one from the cross-references.

Memorize Romans 16:20

DAY 5

Grace Day and Scripture memorization

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS WEEK 9

Romans 16:1-16



HEAD

What does this passage exemplify to us about how to treat those who have worked hard for us, championed us, or risked their lives for us?

What else does your study Bible teach you about who all the people are who are listed in this passage?



HEART

Who has been your “Phoebe”, your biggest supporter and champion in the faith, and who are your “Prisca and Aquila”, your fellow workers in the faith?

This passage particularly draws out the name of many women who were significant in Paul’s ministry. Which women in your life are you most thankful for and why?



HANDS

How can you show your affection for the people in your life who have supported you? Take time this week to write a card to someone and say thank you for the role they have played in your life.

Where can your LifeGroup serve together to be hospitable and welcome others, or the help with practical needs of others? Could you serve as greeters one weekend at church, or serve at the Tacoma Rescue Mission one week? Discuss and make plans for a whole-group practical service opportunity.



...working together to present everyone mature in Christ

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