Home Group Leaders' Notes
Week of October 18, 2026
ALIVE! Through Faith in Jesus Christ
Romans 12

Our focus this week shifts to APPLICATION OF BEING A UNITED CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS BRINGING THE MERCIES OF GOD TO HIS FAMILY AND THE WORLD.
As always, the ideas below are only suggestions.
Grace to you,
Steve

GROUP TIME: DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION FROM GOD'S WORD
Just for fun and getting to know each other:

- Supplies needed: One die (one dice), preferably a large one.
- In a circle, the person with the birthday closest to October 18 begins.
- The person rolls the dice. He or she should then share something according to the number they roll following the list below:
    - One: A big change that happened in the last ten years
    - Two: A habit that needed to change as a follower of Jesus
    - Three: A person they know or have known that modeled sacrifice
    - Four: A story about a neighbor that is or has been a challenge
    - Five: A time when they experienced a passion to surrender to Jesus
    - Six: A tip for someone who would like God to transform their mind

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Introduce a sharing time:

- Sitting in a circle, introduce this question:
- ASK: Who are 'stars' in our culture that people idolize? Why – who are they or what do they do or what have they done? (e.g. sport people, movie stars, etc.)
    - LISTEN: After someone is named, ASK THIS, "What do people do to idolize them?" What do their fans do?
- Keep going until about 4-6 people are named and what they are idolized what their fans do.
- THEN: Who are people who have sacrificed themselves for others? What did they do or what do they do?
    - How do their fans admire them?
- THEN: What did Jesus do? How do His 'fans' admire Him?

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READ: Ask someone to read Romans 12:1-2.

ASK: What did Jesus do to inspire?

ASK: How do His people respond? Why is this different?

ASK: What is the motivation to "offer" up your bodies and "be transformed by the renewal of your minds?"

ASK: Is God asking too much of us? Why or why not?

ASK: Do you think offering up our bodies and minds is a one-time thing? Occasional? Daily? Why?

ASK: How is this any different from following Jewish law?

READ: After the call to offer up our bodies and minds, Paul immediately addresses relationships.
Ask people to Read vs. 3-21.

ASK: In verse three, Paul calls "everyone … to not think of oneself more highly than they ought to think but to think with sound judgment." What do you think is his meaning?

ASK: Have you ever done this sort of self-assessment? Was it helpful? What did you learn?

READ: Reread verses 14-21. It is obvious that Jesus is our model for all of these practices. Which of these commands stands out to you personally? Are any of them a challenge?

READ and ASK: In a few sentences, Paul (and God) calls us to radically change our lives. He calls up God's mercies as the impetus to sacrifice our bodies and minds, and moves into how we should love and serve God's family and the world.

ASK: How is this even possible? What have we learned in Romans and life to not be overwhelmed?

PRAY: Ask the God of mercies to help us totally surrender our bodies and minds, to love and live as Jesus.

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WHAT TO SING TOGETHER: "I Surrender All"