Home Group Leaders' Notes
Week of October 25, 2026
ALIVE! Through Faith in Jesus Christ
Romans 13

The primary focus on Romans 13 is the call to "live like Jesus" in our culture. The Apostle Paul is very clear, that those who understand that we have been saved by the mercies of God, our "reasonable / spiritual" response is "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." As those who have been shown grace and are His forever, we cannot continue to live as those in our culture who have not yet come to faith in Jesus. Instead, we are to "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." This is the context / set-up for chapter 13.

Our focus this week is discussing what it looks like to "live like Jesus" in our culture. This happens in multiple settings: Under the leadership of our government, in the circles of relationships (e.g. "neighbors"), and the setting of our living out the deeds of darkness.

Remember that your example of vulnerability will set the tone for building trust and opening the door for growth.

GROUP TIME: DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION FROM GOD'S WORD

ASK / SHARE: When you were a teen, what did your parents or other leaders want you to avoid? (e.g. Bad movies, music, certain groups, etc.). Did their warnings work?

ASK: We are going to be contrasting how 'not-yet-believers' in our culture live with how we are called to live. What do you notice in the news or posts, etc.

ASK/ SHARE: Do you remember times when as a follower of Jesus, you needed to make a change because you want to follow Jesus? Are there still times when you sense this?

ASK: Could someone read Romans 12:21? (Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.)

ASK: Does it ever feel like evil is winning in our culture? How do you see the role of Christ followers in our culture?

ASK: Have you ever felt "overcome by evil" – your own or the worlds?

ASK: In previous chapters, we have been called to live like Jesus (love, sacrificial, righteous, etc.). Chapter 12 focused on living before God, in the Body of Christ, and in our relationships with one another. How is chapter 13 the same or different? What is the big picture?

ASK: How do we see "the deeds of darkness" lived out in our culture? (12-13) How are these opposite and opposed to living submitted and being transformed?

ASK: These commands (chapter 13) have an implied audience of (a) God, (b) the world, (c) your neighbor, (d) fellow believers, and (e) even yourself. What happens when we "do what is good" (v. 3) and "put on the armor of light?" (12) What happens if we "do wrong" (4) or fail to "cast off the works of darkness"? (12)

ASK: Paul's final command to the believers is to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." How might we help one another live out this life? What has God promised and done to help us live out this transformed life? What about when we mess up?

I am praying that our God of grace and power can enable us to follow Jesus together and live as children of the light.

Steve