Home Group Leaders' Notes
Week of November 8, 2026
ALIVE! Through Faith in Jesus Christ
Romans 15

We are in the final section of Paul's instruction in how to be a "living sacrifice." His focus is on how we are to accept and build up the people in our world. (The Greek word translated as "neighbors" in verse two literally means "those near or close to you.") Using the example of Christ's patient endurance of and reception of us, Paul calls us to

- bear with
- not live to please ourselves … to please our neighbor …
- to build up
- to live in harmony
- to glorify God with one voice
- to welcome
- to serve
- and to present the good news.

Whew! That is a lot of commands. This final call to ministry includes . . .

1) The example of Jesus
2) The call to continue this ministry His way
3) The sacrifice and actions it will require of us
4) The goal of glorifying God with one voice (united, all peoples, all places)

INTRODUCTION
The good news of Romans 1-11 is that God has made a way for all peoples to be in a right relationship with God. Paul summed it up: "Just as you, who were at one time disobedient to God, [you] have now received mercy." Then, in chapter twelve, Paul wrote, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable worship." In this week's chapter (15), Paul is continuing to reveal what it looks like to live as a sacrifice to God – to trust and obey Him in our relationships with people. This chapter could be summarized as follows:

- Vs. 1-6: Each of us should aim to live to please our neighbors for their good, to build them up by following the example of Christ.
- 7-13: We are to accept and receive all people, all races/nations, following God's plan found throughout Scriptures and we do this by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 14-21: The apostle Paul has seen God do this as he traveled and proclaimed the good news throughout the Gentile world.
- 22-32: Paul asked the church to pray for him and his ministry as he planned to continue his ministry in new regions.

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The following tips are suggestions for how you can facilitate your group to build trust, to encourage one another, and to call up how we can live to make disciples that glorify God.

THREE IDEAS FOR THIS SEASON:

1) **Have a special time of sharing a meal and communion.**
2) **Serve together somewhere.** Micah House has a special Thanksgiving Dinner for their neighborhood on Thursday, November 19. HERE is a link to learn more and sign up.
3) **Plan a fun event to do together**

TIPS FOR FACILITATING A GROUP DISCUSSION OF HOW WE CAN APPLY ROMANS 15

LOOKING BACK – STAYING CONNECTED: The high, the low, and the buffalo.
What happened since we met last. You can share a "high, a low, or a buffalo"

- A high – something good, a positive, a blessing
- A low – something difficult, hard, sad, etc.
- A buffalo – something unexpected, surprising, (you don't expect to see a buffalo)

ASK:

- We are in our next to last conversation about the book of Romans
- What have we learned? What stands out to you? What encourages you?

ASK someone to read the "INTRODUCTION" to chapter 15.

READ: Would someone read 15:1-13 for us?

ASK: Would anyone like to share a question or answer to the home time studies?

READ AHEAD: Let's take a few minutes to read ahead the five questions listed in our group sharing. Is there one that you would like to discuss first?

ASK: The idea of living to "build up" others is a challenge to our 'natural' self. What do we know from Scripture that can bring about this change? (2)

ASK: What does it look like to accept one another "as Christ accepted you?" (7) What keeps us from doing this with all people?

ASK: Reread verses 22-33. What did it take for Paul and his many friends to take on this ministry throughout the world?

ASK: What would it look like for us to continue this ministry of building-up others in our daily lives? What would it require of us?

ASK: Reread Paul's calling to the Roman church in verse 16. How is this now our mission?