FALL 2026 // WEEK 5

Life Group Questions

Romans – The Gospel is_____ // October 10/11, 2026

A New Way of Living // Romans 12:9-21

Introduction

As we continue in Romans 12, Paul continues to show us a new way of living that extends to all of our relationships, both within the body of Christ and with those who are not followers of Jesus. It is a challenging, yet fulfilling way to live and his words sound a bit like Jesus' teaching in the gospels.

Study Questions *(to complete on your own)*

1) Read **Romans 12:9-13**. Based on these verses how would you define the biblical concept of love? You may also want to compare this passage with 1 Corinthians 13.

2) Read **Romans 12:14-21.** How would you summarize Paul's point in these verses?

Discussion Questions *(with your group)*

1) Pastor Ryan reminded us that Paul's letter to the Romans has been building to this point. Look up the passages he referenced, **Romans 6:4, Romans 12:1-2. How did Pastor Ryan say these passages related to our passage this week?**

2) In Romans 12:9-13, Paul is giving concrete examples of love in action (see Study question 1 above). **As a group, describe in your own words what some of the phrases in this passage look like in our current day.**

   Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good…

   Be devoted to one another in brotherly love…

   Devoted to prayer…

   Contributing to the needs of the saints…

   Practicing hospitality…

If you can, recall a time when you've experienced these loving actions in the body of Christ. What was that like for you?

How do you see yourself contributing to this as a member of the body of Christ?

3) In verses 14-21, Paul outlines a new way for followers of Jesus as we engage with a broken and even hostile, world. What truth about God and our salvation frees us to live this way?

Again, as a group describe in your own words what the following phrases from this passage look like in everyday life.

Bless those who persecute you…

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep…

Be of the same mind toward one another…

Associate with the lowly…

Do not be wise in your own estimation…

Respect what is right in the sight of all men…

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men…

Which of these phrases is the most challenging for you to live out and why?

How can your Life Group encourage you in this new way of living?

4) Look at the final verse of the passage one more time (Romans 12:21). **What is the evil in your life that is seeking to overtake you?**

What does it look like to overcome evil with good?

Personal Spiritual Exercises

Just like physical exercises help strengthen and stretch our bodies for healthy living, these spiritual exercises are meant to move us spiritually in ways that may be new so that we might experience inner growth. Since God longs for us to experience Him with our whole selves—mind, body, spirit— we invite you to strengthen your souls with exercises that challenge and stretch you in new ways. Choose one and commit to repeating it until you gain strength in that area.

1) **Scripture Reading: to listen and soak in the Word as an experience of the words washing over you.** Read or listen to chapters 9-12 of Romans at least twice/week. As you take it in, resist the impulse to study and parse the details. The point is not to gain "head knowledge" but a stirring in the heart as the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life in you.

2) **Memorization to internalize God's Word.** A key passage for this session is ***Romans 12:1-2***. Commit to memorize it yourself and encourage others in your group to do it with you.

3) **Walk & Pray: to actively engage with the scripture passage.** Write out the memory verse above (in #2) on a card to take with you while you walk. As you walk and think on the scripture, take time to ask God, "Is there anything I need to know about my life related to these verses?"

4) **Journal Reflection: to practice remembering what God has done.** Make time in your schedule to put down in writing the feelings and thoughts that are stirring as you interact with the Word of God.

5) **Self-control Exercise: to help you come to stillness from a busy or hurried pace of life.** Set a timer for 10 minutes. Sit upright but comfortably in a chair with your palms open and upward on your lap. Focus on a word or short phrase about the character of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. When your thoughts wander to the things on your to-do list or other people's needs, redirect them back to the character of God. When the 10 minutes is up, close in a short prayer of gratitude.

Prayer

Praying together in a group is different than praying alone with God. It's a conversation that can help you grow closer to each other as you are in God's presence. One way to pray follows this often-used pattern in scripture – acknowledge who God is, recognize the need we have for Him, and ask to partner with Him on behalf of others. When possible, use the passage of scripture from this week's sermon as your starting point, then form a prayer that follows this pattern:

God, our Father, this week we learned that you are _____ and _____ .

As I looked into your Word, I understood how I need you to _____. Help me to be faithful to _____ in the week ahead.

Other people are on my heart, and I trust that you have put them there for a reason. I ask for your will to be accomplished in their life as they _____. Help me to know how to respond well to the needs of _____, even as my first step is in praying for them right now.

Each group engages in prayer differently. Some groups go around and allow anyone to pray that desires to do so. Other groups have several people pray or maybe 1 person closes the group in prayer. Still other groups split into smaller groups of 2-3 people, and those people pray for each other. How you choose to engage in prayer is dependent on your group and your choice to ENGAGE! **We learn to pray by praying and by listening and praying with others!**