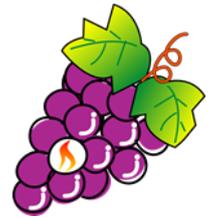




LIFE GROUP PLANNING

Week Beginning 15th May



Aim of session:

What might God want to say to the group?
How merciful has God been to us?
How can we be living sacrifices for God?

Key Scriptures

If you have access to a commentary read some background to get context.

Romans 12:1-2

Warm Up

Can you think of an example of when you have shown mercy instead of demanding justice?

How does the world respond to the idea of mercy?

What is it like to receive mercy?

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

Paul has set out a vision of God's mercy in Romans 1-11, now he sets the challenge of responding to it. He is keen for all of us to recognise our need of mercy in our lives. The mercy of God as revealed in Jesus.

1. What do you understand by the phrase "living sacrifice"?
2. In what way had Jesus demonstrated the idea of a "living sacrifice" for us?
3. What is the link between God's mercy and us being a living sacrifice? Why should we?
4. In V2 ... what is the "pattern of this world"?

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

The pattern of this world is one that is not focussing on Jesus but on other things. It is self reliance rather than reliance on God. It is the wide path, not the narrow one.

5. Each day, how long do we spend conforming to the world? What might this involve?
6. How can we transform our minds so we can "test and approve God's will" for our lives?
7. What will be/is the consequence of being transformed by God's mercy and having a different outlook on life than "the world"?
8. What is the immediate and ultimate benefit of accepting God's mercy living in the will of God?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.