

Session 8: Devotion.

How can we live full on for God?

ROMANS 12

KEY VERSE:

'I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God ...'

ROMANS 12.1 (NIV)

Key themes

- God's mercy demands a response
- Devotion to God
- Resist cultural pressures
- True worship is embodied in practical living
- Service in God's family
- Loving our enemies

Possible issues

SHOULD WE SHOW KINDNESS TO 'ENEMIES' – ABUSERS/EVIL PEOPLE?

Response: These are difficult issues that require great wisdom. There is a real need for boundaries and protection around issues of abuse or interaction with certain people (possibly even involving the law if appropriate). Ultimately, we understand that God will avenge and judge, so we can leave that to him, but we also need to acknowledge that harbouring hatred can harm us and that forgiveness (where possible) can bring freedom.

Wrap up

- In summary: 'The gospel isn't just something to believe, it's a whole new way to live.' We are 'metamorphosed', so we live a life holy and pleasing to God. True worship is embodied in practical living. Take your everyday life and place it before God as an offering. As loving servants, we demonstrate humble brotherly /sisterly love in God's family and even bless and pray for our enemies.
- Reminder of daily readings
- Next week: Community. How can we live together in love? We are citizens in society on earth and citizens of God's kingdom. We have rights and responsibilities in both. We are to respect authorities and contribute to society. In God's kingdom there should be unity not uniformity.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- Refreshments
- Welcome and introduction including brief recap of last session (4 minutes)
- Optional discussion starter questions (5 minutes): Have you ever tried to swim against the current? What happened?
- Video part 1 (15 minutes)
- Discussion time (questions in participants' guide) (25 minutes)
- Video part 2 (10 minutes)
- Personal prayer/reflection (10 minutes)