

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:
11th June 2017
Title:
Our Relationship to God
Passage:
Romans 12:1-2
Speaker:
Mike Frisby
Notes:
Dan Gould

Welcome to this week's GG Briefing Notes! Thanks for leading this discussion in your group. Do pray that God uses it to help everyone in your group become more like Jesus.

We have suggested below some things to aim for in your discussion. Please don't just read this sheet out to the group! Decide before you start how you'll work towards each aim. Which of our questions will you use (you may not need all of them) – or can you think of better ones? What kind of answers will you be hoping to get from each question?

As you ask questions, keep the aim in mind, and only give hints if you have to. Don't forget to make sure everyone in the group is involved.

1

Aim

Today's passage urges us to respond to God's mercies. To respond to His mercy we need to understand why we are in such dire need of it in the first place...

Some Possible Questions

Read Romans 1:18-23.

What do these verses tell us about the human condition?

Why are we without excuse?

Now read Romans 3:21-26. What specific mercy does this passage reveal?

How does truly understanding the state we were in before Jesus saved us help us respond to His mercy?

Hints

We have suppressed the truth about God, exchanging it for a lie. We refused to glorify God or give thanks to Him. We have exchanged God's glory for gods of our own making.

We are saved through faith in Jesus alone.

2

Aim

To explore how we should respond to God's mercies; living transformed lives that bring glory to His name.

Some Possible Questions

Read Romans 12:1-2.

What does it mean to be a 'living sacrifice' (verse 1).

One person in the group draw an outline of a human body on a sheet of paper. ☺ Write on the sheet how new life in Jesus might be expressed in parts of the body.

If the group is struggling for ideas, here's some suggestions: our tongues might speak truth, our hands lift up the downcast, our arms embrace the stranger, our eyes look to the living God, etc.

In what ways do we compromise our faith and 'conform to the world' in our day-to-day lives? (verse 2a)

How are we transformed? (verse 2a)

In what ways might help or hinder this process of mind renewal?

What are the results of this transformation? (verse 2b)

Split into twos/threes and share any ways you may conform too much to the ways of the world, or compromise your faith sometimes. Pray for each other, that God may strengthen you in these areas and transform you by the renewing of your minds.

Hints

The term living sacrifice draws on language from the Old Testament sacrificial system, where animals were sacrificed to atone for sins. This was a foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, which atoned for the sins of all who believe in Him. In gratitude for God's amazing grace we should therefore dedicate our entire beings to His service.