

ROMANS

XII - XV

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are having another Worship Night at the East Abbotsford Campus! It will take place on Saturday, October 5 at 6:00pm. This is a family event, so bring your children! Join us as we celebrate one year at the East Abbotsford Campus, worship together, and reflect on all that God is doing in our church.
- There is a Baptism class at the Downes Road Campus on Wednesday, October 2. Registration is online at northview.org/baptism
- Membership Classes are happening at the Downes Road Campus on Wednesday nights - October 9, 16, and 23. Sign up at northview.org/membership
- We are hosting our first ever New to Northview event at the East Abbotsford Campus on Sunday, October 27. If you are new to our church, please join us during Connect Time (10:15-11:00am) for a chance to get to know some people, as well as hear from Pastors Greg, Thaleia, and Jeff.

OPENING DISCUSSION / ICE BREAKER

- As you are still getting to know the people in your group, feel free to ask people to share something that they are looking forward to this fall, or simply share highlights/lowlights from their week.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for all pastors and staff as the new ministry year begins!
- Please pray for our East Abbotsford Community groups - that the leaders would be equipped to lead and that people all over east Abbotsford would be in Christ-centred community.
- Please pray for our upcoming Worship Night - that many people would come and that God would be glorified!

LEADER NOTES

Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:

Connection: 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

Content: 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

Commission: 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

Care: 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

Connection: 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

ROMANS SERMON SERIES

Our Fall Sermon Series in Romans is highly practical! In Romans 1-11 Paul provides a theological framework for the Christian Faith. Now, in the final section of this letter, he gives the church in Rome specific examples of how this faith should be lived out.

Benefits of this series: It will feel highly practical for all of your group members. Romans 12-16 will force them to reflect on how their faith impacts their everyday life.

Potential pitfalls of this series: It is easy to fall into moralism and legalism when we focus on what we should and should not do if we are Christians. Keep this in mind! The sermon discussion questions will aim to remind us of the gospel truths behind each command.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

Observation

Observation (This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans)

1. Read Romans 12:9-11 together as a group.
2. What are the commands that are in these verses?
The whole passage consists of commands, take a moment to simply notice each one
 - *Love sincerely, Hate what is evil, Cling to what is good, Be devoted to one another, Honour one another above yourselves, Never lack in zeal, Keep your spiritual fervour serving the Lord*
3. Verse 9 & 10 describe the characteristics of love, how is this picture of love more comprehensive or different than our picture of love?
Sincere, hate of evil, clinging to good, devotion and honour to others
4. What two things should accompany serving the Lord?
Zeal and fervour
 - a. What do each of these words mean?
Zeal :: great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective.
Fervour :: intense and passionate feeling.
5. Context: Look back to Romans 12:1-8. How do verses 9-11 expand on the idea of living as sacrifices and being a united body?
Remembering who we are loving (one another) & where it all comes from (the Lord)

Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21. How does this passage help us to better understand the love we are to give others? In what ways is this love first modelled to us from God?
 - *Love comes from God (v7)*
 - *Because God first loved us, we ought to love others, (v11,19)*

- *If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us (v12)*
 - *Whoever claims to love God, but hates his brother is a liar. Whoever doesn't love their brother or sister cannot love God (19, 20)*
 - *He has given us this command*
2. Read Revelation 3:14-21. The church in Laodicea is reprimanded for being lukewarm, which is evidence of their lack of zeal. What are the dangers of not being zealous for the Lord?

The letter has grown lukewarm and the letter says that Jesus is about to "spit out of his mouth"

Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. How might this understanding of love impact how you interact with others at church (note: These verses are geared specifically toward how we love each other in the church. In the coming weeks we will talk about how to love people in the world)?
2. How did this text challenge your actions or beliefs about being zealous for God and serving Him?

RESOURCES FOR ROMANS

Suggested Devotional / Personal Bible Study

Resources:

Romans For You (Tim Keller): A 2 Volume set
www.thegoodbook.com/romans-for-you-set

Commentaries:

R.C. Sproul, Romans:
An Expository Commentary, 2009.

Douglas Moo
The Letter to the Romans (New International Commentary on the New Testament, 2018).

Douglas Moo
Romans (The NIV Application Commentary Book 6)