

ROMANS

XII - XV

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

SEPTEMBER 29, 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 of our Serve Team members that they would have health, grow in their love for Jesus, and find joy in the roles they are filling.
- 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

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 12:12 together as a group.
2. What are the three things that Paul commands Christians to do?
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer (basically just the verse)
3. The manner in which we ought to pursue the three things is also given. Which of the three presents is the biggest challenge for you?
 - *Joy, patience, and faithfulness are highlighted here as the attitudes we ought to have.*
 - *Answers will vary as people talk about their own experience and the Christian life.*
4. Re-visit Romans 12:9-11. How does the literary context add to our understanding of Romans 12:12?
Romans 12:12 is in the middle of a section that describes "genuine love" (Romans 12:9), and describes life for the individual Christian, and life together as part of the church. The three parts of the verse ought to be pursued as individuals and as part of the church.

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. **Be joyful in hope.** Paul has addressed this idea before, look back to Romans 5:1-5.
 - a. According to this passage, why can we have hope? What are we hoping for?
 - b. How is hope developed?
Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Difficult circumstances are often part of the process!
2. **Be patient in affliction.** Read Romans 8:18-27.
 - a. How does this passage describe affliction?
Try to use the language of the text: "subject to futility" (v.20); "bondage to corruption" (v.21); "groaning" (v.22)
 - b. What parts of this passage directly connect to the three things we see in Romans 12:12. Please try and connect every verse in the passage above to one of the 3 parts of Romans 12:12.

The divisions can roughly be seen as follows: vv.18-22 (affliction); vv.23-25 (hope); vv.26-27 (prayer).

3. **Be faithful in prayer.** Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
 - a. What does this passage contribute to our understanding of the purpose (reason for) of prayer?
It is God's will for us that we pray in all circumstances (both good and bad). Prayer is what empowers us to be joyful in hope and patient in affliction.
 - b. How can a person be faithful in prayer?
What does praying "without ceasing" look like? Ask people to give specific examples of the things they can do to help them be faithful in prayer.

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. What are ways we can encourage ourselves, and each other, to live out the commands of Romans 12:12?
The main thing that helps people understand the hope they are waiting for and empowers them to persevere in suffering is knowing God's promises. Ask people if they have a favorite verse or passage they go to when facing trials?
2. How does Romans 12:12 challenge your current responses to circumstances in life?
We want to get people thinking through what makes it challenging for them to rejoice in hope, be patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Why don't we do these things?

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)