

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)

Part I: Living sacrifices

ROMANS 12.1-2

In view of God's mercy:



WE MUST BREAK WITH PAST WAYS OF LIVING:

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world ...'

ROMANS 12.2 (NIV)



WE MUST EMBRACE GOD'S TRUTH:

'... be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

ROMANS 12.2 (NIV)



WE MUST DEVOTE OUR WHOLE SELVES TO GOD:

'Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering.'

ROMANS 12.1 (THE MESSAGE)



Discussion time

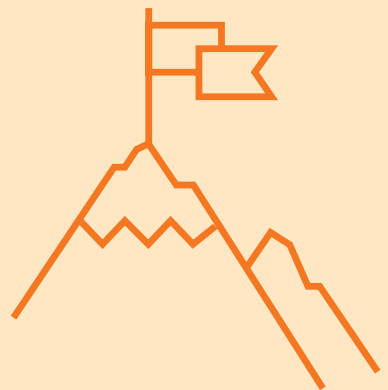
READ ROMANS 12.1-2

1. How different does your life look now compared with your 'old' life? If it does not look different, what are the things that are holding you back?

2. Why is it so important not to conform to society? Have you experienced criticism for being different? In what ways do you find yourself being influenced by the world?

3. What might it mean to be a 'living sacrifice' today? Do you have an example of surrendering to God's leading?

NOTES:



Part II: Loving servants

ROMANS 12.3–21

WE ARE TO BE LOVING SERVANTS IN GOD'S FAMILY

'Be devoted to one another in love' – using our gifts, offering hospitality and sharing our resources (verse 10, NIV).

WE ARE TO BE LOVING SERVANTS TOWARDS OUR ENEMIES

'Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse' (verse 14, NIV).

'Do not repay anyone evil for evil' (verse 17, NIV).

'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink' (verse 20, NIV).

'Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good' (verse 21, NIV).

Part II: Reflection time

READ ROMANS 12.14–21

What might it mean for us to serve others and 'overcome evil with good'? Is there someone who has hurt us to whom God is calling us to show kindness?



PRAYER

Pray for practical ways we can respond to this teaching and for fresh courage to act on it.

NOTES:



READING ROMANS:

Before the next session, read the following passages in Romans:

- READING 1:
Romans 13.1–7
- READING 2:
Romans 13.8–10
- READING 3:
Romans 13.11–14
- READING 4:
Romans 14.1–12
- READING 5:
Romans 14.13–23



READING SUGGESTIONS:

- Chapter 8 of
Romans: A Letter That Makes Sense of Life
by Andrew Ollerton