

Upside Down Kingdom

WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GROUP QUESTIONS



1. INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THE GROUP:

- a. Please share your name with the group.
- b. Please share one thing that intrigues you or a question you may have about the title of the study.

2. SCHEDULE:

- a. Please look over the schedule in the front of your notebook.
- b. For in person, Jonna or someone will give a 3-5 minute warning before you need to close in prayer.
- c. Please be sensitive to times especially because we will now be livestreaming the messages and have to be extremely accurate to our start time.
- d. If at all possible, please come a few minutes early so that you can enjoy the time in your groups to the fullest extent.

3. HOMEWORK:

- a. Please start each homework day with prayer so that we can invite the Lord to be part of our study time.
- b. We will have 5 days of homework. Please try to do the homework each day rather than trying to get it in all at once. Please try and let the “catch up” plan be the exception and not the rule.
- c. Homework questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. GETTING OUR HEARTS READY FOR THE STUDY:

- a. What is one thing you see in the world’s plan that is upside down from God’s kingdom plan? (A passage that may help is 1 John 2:15-17.)
- b. How do you think worship impacts our relationships with other people?
- c. If you could look forward 5 weeks from now, what is one thing regarding your relationship with Jesus that you hope this study will help you grow in?
- d. If you could look forward 5 weeks from now, what is one thing regarding your relationship with others that you hope this study will help you grow in?

5. PLEASE CLOSE THIS TIME IN PRAYER.

- a. Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you’re about to hear.
- b. Please ask the Lord to help you to open your heart and mind to what the next 5 weeks will bring.

ROMANS 12:1-2

III. True spiritual worship seeks to _____ and _____ God's good, acceptable, and perfect will. (2b)

Week One: Homework

UPSIDE DOWN SACRIFICE: YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

ROMANS 12:1-2



DAY ONE

PRAY: Commit your study time this week to the Lord and ask Him to reveal His truth to you.

MEMORIZE: Romans 12:1a “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice.” Please read this verse several times, emphasizing a different word each time you say it.

STUDY: Paul begins Romans 12 with the words, “I appeal to you, therefore...” Before looking at what he’s appealing for us to do, let’s look at what the “therefore” is there for. For the next few days, we’ll look at a few passages that help us put this appeal into context. Today, we’ll look at Romans 5:12-17 as we learn about the “mercies” of God.

Please read Romans 5:12-17 and answer the following questions:

1. On the table below, please write down what came through Adam vs. what came through Jesus:

ADAM	JESUS
V.12	V.15
V.12	V.15
V.12	V.16
V.14	V.17
V.15	V.17
V.16	
V.17	

2. *This study is called, “Upside Down Kingdom.” How is vs. 16, specifically what follows “many trespasses,” upside down from what the world teaches?

3. *Romans 12:1 says, “I appeal to you, therefore...to be a living sacrifice...” From this passage that we just studied in Romans 5, what would be the reason to be a living sacrifice to the Lord?

Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord what you learned about the reason you would be willing to be a living sacrifice for Him.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Please offer this time to the Lord, remembering what you learned from day one. Ask Him to lead you into greater understanding of these verses.

MEMORIZE: Romans 12:1a. Using the phrases below, please write out the verse on the lines provided.

To present your bodies, therefore brothers, as a living sacrifice, I appeal to you, by the mercies of God.

STUDY: Today we’ll continue to study what the “therefore” is there for. Yesterday we saw the beautiful mystery of the free gift of righteousness given by the Lord. Now we will look at the absolute and unconditional love of the Lord. Please read Romans 8:28-39 and answer the following questions:

1. In vs. 28, we learn that God wants to work all things together for our good. How does vs. 29 clarify what that “good” is? Please describe how that would affect how we handle the struggles of life.

2. For a person who struggles with embracing God’s love and acceptance, what hope from vs. 31-34 would you give to encourage that person?

3. *How and why would God’s love be helpful when facing the struggles listed in vs. 35-36, 38-39?

4. How does vs. 37 give you an understanding of vs. 35-36, 38-39?

5. *What does it look like to conquer as a believer, keeping in mind that the truths in vs. 29 don't necessarily change our circumstances?

Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord what reasons you found from today's passage to be a living sacrifice for Him.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to show you what He would like you to learn from your study today.

MEMORIZE: Romans 12:1a Please fill in the blanks below:

I _____ to you _____, brothers, by the _____ of _____
to present _____ as a living _____,

STUDY: Continuing on with the "therefore," we'll take one more look back. We have seen God's free gift of righteousness and mercy. We have seen His love that overcomes even death. Today we will look at His incredible wisdom and worth. Please read Romans 11:33-36 and answer the following questions:

1. Please define "unsearchable" and "inscrutable," and rewrite vs. 33 in your own words.

2. What impact does it have on your understanding of God that no one is wise or knowledgeable enough to give Him counsel?

3. *Vs. 35 says, "Who has given a gift to Him that He might be repaid?" What kinds of expectations do we sometimes place on God, thinking that He "owes" us something?

4. *Please explain how a person struggling with pride would respond to this passage versus a person who is humble.

5. Looking back over the last three days, please summarize the reasons that being a living sacrifice to God in worship is a worthy calling.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer, asking the Lord to show you more of who He is.

MEMORIZE: Romans 12:1a. Please review this verse and then rewrite it on the lines below as though it's a personal note from God to you.

STUDY: Today we finally look at the call on our lives to be a living sacrifice to God. Therefore, since we have learned all of these truths about God over the last several days, what does God call us to do? What matters to the heart of God?

Worship has often been defined as the part of the church service that includes singing. But we will see here in this passage that worship is a lot more than that. We are made to be worshipers. We worship someone or something 24 hours a day. The question is not, "Do we worship?" The question is, "Who or what are we worshipping?" Please read Romans 12:1-2 to get a deeper understanding of worship, and answer the following questions:

1. How does this passage expand upon your understanding of what worship is?

2. *Please compare this passage in Romans with 1 John 2:15-17. How is conformity (assimilation) to this world an obstacle to being a living sacrifice for God?

3. What is the difference between conformity (assimilation) and transformation (metamorphosis)?

4. *Notice the passage doesn't say, "Transform yourself." It says, "BE transformed." (It also doesn't say, "Don't conform yourself...but don't BE conformed.") What's the difference between "doing" and "being," and how does this transformation take place?

5. *Why is the renewal of our minds necessary for testing and discerning the will of God? By implication, what will we be tempted to think of the will of God when we're not having our minds renewed?

Please close this time in prayer, and tell the Lord what you learned about being a living sacrifice for Him as well as any areas of your life that you see yourself being conformed to the world.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to show you what He wants you to learn today.

MEMORIZE: Romans 12:1a - Please write out the verse from memory.

STUDY: Today let's turn our attention to the Lord and tell Him what we've learned this week. Before completing the following sentences in prayer to the Lord, please go back over your homework from Day 1-4 and read Romans 12:1-2 once more.

Complete the following sentences in prayer to the Lord:

1. Father, You call me to be a living sacrifice because...

2. I realize that worship is more than...

3. I get tempted to conform to the world when...

4. It seems to me that the area of my mind You are renewing right now is...

5. *The way I've tried to discern Your will in the past was...but now I see I need to...

Please end this time with one more prayer, telling the Lord what you've learned about why He is worthy of your living, sacrificial worship.