

# Week Four: Discussion Questions

UPSIDE DOWN LOVE: LIVING LOVE

ROMANS 12:9-12



1. What impacted you from last week's message.
2. How do you think that love and zeal relate to each other? How do these commands connect?
3. If we obey the command to love without the feelings of love, are we being hypocritical or insincere? Why or why not?
4. Notice in verse 9 we are told to abhor what is evil and cling to what is good. How does not tolerating evil while being glued to good help me to love others?
5. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How do these verses help in your understanding of Romans 12:10?
6. How would your relationships change if you truly loved with the affection and humility that Paul describes here?
7. The word zeal can be translated as diligence. Diligence means to have steady, energetic effort. Does a steady, energetic effort describe your relationship with the Lord right now? Why or why not?
8. The word fervent means to be "on the boil". Think about what it takes for water to come to a boil: a heat source and time. In our own lives, to stir up fervency for the Lord, we also need a heat source and time. What are some things that would act as a heat source for your relationship with the Lord? What does the need for time to develop fervency indicate to you?
9. The word used for serve in verse 11 comes from the Greek "doulos". One who lives as a doulos to His Lord is a bondservant who is surrendered fully to His Master's will and devoted to Him to the disregard of his own interest. How does this definition of serving shape your understanding of zeal?
10. How could doing these three things help to stir up fervency as you serve the Lord?



## ROMANS 12:13-16

III. Humble care is about \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_. (16)

# Week Four: Homework

UPSIDE DOWN CARE: HUMBLE PURSUIT

ROMANS 12:13-16



## DAY ONE

**PRAY:** Please open your study time in prayer, and ask the Lord to help you learn and apply what he wants to teach you.

**MEMORIZE:** Romans 12:2b. That by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Please read this verse several times stressing a different word each time you say it.

**STUDY:** Today we'll focus on the call in Romans 12:13 to "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." What better way to understand this verse than to look at the example of the one who exemplified it the best? Please read Mark 6:30-44 and answer the following questions:

1. First, look back at Mark 6:14-29 to understand the context. All four gospel accounts of the feeding of the 5000 were preceded by the same event, so we can know that it happened chronologically.

a. What had taken place right before the event in vs. 30-44?

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b. How do you think Jesus would have been dealing with the loss of His cousin, John?

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2. Please take a good look at the scene of what is taking place. What phrases or words from vs. 30-44 can you point to that describe Jesus' attitude toward the people?

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3. \*How do you see Jesus both modeling and teaching the disciples about caring for people's needs and showing hospitality? Why do you think this was an important lesson for Him to teach them?

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4. In a biblical context, contributing to needs refers to believers. Meanwhile, seeking to show hospitality refers to providing help for "aliens" or strangers. What are some practical ways that God can use your gifts and talents to...

a. contribute to other believers' needs?

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b. show strangers hospitality?

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5. \*What is the difference between obeying this command as an act of worship to the Lord versus doing it from some other motivation? What other motives could there be?

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*Please close this time in prayer. Tell the Lord what you learned from Jesus' example today, and confess any motives you can see in your own life that aren't stemming from worshiping Him.*

## DAY TWO

**PRAY:** Please offer this time to the Lord, asking Him to show you what it means to care well for those in your life.

**MEMORIZE:** Romans 12:2b. Please complete the verse by filling in the blanks.

that by \_\_\_\_\_ you may \_\_\_\_\_ what is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ what is \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptable and \_\_\_\_\_.

**STUDY:** Today's passage is a hard one. It is one thing to say we're going to follow God's word. It is a whole other thing to follow through when the circumstances around us are hard. But Jesus never asks us to do anything that He hasn't first modeled to us. As we remember Romans 12:14—"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them"—let's take a look at some ways Jesus modeled this very difficult command.

1. Please read John 13:1-5, 21-28. Imagine being Judas, having already received the 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.

a. \*How did Jesus model Romans 12:14 to Judas?

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b. What do you think Judas would have been thinking while Jesus was washing his feet?

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2. Please read Luke 22:39-51. After washing the disciples' feet and having supper with them, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

a. How did Jesus model Romans 12:14 to the soldier?

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b. \*Please think of all the people mentioned in this passage. Which person do you most see yourself in? Why?

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3. Please read Luke 23:26-43. To whom and how did Jesus model Romans 12:14?

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4. \*Who in your life is God calling you to model Romans 12:14 to, and what is one step you can take toward blessing them?

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*Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord who you're going to bless rather than curse, even when they are persecuting you.*

### **DAY THREE**

**PRAY:** Please open this time by thanking the Lord for what He is teaching you this week and asking Him to show you what He would like you to learn today.

**MEMORIZE:** Romans 12:2b. Please write out the verse by unscrambling the phrases below:  
*what is    and acceptable and    that by testing you    what is good    may discern    perfect.    the will of God*

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**STUDY:** Today, we read the passage from Romans 12:15—"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." We'll continue with our plan to see how Jesus modeled this for us. Please read John 11:17-44. John 11:4 and John 11:11 make it clear that Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead.

1. Notice how Martha and Mary approached Jesus. Do you think they were afraid or unafraid to talk with Him? What in the passage helps you draw that conclusion?

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2. What words or phrases in this passage help you to see that Jesus was weeping with those who wept?

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3. \*How does the fact that Jesus already had a plan to raise Lazarus from the dead impact your understanding of God's view of your own sorrows?

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4. \*Think about living out Romans 15:14.

a. What effect does our pride have on it?

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b. What effect does our humility have on it?

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c. What effect does the pride or humility of others have on it?

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*Please close this time in prayer, and tell the Lord where you need help in weeping with those who weep or rejoicing with those who rejoice.*

## **DAY FOUR**

**PRAY:** Please open this time in prayer, asking the Lord to help you better understand what it looks like to live in His Upside Down Kingdom.

**MEMORIZE:** Romans 12:2b. Please review this verse and rewrite it on the lines below.

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**STUDY:** Today we'll see one passage that will show how Jesus modeled Romans 12:16—"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight." We'll look at His example in John 5:19-30. This passage came right after Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, which upset many of the Jews. They were seeking to kill Him because He called God "His own Father, making Himself equal with God" (vs. 18). And yet, we still see in this passage His humility as He lived out Romans 12:16. Please read John 5:19-30 and answer the following questions:

1. \*Please look at John 5:19-20, 25-27. What evidence do you see of Jesus and the Father living in harmony?

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2. From this passage in John 5 and the other passages you've read about Jesus this week, how do you see Jesus not being haughty but rather associating with the lowly? Who are the lowly?

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3. \*Please note John 5:30.

a. How is Jesus, who is God, choosing not to be wise in His own sight?

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b. How were the Jews choosing to be wise in their own sight?

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4. What aspects of Romans 12:16 do you see Jesus wanting to help you do better, and why do you think that?

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*Please close this time in prayer, taking some time to worship the Lord for always modeling to us what He calls us to do.*

## **DAY FIVE**

**PRAY:** Please offer yourself to the Lord today, asking Him to guide you in understanding His words for you today.

**MEMORIZE:** Romans 12:2b. Please review the entire verse today and write it on the lines below.

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**STUDY:** Today let's turn our attention to the Lord and tell Him what we've learned about Jesus and ourselves this week. Before completing the following sentences in prayer to the Lord, please read Romans 12:13-16, and look over your homework from Day 1-4 once more.

*Complete the following sentences in prayer to the Lord:*

1. Lord, You tell me to contribute to the needs of the saints and to seek to show hospitality to the strangers. I can see one way You're leading me to do this better by.....

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2. Father, Jesus modeled both weeping and rejoicing with us so perfectly. When I compare rejoicing with those who rejoice to weeping with those who weep, I find it easier to.....because....

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3. Father, living in harmony with others can be hard. We are all so different and sometimes our personalities clash. Please help me to pursue living in harmony with.....One step I'll take in pursuing harmony is.....

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4. Father, I am the lowly. Jesus was not haughty with me, but associated with me. I worship You for.....and I ask You to help me to take this to heart with (person's name).....

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5. Proverbs 28:26 says, "Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered." Father, I confess to You that I have confused Your wisdom with my own opinions and thoughts. Please forgive me for trusting in my own mind by...

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*Please close this time with one more prayer, telling the Lord how living out Romans 12:13-16 will be your spiritual form of worship as you are a living sacrifice for Him.*