SERMON GUIDE

ROMANS 12:9-13

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 93 aloud. Take a moment to reflect on God's Word and center in Him.

FELLOWSHIP

What is one thing about this group that you're grateful for?

DISCUSSION

1.Read Romans 12:9-13.

a. Which of these instructions stands out to you?

b. In what ways does Jesus model and enable us to live out this passage?

c. How does your small group love as this passage describes? What might you ask for God's help to grow in, whether individually or as a group?

2. What does it mean to be "joyful in hope" (v. 12)?

a. How is joy possible when life is hard?

b. What promises of God bring you hope?

3. Christian ethicist Christine Pohl writes, "Some of us operate with a well-developed sense of entitlement, quite certain that we deserve good things and are entitled to the best that 'life' has to offer. Others of us, because we work hard, are convinced that we have earned the good that has come to us."1

a. Do you identify with either of these personal narratives?

b. How do they compare to the message of the gospel?

c. What are some other things that might deplete joy or inhibit growth in gratitude?

4. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights” (Jas. 1:17).

a. Take a few minutes for each person to write down 10+ gifts from God that they are grateful for. Then ask each person to share one or two with the group.

b. What was this like for you?

c. Why is it important for us to practice gratitude?

d. How can you continue to develop this skill this week?

PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests; try to remember any needs that came up during the fellowship or discussion time. Check in on requests from last week, if you can. Does anyone have a practical need that another group member may be able to help with?
Pray for group, church, and community needs.

FOOTNOTE

1 Christine D. Pohl, Living into Community: Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012), 27.

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