

Group Conversation Guide

Week of July 7-13

This conversation will help you facilitate a meaningful discussion on Romans 12, emphasizing living sacrifices, renewal of the mind, the body of Christ, and love in action.

Message Title: Living Sacrifices

Message Text: Romans 12

Before Your Small Group Meeting:

Attend or Watch Pastor John Leather's Message: churchatviera.com/live

Beginning the Conversation

Read Scripture: Romans 12

Key Themes

Share these themes with your group:

1. **Living Sacrifices:** Offering our bodies as a living sacrifice to God.
2. **Renewal of the Mind:** Transformation through the renewing of our minds.
3. **Body of Christ:** Understanding our roles and gifts within the body of Christ.
4. **Love in Action:** Genuine Love expressed through action and humility.

Discussion Starter Questions:

1. **Romans 12:1** - "Therefore, 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—this is your true and proper worship."
 - What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice?
 - How can we live out this concept of true and proper worship daily?
2. **Romans 12:2** - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."
 - How can we actively renew our minds to resist conforming to the world?
 - What practices or habits can help you discern God's will more clearly?
 - How can you have accountability and encouragement to stay faithful to these practices and habits?
3. **Romans 12:4-5** - "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
 - How do you see your role within the body of Christ?
 - How do you currently live out your role in Christ's body?

- Why is it important to recognize and value the different functions of each church member?
4. **Romans 12:6-8** - "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."
 - What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you, and how are you using them?
 - How can we encourage each other to use our gifts for the benefit of the church?
 5. **Romans 12:9-10** - "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
 - How can we ensure that our love for others is sincere and not superficial?
 - What are some practical ways to honor and be devoted to one another in our community?
 6. **Romans 12:12-13** - "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."
 - How do you stay joyful in hope and patient in affliction during challenging times?
 - In what ways can you/we practice hospitality and share it with those in need?
 7. **Romans 12:18** - "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."
 - How do you strive to live at peace with others, even those who are challenging to get along with?
 - What steps can you take to resolve conflicts and promote peace in your relationships?

Sharing Your Story:

- Share a personal experience where renewing your mind helped you to understand and follow God's will.
- Discuss when you've used your spiritual gifts to serve others and the impact it had.

Worship Song: (Optional - From YouTube)

- "Build My Life" by Housefires - youtu.be/FYMjO9mL0Tw?feature=shared

Key Words: (With Greek Definitions)

1. **Sacrifice (θυσία, thysia)**: The act of offering something to God.
2. **Transform (μεταμορφόω, metamorphoō)**: To change into another form, to transfigure.
3. **Renew (ἀνακαινῶσις, anakainōsis)**: The process of making something new again.
4. **Gifts (χαρίσματα, charismata)**: Special abilities given by the grace of God.

Summary:

Romans 12 emphasizes living a life that is a holy and pleasing sacrifice to God, marked by the renewal of our minds. It highlights the importance of understanding our roles and gifts within the body of Christ and encourages genuine love and humility in our actions.

Practical Application:

- **Personal Reflection:** Reflect on how you can offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God daily.
- **Group Activity:** Identify ways each member can use their spiritual gifts to serve the church and community.
- **Prayer Focus:** Pray for transformation and renewal of mind and for the ability to love and serve others sincerely.