

Community Groups

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[find community](#)

Use this guide to help your community group engage further with this week's sermon.

Living in Community (Romans 12:1-21)

September 8, 2024

1. Look through Romans 12:1-3 and discuss the community practice of **welcoming one another to the Spirit-empowered transformation of God's grace through Christ**.
 - a. What is necessary for us to live transformed lives?
 - b. How does God's grace inform our view of self and those in our church community?
 - c. Why is it essential to continually welcome one another to the transformation Jesus brings us through the gospel?
 - d. How can we regularly exalt God for Jesus' transforming grace and welcome one another to it?

2. Look through Romans 12:4-8 and discuss the community practices of **affirming and practicing our God-given, diverse gifts**.
 - a. How does an appropriate sense of neediness ("I need you all") and needfulness ("You all need me") affect Christian community?
 - b. What barriers might hinder us from admitting our neediness and embracing our needfulness?
 - c. Are there any traces of apathy, hurt, pride, or some other barrier in your heart?
 - d. What steps might our group need to take to address these and grow deeper?

3. Look through Romans 12:9-16 and discuss the community practice of **loving one another like a genuine family**.
 - a. What qualities of genuine family love do these verses highlight?
 - b. How might a lack of commitment, vulnerability, and willingness to suffer affect our Christian community?
 - c. How have you experienced commitment, vulnerability, and a willingness to suffer in our group?
 - d. By grace, which of these qualities could we more intentionally practice? How?

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4. Look through Romans 12:13, 14, 17-21 and discuss the community practices of **loving strangers and blessing enemies**.
 - a. Who does Paul have in mind when he says, "... seek to show hospitality"?
 - b. How might our group show hospitality to people in our church who haven't yet integrated into Christian community?
 - c. How might our group show hospitality to people in our city who haven't yet connected to a church?
 - d. What makes loving our enemies possible (see also Matt. 5:43-44; Rom. 5:8-10)?
 - e. What steps could we take to love and bless our enemies and persecutors?
 - f. How can we focus on the gospel as we seek to love outsiders and enemies?

5. **Pray for one another.**
 - a. How does this passage make you thankful for God's grace through Christ?
 - b. Relying on God's Spirit, what's one step you can take into deeper community at LGC?
 - c. In light of what we've discussed, how would you like our group to pray for you?
 - d. Consider singing "Our God Will Go Before Us" together before or after you pray (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmEYeZB8dDI>).