



REFLECT

1. Are you a hugger or not?
2. Describe someone who models genuine warmth and love in the way they greet you.

ENCOUNTER

If we're honest, we're often tempted to skim the final verses of Paul's epistles. They usually contain lots of personal greetings to people with hard-to-pronounce names. But what we skim, the original readers likely read with great attention and affection. Greeting was more than a formality. It was a sign of love and family in Christ. The gospel moves us toward one another rather than away from one another.

Read Romans 16:1-16 together but *don't* worry about pronouncing the names correctly.

3. Paul hadn't been to Rome when he wrote this epistle. What does the long list of names communicate to the believers there?
4. When Paul thought of individuals, he also thought of the evidence of the gospel working in their lives. Make a list of characteristics that Paul calls to mind when he thinks of individuals in Rome.
5. How did this week's sermon expand or challenge your understanding of what it means to greet one another?

TRANSFORM

6. Let's say you saw another church member on Sunday morning who may be difficult to talk to. She may appear to be a part of a different social class. He might communicate differently than you. They might just look different. Who is that person for you? What typically stops you from greeting someone new or different?
7. How does Jesus see that person? What evidence of the gospel can you see in them?
8. What is a first step you can take or first question you can ask to greet them as equals and with love?

PRAYER REQUESTS

