

## "U" BEFORE "I"

TODAY'S TEXT  Romans 15:1-7

### NOTES:

Four Steps to Making Life Better for Others:

1. Be PATIENT

2. Be CONFORMED

"Deeply consider one another!"

3. Be INFORMED

4. Be UNIFIED

# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: ROMANS: Best News Ever

Message: Part 23 – “U” Before “I”

Speaker: Shawn Vandop

Date: April 2, 2023



## **Connect** (30min)

### 1. APPROACHING EASTER (15min)

\*Break into groups of 2-3 people for *Connect* this week. Give each person up to 5min to share the following:

- a. When & where did your journey with Jesus begin? How did you come to know about Him?  
Who told you? Who showed you? Who invited you?
- b. Why did you decide to follow Jesus, to personally believe in His life, teachings, death & resurrection...?

### 2. P.R.A.Y. (15min)

*In prayer, we begin to think God's thoughts after him: to desire the things he desires, to love the things he loves, to will the things he wills. – Richard Foster*

📖 **Read** [Isaiah 53](#). Share the reading of this scripture as a group & use it as a guide for prayer.

🙏 **Pray** – Take 10min to P.R.A.Y. together. Leader – time & transition to each component.

-- Pause (be still & listen. 2min)

-- Rejoice & Reflect (praise & thanks. 2min.),

-- Ask (invite & request 4min.)

-- Yield (surrender & trust. 2min)

## **Message Discussion** (45min)

### 1. 2023 Prayer Goals: April - **BE BOLD IN DEVOTIONS** 📄. Pick up a copy of this month's brochure at church.

📖 **Read** [Psalm 91:1](#).

*God is trying to call us back to that for which He created us, to worship Him and to enjoy Him forever. – A.W. Tozer*

- a. Is Jesus on your daily/weekly Calendar? Which time of day would you usually engage your personal devotions?  
*Morning, Midday, Evening, Other*  
Where is your favorite place/location for your personal devotions?  
*Bedroom, Kitchen, Living Room, Car, Office, Outside*
- b. Do you prefer a Bible reading plan, a Devotional book/guide/app/journal, or a mix of these?  
What has worked well for you, or what hasn't worked well?
- c. Do you have a plan for your personal devotions (Focus Time with Jesus, His Word & Prayer) for the month of April? How can we encourage & help one another in this?

### 2. MESSAGE FEEDBACK: 📖 Share the reading of **Romans 15:1-7** together.

1. What jumped out at you from this week's message? Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? How did you apply it to your life? Share.
2. How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? What have you learned?

3. Giving to others is often easier than being in need. Recall a time when you needed the help and prayers of others. How did it impact you?
4. What does it mean to accept others unconditionally? Is that easy or hard for you to do?
5. **READ Romans 15:1-7**
6. Would others describe you as accepting? Are people drawn to you because you accept them? Discuss.
7. In **verse 1**, what does “**being considerate of those who are sensitive...**” look like in real life?
8. Why is it important to accept people who are different from you on non-essential matters?
9. Shawn listed four steps from this passage of Scripture we can take to become more “others” centered. Do you remember what they were? (**Be Patient, Be Conformed, Be Informed, Be Unified**).
10. **Romans 15:3** says, “**for even Christ didn’t live to please himself.**” How is this verse true in light of the upcoming Easter Weekend? Discuss.
11. **Read Romans 15:4, Acts 2:42 and 2 Timothy 4:3**
  - a. Why is doctrine important to the Christian walk and life?
  - b. How do you “devote” yourself to growing in your understanding of sound doctrine?
  - c. What is the result of not enduring sound doctrine.
12. **Read Romans 15:5-7**
  - a. What is the difference between UNITY and UNIFORMITY?
  - b. Can we be unified even when we don’t agree on the non-essential issues? How?

### **Application & Prayer** (15min)

- What differences exist in your local congregation, and what steps can you take this week and this year to address those differences with the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What are some tangible ways that you can build up others and be an encouragement to your neighbor as a response to the gospel (15:2)?
- **LISTENING PRAYER QUESTION:** **Jesus, as your servant, how can I make life better for someone else this week? Who do I need to DEEPLY CONSIDER?**

### **Set Free Retreat**

- You can still register for our *Set Free Retreat* on **April 14-15**. Over 60 registered so far. This is an excellent way to apply the message of Romans to your life. Visit [www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free](http://www.mainstreetchurch.ca/set-free) for more info and registration.