



## Discipleship Guide Live Generously Relationships Romans 12:9-21

This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

### Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
  - How are you living up with God?
  - How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
  - How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

### Read 12:9-21

- Can you recall a time when a relational act of generosity (someone's time, understanding, presence, or forgiveness) felt like a significant gift to you? Alternatively, when have you offered such a relational gift to someone else?
- Sometimes the best gifts in our relationships are not the THINGS we give to one another, but the generous way we live WITH one another. What does "living generously WITH one another" look like in everyday life? How does this contrast with simply giving material gifts?
- Romans 12:9: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." What does "sincere love" mean to you in the context of your relationships? How can we practically "cling to what is good" and "hate what is evil" within our interactions?
- "Living generously with our lives means we ask first: how are my actions good for others?" (Romans 12:10 - "Honor one another above yourselves.") How might asking "how are my actions good for others?" change your approach to a current relationship? Can you share an example where you've seen this principle in action?
- "Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13) can mean trying to "imagine standing and walking in someone else's shoes." Why is hospitality so crucial for generous relationships? "Living generously in relationships is being present WITH each other" (Romans 12:15 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.") What are the common barriers to being truly present with others in today's world? How can we cultivate a greater sense of "with-ness" in our key relationships?
- "Generosity in relationships isn't reserved only for people you like," (Romans 12:14, 17-21, bless persecutors, don't repay evil for evil, feed your enemy). What is your initial reaction to the call to be generous with those you don't like, or even your "enemies"? Have you ever experienced or witnessed evil being overcome by good in a relational context?
- Pastor Josh shared in the message that it is helpful to remember: "People aren't giving you a hard time, they are having a hard time." How might this perspective shift your response when you feel someone is being difficult? Can you think of a past situation where this understanding might have led to a more generous or compassionate interaction?