FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ASHLAND



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?

Romans: Grace Is Greater
Romans 12-13

Read Romans 12-13. What sticks out to you? What do you learn about God? What did you like about this story? Did you find anything hard to understand or problematic?

What, So What, Now What? In Romans 12–13, Paul transitions from the foundational truth that *God's grace is greater* to how believers live as a transformed community. Because God's mercy never runs out, our ultimate response of worship is to present our lives as living sacrifices rather than conforming to the patterns of this world.

- **Sacrificial Worship & Mind Renewal:** Transformation begins when our minds are renewed by grace rather than shaped by worldly power, status, or self-centeredness. Where do you notice the "patterns of this world" trying to shape your thoughts or priorities, and what practical step can you take to let the Holy Spirit renew your mind this week?
- **Unity in Diversity:** Maturity in faith means thinking with sober judgment and finding unity not by erasing differences, but by embracing them as the work of the Holy Spirit. How can church better celebrate and utilize our different gifts, and why is it sometimes challenging to view our differences as a source of unity rather than division?
- **Sincere Love & Generous Presence:** Love must be genuine. We are called to honor others above ourselves, practice hospitality, weep with those who weep, and overcome evil with good. Sacrificial love makes room for peace and extends grace even to enemies. What does "generous presence" look like in your life right now, especially when engaging with people who have hurt you or whom you find difficult to love?

Weekly Practice:
Practice Generous Hospitality: Intentionally share presence with someone across a boundary—a neighbor, a coworker, or someone you find difficult. Show up without asking them to change first, seeking to listen, rejoice, or mourn alongside them.

Others-First Living: Where in your daily relationships are you operating out of a "me-first" attitude rather than asking how your actions can bless and serve others? How can this change the way you interact in public, political, or civic spaces?