

Icebreaker: Has there been anyone in your life who has said, "Come follow me" like Jesus said to Peter? If so, share what that was like.

Read today's scripture: Romans 12:1-21

Discuss:

1. Two weeks ago, we discussed worship being more than something we do on Sunday mornings. As we consider total surrender, talk about how giving your life to God can be a form of worship. (Read Romans 12:1)
2. Paul begins chapter 12 of Romans with, "I urge you...in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices..." Discuss why it matters that Paul includes God's mercy with being sacrificial.
3. In Romans 12:9-21, Paul gives many admonitions about how to live. Re-read these verses and share what stands out to you.
4. Do you ever feel you have to be good enough to follow Jesus?
5. Was there a time in your life when you felt resentful against life's circumstances and you questioned God's providence? Were there thoughts and experiences that helped you surrender to God's leading?
6. In your group, finish this sentence aloud: God, I believe you are _____, help me trust you with _____.

Prayer:

Share your prayer requests with one another and also remember those from our church family:

- > Prayers of comfort for Susie Martin and family in the death of Susie's dad.
- > Prayers of healing for Steve Gates and Horst Pimmler.
- > Prayers for the Girl's Awakening taking place at ZPC this weekend and the upcoming Boy's Awakening February 16-19.

Reminders for your group:

> As Jerry mentioned in his video message, we have many service opportunities available for your group. Check them out at zpc.org/current-opportunities.

Leaders Notes:

As we heard in the Sunday message, we can relate to Peter. We try to follow Jesus, but we often feel inadequate and fail. Like Peter, Jesus still loves us and calls us back to himself. Will we surrender to God's call on our lives and follow Jesus (John 21)? Will we be living sacrifices (Romans 12) and surrender ourselves and live how God called us to live?

[Question 1] All our actions, if devoted to God, can be acts of worship. You might review Colossians 3:17 to remind your group that we can do whatever we do, as an offering or an act of worship to God. By surrendering our priorities, choices, and actions to God, we are worshipping Him.

[Question 2] God's mercy matters because we are not offering ourselves to God in a vacuum but in response to his great love for us. Nothing we do can earn God's favor but, in gratitude and in response to God's mercy, we can offer ourselves back to God as a living sacrifice.

[Question 3] Romans 12 is full of specific life-directed teaching from Paul. This would be a good opportunity for your group to dig into the text one more time. Since we all have different personalities and gifts, some of Paul's admonitions will stand out to different individuals.

[Question 4] In the Sunday message, we heard how Peter felt he wasn't good enough. He struggled with feeling adequate as a fisherman-disciple, and often tried to prove himself. Yet when he failed Jesus loved him where he was and restored their relationship (Read John 21:15-19). We are never good enough to merit Jesus' love but he loves us anyway and calls us to himself. Peter surrendered himself to Jesus.

[Question 5] Surrender and struggle tend to go hand-in-hand and they both teach us a lot about ourselves and a lot about God and our relationship with him. Ask group members to share a time when they struggled with surrendering and the impact it has had in their lives.

[Question 6] Some examples might be:

- > God, I believe you are **loving/compassionate**, help me to trust you with my **family/work**.
- > God I believe you are **true and right**, help me to trust you with my **decisions/actions at home**.
- > God I believe you are **calling me**, help me to trust you with **following you**.

Fill in the blanks as an exercise in trusting God and surrendering to him.