

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK TWO

FOLLOW

ICEBREAKER: In elementary school what did you want to be when you grew up? Why?

STORY: Who is sharing their story this week? 3 positives and 3 negatives that have impacted who you are today.

LEADER: We are continuing in our Sermon Series called *Follow* and exploring what it means to follow Jesus - which we said can create some natural tensions.

This week Ryan opened with some words that Paul wrote to Christians in Rome about showing honor to each other as a way to follow Christ.

READ: Romans 12:9-11

QUESTION: Ryan encouraged us to ask the question: “What’s the honorable thing to do?” What are some ways we can we show honor to another person? (friends, co-workers, family, neighbors)
Leader note: Ryan mentioned humility and being first to apologize

READ: Romans 12:12

QUESTION: What kind of persecution did Christians in Rome experience? (**Physical including torture and death**)

QUESTION: What do you think it looks like to be patient in the middle of tough circumstances or persecution?

QUESTION: How did Paul recommend being able to do this? (**Constant prayer – seeking God’s perspective in it**)

READ: Romans 12:13

QUESTION: What are the two types of giving mentioned here?

LEADER: Ryan stated that one of the greatest choices you can make is whether you want to make your life about giving or receiving, and that those who get the most out of church are those who give.

QUESTION: Why would that be true both about life and about being part of the church? How have you experienced that?

READ: Romans 12:14-21

QUESTION: What makes giving grace and forgiveness to your enemies or those who have hurt you so difficult? What did heaping coals mean in their culture? (Coals carried by women on their heads to bring warmth to their home)

QUESTION: How has someone extended that to you?

QUESTION: Where did Ryan say was a good place to start in offering this gift to others? (Make a list and pray blessings over them)

QUESTION: Ryan posed the question “How much change is possible?” as a follower of Christ. What do you think?

LEADER PRAYER: *God show us who you want us to offer the gift of forgiveness to. Help us live lives that are marked by being givers versus receivers. Lead us to that place and help us have the courage to follow You. In Jesus, name. Amen*

LEADER:

Who will share their story next week?

Make sure you share the snack load so people feel like they are contributing.

Your group may be ready for prayer requests. Write them in a journal or notebook.