

For the week of May 13-19, 2018

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from May 12-13

Romans: 16 – Be the Helper

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE:

"Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil." –Romans 16:19

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

The Book of Romans concludes with a friendly introduction of more than 20 of Paul's beloved friends. As we look at this highly personal capstone to an intense theological presentation, it's apparent that Paul equally respects and honors both men and women involved in the ministry. This egalitarian approach to fellowship was as fundamental as it was revolutionary in the early church. It reflects both Christ's call for unity among His diverse disciples and the Old Testament inclusion of women close to the heart of God—Hannah, Deborah, Ruth, Esther, and more. The Bible is clear. In all matters spiritual God does not differentiate between male and female.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Does God give men and women equal access to salvation? How about prayer? Can we all access the throne room equally? Does God see men and women differently in any way?

2. How can we, as believers, help one another derive greater benefit from our relationship with the Lord? How can we encourage one another to fulfill God's call upon our lives? Are we doing all we can to help one another grow into mature Christians? What could we be doing better? How can we encourage one another to do good?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

The Christian life may be equal and fair when it comes to accessing God's Holy Spirit and benefiting from Christ's righteousness. However, in the worldly kingdom there is great differentiation, not just between male and female, but also between every single person. In this world we each face our own challenges. Pain, fear, joy, and peace take various forms for each individual, and these differences don't have anything to do with gender. We all hurt and suffer in our own ways. We are all blessed in different ways. It's up to us as members of God's family to discern what's going on in our family members' lives and respond according to the Holy Spirit's leading. His call upon each of us is to do good, and never evil to one another. How easily our indifference can hurt and harm! That's why we must rely upon His Spirit to show us how to bring help and healing to those among us.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Paul introduces 26 individuals in the last chapter of Romans. These are people who have all worked with him and are all united by their common love of the Lord. We, like these early Christians, are all united in the same ways. We are called to help and guide one another, regardless of our level of acquaintance. Consider the way the early Christians mentioned in Romans 16 helped each other. Make a list of the things they did to assist one another.
2. Consider your own small group or Bible study. Are there things you can be doing to better lend help to one another?
3. Are there things your small group or Bible study can be doing to better serve the greater church family?
4. Are there things your small group or Bible study can be doing to better serve our community?
5. What are the obstacles to lending more help? How can they be overcome?

OPEN DISCUSSION:

We can all learn so much from one another's insights. Spend a few minutes sharing any points you remember from this sermon.

1. Did anything particularly resonate with you?
2. Have you had an opportunity to apply the message? If so, how?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will cause all Bible-believing Christians and especially those in our church family to have great discernment so that we can identify the hurting in our midst and know, by His power and strength, how best to minister love, compassion and practical assistance to them. Pray against the spirits of depression and despair that can so easily overtake us when our perspective is limited to the things of this world. Pray that God would give us all a long-range, eternal view of life. Ask God to make us all helpers.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: *Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@calvaryboise.com with your insight.*

Weekly Prayer Requests

Thoughts for the Week:

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” –Galatians 6:2

“A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble.”
–Charles Spurgeon

Our Core Group:

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Our International Missions

- **For Vancouver:** Becca had surgery on April 30th. The surgical part was a success, all the hardware for the new nerve stimulator has been permanently implanted. She is still having a lot of spinal pain from the surgery, and her overall recovery will still take a few months. We are so thankful for all your prayers, please continue to pray for her recovery and the success of the treatment. Pray for Marlon as he gets settled back into life with family, church, and for caring for Becca these next few weeks. Pray for grace and strength.
- **For Buenavista, Mexico:** Please pray for our missionary Luisa Cruz and her mom, Francisca, who is ill. Pray that Francisca will get better soon. Pray for Saul’s wife, Angélica. Pray for the upcoming trip to Ensenada. Pray for the people of Buenavista, that our Lord may open and soften their hearts. Pray that God will provide for all their needs.
- **For Sierra Leone:** Calvary Boise is partnering with World Hope to initiate the water well construction. We will begin with a water table survey to see if we can find water. So the number one prayer request for this aspect of the ministry is that the team goes in and finds water so we can commence construction of the well. We will be going in 2019, so praying for the team is very important. We are also exploring options to help the orphanage in Waterloo become self-sustaining. We are hoping to provide vocational and/or business training and support to accomplish this goal. Pray for that.
- **Send Hope:** Pray for wisdom about possible upcoming events. We're looking into Parktacular and the God & Country Festival, but we could really use prayer and discernment for which events to attend. In addition, we have been invited to attend conferences in California, but we're also hoping to set up a sponsorship drive while we're down there. Praying that no matter which event(s) we go to that God would orchestrate every step of the way and each person that approaches us about the ministry. Please also pray for the fees we'll need to cover each event. And it would be amazing if at the

conferences we could have a few minutes on stage to share about the ministry and share about regional partnership opportunities. Over the last two years the number of children in our Homes of Hope has increased from 450 to 827. Please pray for the caregivers, pastors, volunteers, and other staff who are caring for these children. For love, patience, peace and for the Holy Spirit to fully equip them.

Our Local Ministry:

- Please pray for our Children's Ministry to have all the volunteers it needs to deliver exceptional instruction and care to the kids the Lord brings us each week.
- Please pray for the Special Needs ministry. Pray that it will reach far beyond our church body to help parents of special needs kids throughout the valley.
- Pray for our prayer ministry to in some way touch every church family member. Pray that we will all be united and empowered through prayer.