

For the week of January 28-February 3, 2018

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from January 28

## Give Your Life Away

**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:

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."—Romans 12:1-2*

#### THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: Holy—Set Apart for God

As a church, we just finished a week praying about, and three weeks considering, our calling to love God, live like Jesus, and let the Spirit lead. Now we need to learn how to actually live all this out as a lifestyle. The goal of restating our mission and the goal of praying is to take time to quiet all the things of our life and allow God to renew who we are as a church and people before Him, and what it means to live for Him.

This week's key verse talks about what that looks like. It begins with "therefore," which points to everything we've talked about so far in our study of Romans: God's love, grace, mercy, and faithfulness. And the reasonable response to all that is to now live for Him.

Our bodies are not an object of worship, but a tool for worship. We're to be set apart by the way we live, by the way we treat each other. We are called to be a "holy," different kind, of people. And that begins with the way we respond to God's work in our lives.

#### TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. In what ways does your life reflect the fact that you have been set apart by God?
2. In what way do we need to be renewed to be set apart?

## **THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING: What are you giving your life to?**

Sacrifice is unavoidable in life. There is no way to live out a passion without sacrificing something. It's not a question of whether you're sacrificing, but rather what are you sacrificing to. God is calling us to give our lives to Him.

Immediately following the directive to be living sacrifices, we are told not to be conformed to this world. We are to live differently. The only way to do that is through the renewing of our minds. If we are going to give our lives completely away, we have to change the way we think. We must respond to the grace of God by giving Him our lives, letting go, and renewing the way we think about our identity, our purpose, and our role in our sphere of influence.

1. **Identity:** Based on our complete reliance on God for grace and mercy, we must change our perspective about self. Because God sacrificed His life to save ours, we now belong to Him. We are not to think of ourselves first. This is a humbling experience. Now that I am living for His purpose, I am no longer the center of my world. The sacrifices I make are not for my own benefit. Although this is very humbling, it is also very encouraging. Knowing that God died for us—loved us so much that He gave the ultimate sacrifice—give us assurance of our value. We are completely humbled, yet with value given by the Creator.
2. **Purpose:** Based on who we are now in Christ, we must change our perspective of what our gifts are used for. They are not for our own benefit, but for the benefit of this new family of Christ. In this church we have to strive for the proper balance. We can't come simply to be served. We have to be sure we aren't a body of believers where only a few are living out their unique gifts. All need to use their gifts.
3. **Community:** Be renewed in how we live out the sacrifice toward each other. You belong to a community of people sovereignly chosen by God, that you now consider in higher priority than yourself. Each has its own gift, and each esteems himself with a realistic view based on God's description of our value. We aren't everything and we aren't nothing. Take the talents and purpose He gives us and give it away. We need to be renewed and holy in the way we give all this to God, so we act and look completely different than anything this world offers.

You are not your own. Your body, your identity, your talents, your money, your life are not yours. When you let go of your life, you no longer think about who you want to be. Your gifts and your skills are not for your dreams or your life pursuits. You are sacrificing those at the altar of God and they now belong to the body of Christ. If you have accepted Christ, you belong to His body. If you belong to His body, you have a reasonable service to use your gifts. Pick up your cross and live like Him. He didn't come to be served, but to serve.

## **TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:**

1. What things outside of God have you sacrificed for? What is the primary sacrifice of your life?
2. How can we let go of our lives and give them completely to God?
3. If you let go of your life and gave it completely to God, in what way would your personal identity change? How would your passions and purposes and the way you want them to be used change? How would your interaction with the community change?

**PRAY TOGETHER:** Please pray that God would show believers how to develop stronger prayer lives, so that every day becomes a series of choices to seek Jesus' will and follow it. Pray that we will be able to overcome our culture's tendency to demand instant gratification. Ask that God will make us a patient people who are willing to devote time to the slow process of spiritual growth.

## **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](mailto:tucker@calvaryboise.com) with your insight.

## **WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS**

*"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."* –2Corinthians 3:18

"God became man to turn creatures into sons: not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. It is not like teaching a horse to jump better and better but like turning a horse into a winged creature. Of course, once it has got its wings, it will soar over fences which could never have been jumped and thus beat the natural horse at its own game..." –C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

"It is good to renew ourselves, from time to time, by closely examining the state of our souls, as if we had never done it before; for nothing tends more to the full assurance of faith, than to keep ourselves by this means in humility, and the exercise of all good works." –John Wesley

### **Our Core Group:**

- 
- 
- 
- 

### **Our International Missions**

- Please pray that our outreach to Tepic, Mexico will soon find a new place to meet for church. Pray that God gives wisdom to Saul and Angelica Alvarez as they search.
- Please pray for Brent Harrel, pastor of Calvary Chapel Rome Italy and his church's outreach to Kenya. Here is an update from Brent : In two more months we'll be ready to give our first 100 chickens away to widows and orphans. Pray for continued wisdom for those tending them, good health for the birds, and grace to feed and reproduce baby chicks, also buy 100 more. We're praying towards a spring trip, and 500 bibles to give away!! Praise the Lord—a friend who has written a complete set of commentaries on the Bible has agreed to provide a couple sets for the pastors in the West and those at the refugee camp. The first set for the camp is on its way! Answer to prayer regarding resources for equipping! Continue to pray for more!
- Also, Brent, along with Luis and Vincenzo who minister with him in Rome, are heading to Austria for an annual Pastors Conference. Pray for safe travels and a powerful move of God's Spirit among some 100 missionary pastors and church planters.

### **Our Local Ministry: Global Missions**

- Please pray for fruit from the recent week of prayer and fasting. Specifically, that it would unite the body to receive the Spirit and a burden for the lost. Pray that we will be united in our efforts to reach them.
- Pray for next year's multi-denominational missions conference that we are planning for early May at Calvary Boise. Pray for financial provision especially for the concert outreach. Pray for unity in the churches under this vision to eliminate disunity in the valley as we all co-labor in the Great Commission.
- Pray for unity in our church under Christ as He leads the leadership and the body to unite under His call for us as a church to pursue His commission to "make disciples of all nations."
- Pray for God to provide discernment about the unreached/unengaged people He wants us to serve. Pray specifically for opportunities in England, Spain, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.
- Pray for saints in our body to be called to serve as leaders in Global Missions.
- Please continue to pray for the formulation of the 2018-2020 short-term mission trip calendar.