

A DISTINCT COMMUNITY

(Romans 12.1-8)

November 2nd-8th, 2014



WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- . Our (tentative) **first Sunday in the new building is Sunday, November 23rd!** Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, the next 2 Saturday mornings from 8:30am-noon we need help getting stuff set up and organized and moved in. That's **Saturday 11/8 & 11/15 from 8:30am-noon.**
- . The next **Women's Gathering is 7pm Sunday, November 16th** @ Becca Strand's home.
- . Our annual **Christmas Party & Hymnsing is Friday, December 5th from 6-8pm.**
- . **Christmas Store Saturday, December 13th 2-5pm**

Opener Question: What is/was your favorite children's book?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

LEADER'S NOTE: There are questions for a brief discussion and then a "gifts assessment" that is designed to serve as fodder for discussion on how you all can best USE your gifts and talents to spread God's grace.

>>READ>> Romans 12.1-8

- (1) What does v. 1 tell us about how we are to respond to God's grace and mercy? What do you think it means to be a living sacrifice?
- (2) What metaphor for the church does Paul introduce in vv. 4-5? What can we learn about the church through this metaphor? (Can you think of other passages in Scripture that use this metaphor?)

- (3) What are some of the spiritual gifts Paul lists in this passage? Do you think this list is comprehensive? Why or why not? (HINT: you might compare this list with 1 Corinthians 12 & 1 Peter 4)
- (4) How does Paul suggest we should determine our ministry? How would we use the gifts God has given us? What in this passage stops us justifying individualism or indulgence, or placing too much emphasis on 'my' gifts?
- (5) Do you have a sense of what your spiritual gifts are?
- (6) What ways of serving do you enjoy? What kinds of ministry are you passionate about? (Encourage everyone to share their "top interest/passion" in ministry; e.g. missions, mercy, prayer, care, kids, youth, hospitality, etc.)

>>HAVE EVERYONE TAKE THE GIFTS QUESTIONNAIRE FROM PORTERBROOK>>

After taking the assessment, come back together and discuss:

- Share what the assessment suggested your spiritual gifts might be?
- What did you learn about yourself from the assessment?
- Can you see any underlying themes in your interests/passions?
- Where do you feel your heart / passion is focused?
- How might you take a step toward serving more faithfully in that area?

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together. You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.