

Small-Group Discussion Guide (2/1/2025)

Sermon recap: In Romans 12:1–2, Paul calls Christians to offer their whole selves to God as “living sacrifices”—not to earn God’s love, but in response to God’s mercy in Christ. This week focused on stewarding time: not merely asking whether we’re busy, but whether we’re wise with our hours. Drawing from Ephesians 5:15–17, the invitation was to honestly assess how we spend our days, let God’s wisdom reshape our patterns, and make real adjustments—especially by being present with Jesus, present where we are, and present with people. Paul then gives a “rubric” for stewardship in Romans 12:3–5 and Romans 12:9–13: humility (we are not infinite), unity (we belong to one another), and genuine love (honor that shows up in real life).

Main passage: Ephesians 5:15–17

All passages used in the sermon: Romans 12:1–2; Isaiah 40:8; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15; Ephesians 5:15–17; Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 90:12; Matthew 11:28–30; Romans 12:3–5; Romans 12:9–13; Revelation 5:12; Galatians 4:4–5; Romans 3:23; Mark 1:15; Acts 16:31.

Additional Scriptures: Colossians 3:17; James 4:13–15; Philippians 2:3–4; Psalm 39:4–5

Brief definitions:

- **Stewardship:** Receiving God’s gifts and managing them God’s way for His glory and others’ good.
- **Worship:** Not only singing—giving God worth with your whole life because He is worthy.
- **Wisdom:** God’s guidance for how life is meant to be lived, learned by reverence and obedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. What part of the sermon connected with your real life this week—time, hurry, presence, or priorities? If you had to name one pressure that shapes your schedule, what is it?
2. The sermon emphasized “by the mercies of God” (**Romans 12:1**). What does that phrase tell you about what God is like? How does God’s mercy change the tone of this call (invitation vs. guilt)?
3. “Present your bodies” (**Romans 12:1**) points to whole-life worship. Where are you most tempted to “split” your life into spiritual and non-spiritual parts? What would it look like for one ordinary part of your week to become worship?
4. Read **Ephesians 5:15–17**. What’s the difference between being “busy” and being “wise” with time? What do you think “look carefully how you walk” could mean in your current season?
5. The sermon encouraged taking inventory (see **Psalm 90:12**). If your last 7 days were a report, what got your best attention and energy? What did that reveal about what you love, fear, or hope for?
6. **Romans 12:3** calls for sober judgment—honest limits, capacity, and season. Where are you living as if you are limitless (even subtly)? What is one “grace-filled no” you may need to say—and one “grace-filled yes” you should keep?
7. Read **Romans 12:9–13**. The sermon made the point that love shows up as honor and presence. Who is God calling you to make room for with your time? What would “honor with your calendar” look like in one concrete step this week?

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your mercies in Christ. Teach us to number our days and give us hearts of wisdom. Renew our minds so we can discern what is good and pleasing to You. Help us live with humility about our limits, unity in Your church, and genuine love that shows up in real time. Guard us from hurry and distraction, and make our ordinary hours into joyful worship. In Jesus’ name, amen.