

The New Mind Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one of the most surprising facts you have discovered or been made aware of in the last several years?
2. In general, do you prefer to plan ahead or make decisions as you go?

Read the following passages: Romans 12:1-2.

Paul exhorts the Romans to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” All throughout this letter, Paul is unpacking major concepts that he expects will recalibrate the thinking of those in the church at Rome. Some of the most significant and far-reaching ideas are the following.

- In Jesus Christ, we are completely accepted by God.
- In Jesus Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin.
- We don’t just begin by faith, we *live* by faith.
- We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. In Romans 12:2 Paul writes “Do not conform to the pattern of this world...” What are some ways we “conform to the pattern of this world?” How do you think culture has shaped your answers to questions like the following?
 - What does a successful life look like?
 - What will make me happy?
 - What are my duties?
 - Where can I find truth?
 - Which impulses should be resisted and which should be encouraged?
2. Paul writes that we should “be transformed by the renewing of [our] mind.” Why is our thought life so important? What are several ways in which you think your thought life is healthy? What are some ways you think your thought life could improve?
3. All of us desire to be accepted in one form or another. Depending on our temperaments and personalities this may manifest as a desire to be right, a desire to belong, a desire to be loved, a desire to be honored, a desire to be celebrated, or all the above. Read through Romans 8. Describe some of the ways these desires are met through Jesus Christ.
4. How might the reality that we’re completely accepted by God through Jesus Christ affect how we think and live? Do you feel completely accepted by God? Explain.

5. Read Romans 6:1-14. What does Paul say about the believer's relationship to sin? If we find ourselves regularly committing some particular sin, what should we do? Are there areas of sin you find yourself regularly dealing with?
6. Read Galatians 2:20. What does it mean to live by faith? Does living by faith mean we take a passive stance toward life? Or that we don't make plans? Or that we don't try to employ strategy? What are some ways you could practically live by faith in your own life?
7. Read Romans 13:8-10. What does Paul say is the fulfillment of all of the ethical commands of the Law of Moses? Why do you think we often find it so difficult to love others as ourselves? Read Romans 12:9-16. What are some practical ways we are to love others as ourselves?
8. If we deeply imbibed God's command to love others as ourselves, how might this affect how we think about the way we approach our work? What about the way we use our time? What about the way we define success? What about the way we use our money?
9. What is one way you think God wants you to change your thinking? Is there a thought you would like to more regularly keep in mind this week?

Pray