

T H E R E F O R E

ROMANS 12-16

CONVERSATION STARTER

Take some time to talk about what you've been reading in Scripture and what God has been telling you as you read his Word.

DEEPER**Read Romans 16:1-16, 21-23**

This discussion guide will be a bit different from past guides. Inspired by Paul's example — and then by Pastor Josh — we are going to spend our time together recognizing, thanking, and blessing those around us. By the end of your time together, your group will have extended appreciation, prayers, and blessings to others in your Life Group and to our church family.

Purpose:

- God calls us to build one another up in love (1 Thessalonians 5:11). You will do so by:
- Recognizing the faithfulness and gifts of those around us.
- Thanking one another for their contributions and faithfulness
- Blessing others by praying for them

Step 1: Recognize, Thank, and Pray for Each Other

- Go around the circle and share with one another why you appreciate each person.
- Highlight specific ways they have encouraged you, demonstrated faithfulness, or shown love in the group.
- Take time to pray for each person by name, asking God to bless them in many ways.

Step 2: Recognize, Thank, and Pray for Our Church Family

- Think beyond your Life Group. Who in our congregation (members, staff, deacons, elders, etc.) has encouraged you, inspired you, or served faithfully?
- Let's get personal. Have each person from the group send a text message to or call three individuals in our church family during your meeting to thank and pray for them. Discuss each name with the group beforehand in order to avoid overlap and to maximize the amount of people receiving encouragement and prayer. If needed, you may step away for a few minutes to make a phone call. The goal is that many people will receive an unexpected message or call of encouragement throughout the week. With many Life Groups doing this, the hope is that many people will be reached.

Step 3: Wrap Up

How might this practice of encouragement become a regular part of your Life Group and personal life?

NOTES

PRAYER PROMPT

To close, pray as a group asking God to multiply the blessings and answer the prayers you've sent, and to continue to cultivate hearts of gratitude and encouragement throughout the church.