

Known, Loved, Needed

RELATE

What was the most interesting thing you learned from Rob's sermon?

What recently made you laugh out loud? With what person or group do you most often laugh?

Name three things you appreciate about being a part of a church family.

READ & REFLECT

Romans 12:3-16

The church in Rome was made up of a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile converts who likely did not associate before they were believers. From what Paul writes here, what challenges do you imagine this posed in a young church? What does Paul want them to understand about what it means to belong in God's family?

How do you see the gifts mentioned in verses 6-9 used in our church, or this group, currently?

In verses 9-16, how does love operate within the church family? Of the commands listed, which is easiest for you to keep? Which is hardest?

Phillip Yancey said, "In a healthy family, love comes without conditions". How do you see unconditional love given or received in your church family? How can we be better at loving each other no matter what?

Why is it important for Christian brothers and sisters to celebrate and be sad together (v. 15)? What times of celebration and sadness has this group shared? Are there any things to celebrate or mourn now?

What impact does Facebook and other social media have on relationships generally? What are some ways social media can benefit our relationships? What challenges need to be overcome?

How often do you communicate with members of this group between meetings? How well do the members of your group know you and your concerns? What would it take for this group to get to know each other better? What one step can you take this week toward that end?

How free do you feel to share your real needs, feelings, and concerns with friends at church? What kind of need is hardest for you to share? What makes it hard?

How effective is this group at meeting each others' needs? How would you like to grow in this area?

RESPOND

Mutual Appreciation Activity Each group member writes his/her name at the top of a blank sheet of paper. Pass papers to the left, and write one thing you appreciate about the person named at the top. How do they contribute to the group? What have you gained from knowing them? Allow time for everyone to write on each paper. Pass until each person has the sheet with their name at the top. Be specific and personal.

Truth to Claim: Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
Romans 12: 10