

The Journey: Again!

Week of February 19, 2017 | Lesson 7 | Romans 12:1-2



For the Disciplemaker

Often when one goes to a family physician for a routine exam, the doctor will compare one's current condition to his/her pre-established baseline. As a result the doctor can easily identify any improvements or potential problems with that person's health. Disciples should do the same with respect to their spiritual health and development. Knowing the past nature of their walk with Christ, they can identify aspects of their current walk to strengthen and develop. In short, they can identify their next step along the discipleship pathway. Over the next few weeks, incorporate into *Group Time* the following personal spiritual assessment: www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_DSC_Spiritual_Growth_Assessment.pdf

The Previous Step

Use the first third of *Group Time* to build relationships and review the previous lesson.

- **Care and Share**
Share refreshments as participants arrive. As everyone gets settled, come together for a time of prayer for one another.
- **Check-Up**
Volunteers should quote Ephesians 4:11-13 from memory. Ask the group to work together to retell the story of the woman at the well from John 4:1-42. Also recall the next steps each participant shared last week, and ask them to describe how God is helping them make progress with those next steps.
- **Cast Vision**
Ask: What is the point of an annual physical exam? What value is there in establishing a spiritual "health" baseline? Where would you say you are presently along the 4D Discipleship Pathway and why? Where would you like to be at year's end—in other words, what is your finish line for 2017? Next: Show a copy of the personal spiritual assessment. Distribute the link and instruct participants to complete it at home and return next week ready to discuss the results.

Bible Study and Discussion

Use the second third of *Group Time* to **discover** and **deepen** in the Word.

- **Read the Word**
In advance, prayerfully read Romans 12:1-2 multiple times and personally respond to the discussion questions. Develop additional questions as needed.

Invite a participant to read aloud Romans 12:1-2 while others follow in their own Bibles. Next, direct the participants to silently reread the verses a couple times and attempt to identify the main point. Now ask the discussion questions and encourage note-taking on the "Home Group Bible Study Discussion Guide."

Teaching (DISCOVER the basic teaching):

- What is the main point of this passage?
 - What are specific ways your body can be offered as a living sacrifice?
 - What makes God's will perfect?
 - What does it mean to *test* God's will? How is it different than *asking* God to reveal His will?
- What key truths does God want you to believe and understand?
 - What must you do for your mind to be transformed?
 - How might a transformed mind be rewarding for you, in addition to pleasing God?

Rebuking (DEEPEN my understanding):

- According to this passage, what is the "wrong" that God is opposing?
- What sin, temptation, or false belief should be avoided?
 - Which worldly influences tempt you most today?
 - What are some consequences of conforming to those influences for your personal happiness? Your family? Your relationship with God?
- How does your life compare to what God has said is right or wrong?
 - How much should you allow worldly influences into your life? Why?

Correcting (DO make changes):

- In light of this passage, what changes does God want you to make?
 - In what ways has God already renewed your mind?
 - In what ways do you still need renewal?
- What do you need to stop doing?
- What do you need to start doing?
 - How can you test God's will for you, this week and beyond?
 - How can you ask God to help you?

Training (God is preparing you as a disciple to DISCIPLE others):

- What Christ-like character and habits does God want you to develop and demonstrate?
- For what is God preparing and equipping you?

The Next Step

Use the final third of *Group Time* to prepare to **do** and **disciple**.



- **Identifying My Next Step**

Guide participants to ask God, in a time of silent/individual prayer, to show them what they should do differently this week as a result of the Bible study. Following the prayer time, ask each participant to write down and share his/her next step.

- **Partnering**

Participants should not go at it alone. In the remaining time, instruct them to partner with another person or two to plan ways each one can move toward accomplishing his/her next step. They should also practice retelling the lesson's key truths conversationally as if they were telling it to someone outside the group. Each set of partners should close *Group Time* by praying for one another with respect to their individual next steps.