

Gospel Worship - Romans 12:1-2

Note: you'll need to print out copies of the passage on page 2 for your group.

Pray for our mission partners and your time time in the word

Context

We're jumping back into Romans where we left it in term 2. We're going to take some time to get familiar with the context of the letter so far.

1. Paul starts this section with the phrase "in view of God's mercy". Flip back through Romans and consider: How has God's mercy been described in Romans so far? **THINK, PAIR, SHARE.**

Prompts - if your group needs it
You could give the following passage to a pair each to skim

Rom 1:18-25, 3:9-20
3:21-26 6:15-23
9:10-18 11:25-36

Notice

2. Read 12:1-2.
On your own, use the printout and mark
 - a. What stands out
 - b. key words and connections you notice
 - c. any questions you have

Share them with your neighbour.

Clarify

3. In verse 1,
 - a. what stood out to you?
 - b. how does Paul define true and proper worship? Consider what each phrase adds to the picture of what worship is.
 - c. How does this compare with other ways the word "worship" gets used?
4. What does verse 2 say about
 - a. how we grow?
 - b. how we understand God's will?

Key things to draw out

3.b. i) worship is a response to God's mercy, not an attempt to secure God's mercy

ii) worship is an offering of our whole selves. We no longer need a priest, temple, religious rituals etc.

iii) when we offer ourselves in CHrist we are holy and pleasing to God

c. not just sunday, not just singing. Though those things are still "worship".

4. Notice, we will be shaped by something, the question is what!

Respond

5. What change do these verses call for in your life? What might it look like to put it into practice?
THINK, PAIR, SHARE.

prompts if needed

- Paul see our whole selves, body and mind, caught up in worship of God. How can you do this more fully? Are there things you need to do or stop doing with your mind and body?
- Are there areas in your life where you particularly want to discern God's will? How do these verses shape your approach to that?

Pray in your pairs

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.