

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father, thank You for surrounding us with a community of believers: brothers and sisters in Christ who remind us that faith is not a solo mission but a shared life. As we open Your Word and reflect on this passage, help us see the beauty of partnership in the gospel. Let our time together strengthen our love for You and deepen our commitment to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

If your faith story rolled its end credits, what would your cameo appearance be listed as? ("Neighbor Who Brought Cookies," "Person Who Always Forgot Their Pen," "Uno Champion of the Small Group", "Chief Coffee Brewer," "Tech Troubleshooter," " _____"?)

SERMON OVERVIEW

Romans 16 looks like a list of hard-to-pronounce names, but Paul's "credits roll" is actually a living portrait of the church. He honors Phoebe: a deacon and courageous letter-carrier who likely read and defended the epistle in Rome; he recognizes Priscilla and Aquila: mentors who opened their home and lifted up Apollos; he nods to Rufus and "his mother," who became like a mother to Paul; and he greets a multi-ethnic, multi-class, male-and-female community bound together in Christ. Instead of flexing at the end of the greatest gospel treatise, Paul lowers himself to lift others. The message is clear: the gospel travels through people, not programs; it elevates relationships over rank; it honors the hidden and faithful; and it builds family out of strangers. Church is not entertainment but engagement; not a weekly event but a shared life that turns doctrine into worship.

READ SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 16:1-16

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) Why do you think Paul ends such a profound theological letter by naming and honoring individuals instead of closing with doctrine or a summary?

2) In what ways does Romans 16 show that the gospel unites people from vastly different backgrounds, roles, and cultures?

3) In verse 1, Paul commends Phoebe, calling her a deacon and benefactor. What does her story show about the trust and responsibility Paul placed in women within the early church?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) How has being with people different from you grown your holiness (patience, empathy, dependence on Christ)?

5) The sermon quoted Eugene Peterson: "Doctrine isn't complete until it dances in community." What biblical truth has recently "danced" because it was practiced in community (prayer answered, burden carried, sin confessed, calling affirmed)? What made it come alive for you or someone you know?

6) Who has affirmed you at a crucial moment, and how did that shape your willingness to keep serving or growing in Christ? How have affirmations helped you recognize and steward spiritual gifts you might have overlooked?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) Paul modeled humility by honoring others instead of himself. Who in your life deserves to be "in the credits" for how they've helped shape your faith, and how can you honor them this week?

8) Priscilla and Aquila hosted a church and mentored Apollos (vv. 3–5; Acts 18). What might your *next* in hospitable discipleship look like: hosting a meal, mentoring a younger believer, or inviting someone to serve alongside you in ministry?

9) How might your week look different if you intentionally loved others the way Jesus described: "they will know you are My disciples by your love for one another"?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting me to move towards a step in application?

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute these to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

This weekend, we lifted up opportunities to *Live Generously*: Christmas Compassion gifts (by Nov. 30th), Heart for the House offering (Dec. 6th and 7th) and through serving here at Northview (Serve Finder on the NV app).