

Kickoff Sunday – Small Group Questions

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

1. What's something you were once totally hyped about — a team, a gadget, a trend — that you don't care nearly as much about today?
2. Kickoff Sunday marks the start of the NFL season. What's a “kickoff” moment in your own life (a new job, a move, a new season) that you're in right now, or wish you were?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Romans 11:36-12

1. The pastor said Duane Thomas's line — "If it's the ultimate game, how come they're playing it again next year?" — is "a great reminder that what we call ultimate often isn't ultimate at all." What have you called "ultimate" in your life that, looking back, wasn't?
2. Romans 11:36 says everything comes from God, exists by His power, and is intended for His glory. What would change in how you spend your time, talents, and money if you truly believed your next breath is “intended for His glory”?
3. Romans 12:1–2 calls us to be a "living and holy sacrifice" and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds rather than conformed to the world. What's the difference between simply changing your behavior and having God change the way you think?
4. Citing research that a "regular attender" now only shows up twice a month, the pastor said: "Attending church doesn't make you a fully devoted follower of Jesus, but a fully devoted follower of Jesus will make it a priority to be engaged in the life of the church." How do you respond to that statement?
5. Romans 12:3–5 pictures the church as one body with many parts that "belong to each other," and Hebrews 10:25 warns against neglecting to gather. Why do you think consistent gathering and genuine connection with other believers matters so much to God?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7 alongside Romans 12:6–13. Why does God give each believer different gifts, and what does that suggest about what happens when someone holds their gift back?
7. "You have what God needs for the Kingdom. And His Church, in the Kingdom, has what you need." And: "The best ability is availability." What tends to get in the way of your availability to serve, and what would it look like to remove one obstacle this season?

Practice

Write down one or two things you've been treating as "ultimate" that shouldn't be. This week, take one concrete step to put them back in their proper place under God.