

Small Group Discussion Guide
A Living Sacrifice in a Self-Centered World
Scripture: Romans 12:1–8



Know It

Introduction

Romans 12 marks a major shift in Paul’s letter. After explaining the gospel and God’s mercy in chapters 1–11, Paul now explains **how believers should live in response to God’s mercy**.

The Christian life is not about self-centered living but **God-centered worship expressed through surrender, transformation, and service**.

Paul describes three key responses to God’s mercy:

- Present your body to Christ
- Renew your mind in God's will
- Use your gifts for God's people

Present Your Body to Christ (Romans 12:1)

Paul urges believers to offer their entire lives to God as **a living sacrifice**.

Unlike Old Testament sacrifices that were placed on an altar and died, Christians are called to **daily surrender their lives to God’s purposes**.

Discussion Questions

- According to verse 1, what motivates us to offer ourselves to God?
- What does it mean practically to be a **“living sacrifice”** in everyday life?
- What are some areas of life people often struggle to fully surrender to Christ?
- How is living as a sacrifice different from the self-centered mindset of the world?

Renew Your Mind in God’s Will (Romans 12:2)

Paul tells believers not to conform to the world but to be **transformed by renewing their minds**.

Transformation begins internally before it is visible externally.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to **“not be conformed to this age”**?
- What are some ways the world tries to shape our thinking today?
- How does renewing our minds help us understand God’s will?
- What are practical ways we can renew our minds daily?

Use Your Gifts for God's People (Romans 12:3–8)

Paul teaches that believers are part of **one body with many members**. Each person has been given gifts by God to serve the church.

Our gifts are not meant for self-promotion but for **building up the body of Christ**.

Discussion Questions

- Why does Paul begin this section by warning about thinking too highly of ourselves (v.3)?
- How does the picture of the **body** help us understand the church?
- Why is it important that every believer use their gifts?
- Which of the gifts mentioned in verses 6–8 stands out to you and why?



Live It

Take a few moments to reflect on the three responses Paul describes.

Personal Reflection Questions

- What area of your life do you need to surrender more fully to Christ?
- What is one way you can renew your mind this week?
- How can you use your gifts to serve others in the church?



Prayer

Close by praying together:

- Ask God to help you live as a **living sacrifice**
- Ask Him to **renew your mind**
- Ask Him to help you **use your gifts to serve others**