

Ice Breaker (10min):

Help people to loosen up and share. Take time to go around the room and have people share what their favorite food is to eat during Thanksgiving.

Opening Prayer (5min):

- **Introduce time of prayer-** After the group welcomes one another, open in prayer. Let your group know what to expect during prayer time, something like: As we start our group time I will open with a word of prayer, there will be a minute or so of silent reflection and then I will read the scripture from Sunday and then close in prayer and we will enter into our discussion time.
 - **Open with a brief word of prayer-** God we thank you for this time together, we open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us, allow us to hear your voice and experience your spirit at work. Come Holy Spirit.
 - **Sit before the Lord in silent prayerful reflection for 1-2 minutes**
 - **Read the scripture listed below aloud for the group to reflect on.**
 - **Close in a word of prayer:** God thank you for your word, come holy spirit and allow us to understand what it means for our lives, lead us in our time of discussion together. In Christ's name, amen.

Main Scriptures from Sunday:

Romans 15:30-33- *“I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to **join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.** 31 Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord’s people there, 32 so that I may come to you with joy, by God’s will, and in your company be refreshed. 33 The God of peace be with you all. Amen.”*

Romans 16:1-5- *“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. 2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. 5 Greet also the church that meets at their house.”*

Romans 16:16b-20- *“All the churches of Christ send greetings. 17 I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people. 19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”*

Read this message overview to the group: (5min)

As Paul finishes his letter to the house churches in Rome he closes with a lot of loose details, greetings, warnings and prayers. From these closing words the message from Sunday focussed on three that seemed important for us to consider. First an invitation to join in the struggle

through prayer. Second is an invitation to greet one another and the power of connection authored by hospitality. Lastly an invitation to alertness and to watch out for dividers.

Work though these discussion questions together (30min):

- Is there one of these three points that stuck out to you the most? If so, share which one.
- What are some ways you might want to engage more in your prayer life with God?
 - Here where some opportunities mentioned on Sunday:
 - Pastoral Care & Prayer sessions- <https://society.churchcenter.com/people/forms/320178>. These sessions will be available after Thanksgiving
 - Pre-Service Prayer Huddle- 10am every Sunday
 - Community Groups should be praying weekly together, for one another.
 - Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Daily Office
 - Lectio 365 app- morning and evening prayer
- When you come to church is it hard or easy for you to greet others and engage with a resilient hospitality?
- What might be a practical way for you to grow in your resilient hospitality?
- Have you ever listened to someone who seemed bent on dividing you from the truth of the gospel? What was that experience like?
- Has there been some voices, people or media in your past that have kept you from growing in your faith and relationship with God? What did you do about it?
- Are there some voices, people or media that are keeping you from growing in your faith and relationship with God today? What do you want to do about that?
- What might be helpful spiritual formation practices you could engage with that will help you to grow in your faith and relationship with God and others?

Group Prayer (10min):

- Share personal prayer requests and spend some time praying for one another as a group. Take time this week to pray for the pastors and staff at your church. Ask someone to write down prayer requests and send them out to the group to pray for one another during the week. The hope is to get your group comfortable with sharing personal prayer needs and praying for one another regularly.