

Dig Deeper @Home – “For the Sake of His Name”
Complement to lesson on 5/14/23 – “Fulfilling Love”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What makes you feel loved?
2. What’s your favorite smell of Spring?

MEMORIZE – Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

READ – Read Romans 14

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. How would you summarize the heart of Romans 14?
 - a. How well do you think Christians live out the heart of Romans 14?
 - b. How well do you live out the heart of Romans 14?
 - c. What makes it challenging to live out the heart of Romans 14?
 - d. How would keeping Romans 14: 10-12 in mind help us live out Romans 14?
3. Paul describes the Kingdom of God in verse 17. What three words does he use?
 - a. Consider these three words. What do you notice? Why do you think the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to use these three words to describe the Kingdom of God?
 - b. Keeping these three things in mind, how could you intentionally embody and point these things out where you live, work, study and play?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY - *Bringing the Kingdom of God to Life*

As you discovered in question 4, Paul describes the Kingdom of God as consisting of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We believe that as followers of Jesus, we are called to embody our King and direct people to the Kingdom of God. Which sounds great, right? But how do we do this? Well, how did Jesus do it? One way Jesus did it was by saying, "The kingdom of God is like ..." and then used a common, every day example. This allowed people to better relate and understand. And we can do the same thing with others where we live, work, study or play. Ask the Holy Spirit who He wants you to do this with. If you are doing this DigDeeper with someone else, practice with each other first.

So, pick one of the three words that Paul uses to describe the Kingdom of God. For example, peace. Ask your friend/co-worker/family member, etc, "what gives you the most peace?" or "When have you experienced peace?" or "When is the most peaceful you have ever felt?" Listen for their answer, give an affirming word and you can even follow up with "And what was that like for you to experience?" After they answer again, come back with, "that's what the Kingdom of God is like. The kingdom of God is like that feeling of peace, all the time." This is a great way to help people understand what we mean by the Kingdom of God.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

I Need Thee Every Hour - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gJ4jKeT4w>

The Love of God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0T8X5gboMM>

The Great I Am - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7HSYv203Co>

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqWilp_KLUc

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

As you go this week, remember that you are loved by God and He will uphold you and able to make you stand. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.