



Evening Gathering

Romans 12

Intro for Facilitators

This selection of five **EM Evening Gathering** sessions highlights five scripture passages from the book of **Romans** and provide a simple format for groups to READ, DISCUSS, APPLY and PRAY. The sessions are designed to be stand-alone and can be utilized in *any order*.

EM field staff will lead this time if they are present on your trip. If not, the sessions been designed to be easily led by volunteer team leaders. Although we call this “Evening Gathering,” it can also be used as a morning or mid-day group devotional. Please feel free to read the scriptures in the Bible translation and version of your choice.

Tips for Gathering

EM's Evening Gathering is designed as a time of debrief, reflection, and growing together, as we consider what it means to follow Jesus together in this new context. When gathering, we recommend these best practices:

- 1) **Delegate leadership.** Have one person facilitate the Group Debrief, another read aloud the scriptures, someone else facilitate the discussion questions (if in a large group), and someone else lead the worship time.
- 2) **Let the group lead the conversation.** It can be tempting to try to steer questions in a specific direction, but it's always more meaningful when discussions feel natural and unforced. As a leader, you have the ability to encourage people to keep sharing or shut it down by talking too much. Do what you can to make sure everyone gets a chance to answer and share who would like to.
- 3) **Mix up the format.** Depending on the makeup of your group, a large group discussion may not be everyone's ideal place to share. If that's the case, try engaging in the scripture discussion and prayer time in smaller groups that give space for quieter team members to connect.
- 4) **Leave room for God to work.** These outlines are simple, often including the same questions each day. This is meant to leave space for what God is doing in a particular group in a particular place. Instead of speeding through the content or moving on after one answer, create space in your gathering time for everyone to consider their responses and share thoughtfully. This may look like having people journal ahead of time, share answers with the person next to them before large group sharing, or simply allowing for silence a few seconds longer than is comfortable after a question is asked. You never know what God is stirring in the hearts of team members or when people will feel emboldened to share.



Evening Gathering

Romans 12 — Session #1: Living Sacrifices



Group Debrief

What did you experience that was new to you today?

Where did you see or sense God at work in the community today?

Where did you see or experience God's love, grace, peace or beauty today?

How is your view of the world being challenged, changed or broadened this week?

Scripture Reading & Discussion

1. Introduction *(read aloud)*

The Apostle Paul begins **Romans**—his letter to the followers of Jesus living in Rome at the time—with 11 chapters focused on how we are saved by God's grace and through our faith in Jesus

Romans 12 is the beginning of a new section in this letter that asks important questions for those living in Rome and for us today: *“How should those saved by God's grace live today? How should we respond to the incredible mercy God has shown to us? What are the practical day-to-day implications of our faith?”*

We will seek to explore some answers together this week.

2. Read **Romans 12:1-2**

- > Read the passage out loud to the group two times.
- > In pairs, do your best to retell the main points from memory.

3. Discuss *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > What do we discover about **God** in this passage?
- > What do we discover about **people** in this passage?

4. Apply *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > How does this passage apply to **our lives as a whole**?
- > How does this passage apply to **my life this week**?

5. Pray

As a large group, small groups, or in pairs, pray for this community, the local ministry and partners you're connecting with, and your team as you seek to learn, serve, and grow together this week.

Worship Time

Musical worship can be incorporated before or after this debrief and scripture discussion time. *NOTE: Volunteer teams should plan to lead this time. Not all EM or local field staff are equipped to do this.*



Evening Gathering

Romans 12 — Session #2: Members



Group Debrief

What did you experience that was new to you today?

Where did you see or sense God at work in the community today?

Where did you see or experience God's love, grace, peace or beauty today?

How is your view of the world being challenged, changed or broadened this week?

Scripture Reading & Discussion

1. Read **Romans 12:3-8**

- > Read the passage out loud to the group two times.
- > In pairs, do your best to retell the main points from memory.

2. Discuss *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > What do we discover about **God** in this passage?
- > What do we discover about **people** in this passage?

3. Apply *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > How does this passage apply to **our lives as a whole**?
- > How does this passage apply to **my life this week**?

4. Pray

As a large group, small groups, or in pairs, pray for this community, the local ministry and partners you're connecting with, and your team as you seek to learn, serve, and grow together this week.

Worship Time

Musical worship can be incorporated before or after this debrief and scripture discussion time. *NOTE: Volunteer teams should plan to lead this time. Not all EM or local field staff are equipped to do this.*



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Romans 12 — Session #3: Life Together



Group Debrief

What did you experience that was new to you today?

Where did you see or sense God at work in the community today?

Where did you see or experience God's love, grace, peace or beauty today?

How is your view of the world being challenged, changed or broadened this week?

Scripture Reading & Discussion

1. Read **Romans 12:9-16**

- > Read the passage out loud to the group two times.
- > In pairs, do your best to retell the main points from memory.

2. Discuss *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > What do we discover about **God** in this passage?
- > What do we discover about **people** in this passage?

3. Apply *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > How does this passage apply to **our lives as a whole**?
- > How does this passage apply to **my life this week**?

4. Pray

As a large group, small groups, or in pairs, pray for this community, the local ministry and partners you're connecting with, and your team as you seek to learn, serve, and grow together this week.

Worship Time

Musical worship can be incorporated before or after this debrief and scripture discussion time. *NOTE: This time must be planned and led by volunteer teams, not EM or local field staff.*



Evening Gathering

Romans 12 — Session #4: Loving Enemies



Group Debrief

What did you experience that was new to you today?

Where did you see or sense God at work in the community today?

Where did you see or experience God's love, grace, peace or beauty today?

How is your view of the world being challenged, changed or broadened this week?

Scripture Reading & Discussion

1. Read **Romans 12:17-21**

- > Read the passage out loud to the group two times.
- > In pairs, do your best to retell the main points from memory.

2. Discuss *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > What do we discover about **God** in this passage?
- > What do we discover about **people** in this passage?

3. Apply *(as one large group or smaller groups)*

- > How does this passage apply to **our lives as a whole**?
- > How does this passage apply to **my life this week**?

4. Pray

As a large group, small groups, or in pairs, pray for this community, the local ministry and partners you're connecting with, and your team as you seek to learn, serve, and grow together this week.

Worship Time

Musical worship can be incorporated before or after this debrief and scripture discussion time. *NOTE: This time must be planned and led by volunteer teams, not EM or local field staff.*