



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide Something's Missing- Part 1 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS: Begin by moving into deeper conversations by asking some key accountability questions. Depending on the size of your group, you may not make it through all of the questions. If that's the case, please consider choosing one or two questions and sticking with those each week. Insist that all members of your group participate in answering. As your people begin to anticipate your questions, they will begin to think about them throughout their week, opening doors for a deeper, intimate relationship with God.

- How did you experience God's leading this past week?
- What are you reading in your Bible right now?
- Did you experience any specific answers to prayer?
- How have you loved the people God has placed in your life this week? (i.e. family, friends, coworkers)

LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP! Contact your campus groups director or email us at discipleship@rockbridge.cc

MAIN POINT: We were not just saved *from* sin & death; we are also saved *into* community. When connection to spiritual community is missing, both ourselves and our spiritual community will be missing something big... God.

Read this out to the group as a type of road map for where the discussion should go.

Passage(s) to Read: Romans 12:3-5

Passage Summary: Paul teaches that people of faith who have received the grace and mercy of God are connected and united together like a body. In other words, the Gospel doesn't just create a new "me" but also a new "we." This "we" is characterized by belonging, mutuality, love, and service.

Read the summary out loud before the passage. This will help set up the direction of the discussion.

DISCUSSION:

1. Paul tells the Roman church members not to think too highly of themselves, but to think with sober judgment. How would you describe a healthy identity in Christ? How can you acknowledge the gifts God has given you, without having those gifts become a source of pride?
Paul tells the church not to think too highly of themselves but to think with sober judgment. Spiritual gifts can become a source of pride, comparison, and envy. Paul prefaces this concept by mentioning the grace given to us. This is a reminder that spiritual gifts are given by God. We can acknowledge that we have a gift but when we recognize the gift for what it is, it helps us to make sure that it doesn't become a source of pride.
2. Why do you think the body is a great metaphor for the church? In your experience, do you see the church functioning in this way?
This metaphor works perfectly because we understand the way the body functions. Each part is important and indispensable. We can also understand how "off" we are when one part of the body isn't functioning properly. Prompt your group to think through the parts of the "body" of Christ. Why do we feel like some parts are more important than others? What happens when these "less-important" parts aren't functioning?
3. These verses point out the unity required by the Church while also addressing the diversity among its members. How does being unified, yet diverse make us more effective as the body of Christ?
A diverse body is full of members from all walks of life. This means we have different perspectives, different backgrounds, and can reach different groups of people. One person might be able to connect with a group that someone else wouldn't be able to relate to. This makes us invaluable to one another.
4. What are some ways you best experience God alone? Through community? How do these experiences balance one another?
5. How can you, as a small group, begin to use your combined gifts to honor God and *be the Church*?

STEPS OF OBEDIENCE

As an offering of worship and fellowship as a group, try bringing to the Lord all the aspects of Himself which He brings to mind in prayer. Take turns giving thanks for what God has taught you through the message this week.

PRAYER TIME

- If anyone in the group has a special prayer request, make sure that is shared with the group.