



Discussion Guide
Navigate – Part 2
LEADER GUIDE

.....

*Hey small group leaders! In our NEWish series, “**Navigate**”, we’re discovering that in an age of endless information, true wisdom is not always available. This series is about discernment: learning to filter voices, making wise decisions, and aligning with God’s truth. Through passages about the life of Solomon, we’ll explore how to think critically, seek wisdom, and renew our minds in a noisy world. When we cultivate discernment, we don’t just survive—we thrive in the amazing life God has for us!*

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

.....

**“Our lives are not problems to be solved but journeys to be taken
with Jesus as our friend and finest guide.”**

[Henri Nouwen]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - Discerning the awesome will of God goes through a process of transformation via mind renewal and non-conformity to the world, while resting on the foundations of the gospel. In other words, the way of wisdom comes from the gospel of Christ and full appropriation of it in how we think and discern.
- **Ch. 12 Commentary & What Does “Present Our Bodies as a Living Sacrifice” Mean?**
 - Use the commentary and short video for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **The Wall between You & God's Will**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

If you had to choose one animal to represent wisdom, which would it be and why?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked
or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers!
Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.”*

[Psalm 1:1-2]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.

To navigate life decisions and directions well, we must think with a "renewed" mind.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage multiple people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

Have someone read aloud Romans 12:1-3. Have another person read it aloud again in The Message translation (the Bible app).

1. What are the three main commands in v. 1-2? What is the promised result of following them? *The commands are: present your bodies as a living sacrifice, do not conform to the pattern of this world, and be transformed by the renewing of your mind. The result is being able to discern God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.*
2. In the sermon we heard, "Our minds are often used to exalt, justify, and defend ourselves." How have you done this recently? Let's be honest and vulnerable with one another! *This is a good opportunity to go FIRST!*
3. To navigate life well, we must think with a renewed mind. What obstacle typically prevents you from thinking this way? *Answers will vary: fear of failure, desire for control, worldly influences, and self-centered thinking. These cloud our discernment and make it difficult to align with God's will.*
4. Spiritual narcissism occurs when we view God's will solely through the lens of our own needs and desires. How can we make the shift from a self-focused faith to a God-focused faith? *Answers will vary: by seeking God's purposes in prayer, serving others, considering God's bigger plan, and remembering that our lives are part of His story, not the other way around. Humility and gratitude help shift this focus.*
5. Verse 2 promises that a renewed mind leads to discernment of God's will. Why is discernment crucial for us? How can it impact our everyday decisions? *Answers will vary: discernment helps us navigate complex situations with wisdom and clarity. It ensures our decisions are not just practical or safe but aligned with God's truth and purpose, influencing relationships, work, and spiritual growth.*
6. How regularly do you evaluate whether your thoughts are aligned with God's truth or influenced by the world? How could you do this? *By comparing thoughts with Scripture, seeking wise counsel, and praying for discernment. If thoughts lead to fear, pride, or selfishness, they may not be from God.*
7. In the sermon we heard, "Do NOT live in your thoughts what you should not live out in your life." What specific area of your life needs a renewed perspective? How could this change your attitude or actions? *Answers will vary: this might include relationships, work ethic, finances, or personal identity. A renewed perspective can lead to forgiveness, generosity, integrity, and peace.*
8. Paul calls believers to offer themselves as a living sacrifice. What might this look like practically in your daily life? *It could mean serving others, sacrificing personal comfort, choosing integrity over convenience, and prioritizing God's voice over cultural pressures.*
9. How can we help each other renew our minds and resist being conformed to the world? *Through Scripture study, prayer support, challenging each other's thinking, and sharing how God is transforming us. The group can be a safe space for growth and accountability.*

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || **Leader Note** *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

God does not want simple external compliance to a list; He desires for us to be deeply different from the world. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Am I thinking like who I am in Christ OR am I thinking like the world? Here are a few questions to consider as we seek to *"be transformed by the renewing of our minds"* ...

- What is the **SOURCE** of my specific thoughts?
- What is **SHAPING** my thinking on a daily basis?
- Will I **RENEW** my mind in the following ways?
 - Exalt God above all?
 - Be captivated by Him?
 - Fill my mind with His Word?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || **Leader Note** *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5-10 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompts below!*

Navigating Life with a Renewed Mind

- When faced with life's decisions and directions, our natural instincts and worldly wisdom can lead us astray. But God calls us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2), allowing His truth to reshape our thoughts, desires, and choices. A renewed mind helps us discern God's will—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.
- As we pray, let's ask God to renew our minds through His Word and Spirit. Let's invite Him to clear away confusion, align our thoughts with His truth, and guide us in every decision we face. May our choices reflect His wisdom and our lives bring Him glory.