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

[Henri Nouwen]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

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

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

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

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

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

Romans 12:1-3

1. What are the three main commands in v. 1-2? What is the promised result of following them?
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!
3. To navigate life well, we must think with a renewed mind. What obstacle typically prevents you from thinking this way?
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?
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?
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?
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?

8. Paul calls believers to offer themselves as a living sacrifice. What might this look like practically in your daily life?
9. How can we help each other renew our minds and resist being conformed to the world?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

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?

PRAYER FOCUS

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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ch. 12 Commentary & What Does "Present Our Bodies as a Living Sacrifice" Mean?](#)
 - Use these for background and encouragement before your group gathers.
- [The Wall between You & God's Will](#)
 - This would be a good resource to use after your group gathers.