



Life Group Study Notes
“We Are Family: God’s Family”
Dr. Rice Broocks - August 26, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What do you like to read?
- What is one of your favorite books that you’ve read?
- If you could only recommend one book to someone other than the Bible, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Romans 12:1-8 ESV *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. Life begins when you stop living for yourself and instead live for and through Jesus.

Galatians 2:20 ESV I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Matthew 10:37-39 ESV Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

2. If you want to know the will of God, your mind must be renewed by Scripture.

Isaiah 55:6-9 ESV "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

3. Your gifts will grow and flourish as you are joined with God's people in a church.

1 Corinthians 12:12-15, 18-21, 27 ESV For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Have you ever surrendered your life to Jesus? If so, when? If not, why not?
- Do you regularly read the Bible? What help could you use to have a rich Bible reading habit?
- Do you have growing Christian friendships that spur spiritual growth?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the great salvation Jesus has procured for us.
- Ask God for guidance to develop a rich Bible reading discipline in your life.
- Ask God for help in building strong, spiritually edifying Christian friendships.