

**Week Two: *We All Pitch In***  
***Romans 12:3-10***

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day One**

1. What chores and responsibilities did you have as a child? How did you feel about them? If you did not have any, how did that make you feel?
2. One commentary calls Romans chapters 12-16 “Guidelines for living as redeemed people in a fallen world”. These chapters could be considered a code of conduct or better yet, characteristics of people saved by God’s grace. Read Romans 12:3-10. What is Paul asking Christ-followers to do?
3. Paul includes a right attitude and right actions. Let’s start with attitude. What attitudes can characterize people who love Jesus according to these verses?
4. What makes it hard to see yourself accurately (v. 3)?
5. What makes it hard to be devoted to one another (v. 10)?
6. Read Romans 12:3 in the Message version. It ends: “The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.” How does this truth help you see yourself accurately and enable you to be devoted to fellow Christ-followers (especially those you disagree with)?
7. End your FIFTEEN considering what God is and what He has done for you. Ask Him to give you a right attitude about yourself and a sincere love for fellow Christians.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two**

8. What do you find fascinating about the human body?
9. Yesterday we considered a right attitude of gratitude, humility and sincere love. Today let’s look at the actions encouraged in these verses. Read Romans 12:3-10. How would you summarize what Christ-followers are to do?
10. How is the human body a good illustration of God’s intention for His people?
11. Paul uses the human body to picture God’s redeemed people. This group is also called the church. How well does your church fit the human body illustration?

12. What part do you play in the healthy functioning of your church?
  
13. What personal or cultural barriers get in the way of being an active contributor? What barriers are there for you personally?
  
14. The Message translation of verses 4-6 includes this line: "In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around." Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to show you your meaning in terms of your church. Ask Him to reveal and remove any barriers preventing your healthy participation.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three**

15. Have you ever done something out of obligation? How did that impact your performance? Your satisfaction?
  
16. Paul challenges God's people saved by grace to be devoted to one another, supporting one another by using their gifts. 12:5 says we belong to each other. Read 12:3-11. What words does Paul use to describe the way God's people are to use their gifts?
  
17. Think about the words you listed in question 16. How are you challenged by these descriptions of serving your church?
  
18. Read 12:6-8 in the Message. What attitude(s) come(s) through in this translation?
  
19. God communicates over and over that He wants our whole heart. He wants a real relationship with you. Obligation does not draw us to Him. End your FIFTEEN in prayer and introspection. Ask God to point out half-heartedness or obligation in using your gifts. Ask Him to renew and deepen your love for Him and His people.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four**

20. Would you say to think too highly of yourself or too little?
  
21. How are both of these in conflict with God's perspective?
  
22. Read 12:3-10 again. What does God imply about your value and capability in these verses?
  
23. Have you ever been envious of another's giftedness? What made you feel that way?

24. Look at verses 6-8. Imagine the kinds of people who would have each gift. For example, Teachers are clear thinkers, encouragers know how to motivate others, leaders are good organizers and managers. Could one person realistically embody all the gifts? Why not?
  
25. Your gifts were never intended to do all the work of the church alone. Your strengths balance another's weaknesses. Others make up for your deficiencies. Every person is needed or the work is incomplete. End your FIFTEEN in thanksgiving to God. Thank Him for your giftedness. Thank Him for people whose gifts are completely different from yours.

**Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five**

26. How are you currently contributing to your local church and to the church at large? What do you feel like God has called you to do?
  
27. Read Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-12. Which of these gifts do you feel like you might have? Note that some of the gifts are more public while others are behind the scenes.
  
28. Have you ever taken a spiritual gifts inventory? What were the results?
  
29. Do you think a person's giftedness can change? Why? How?
  
30. Who could you talk to about your giftedness? Consider having table conversation with your family. Discuss the giftedness of each family member. Talk about how each of you could use your gifts in the church.
  
31. Close your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you identify and use your gifts to make a difference in the lives of those in your church and all around you.