



Romans:  
A Life of  
Faith

### **"FAMILY + FRIENDS PLAN"**

**SPEAKER: JAMIE LILLEY**

**DATE: NOV 6, 2022**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

### **BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**

#### **ROMANS 16**

Ordinary people matter to God. They did when Paul wrote Romans — in fact, the apostle mentions dozens of them in chapter 16 — and ordinary people matter to God now as well. He knows their names and their stories. He works in and through them to invite others into his Kingdom.

And, he expects them to tell their stories to other people — stories of hope, redemption, and healing. God talks about the people who know him as seasoning and light. They are meant to be noticed, to spice things up and preserve his goodness. These ordinary people — our everyday friends and family — are God's chosen instrument to accomplish his extraordinary mission.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Who's the most "ordinary" person you know, and what do you know about them?
2. When was the last time you met someone truly extraordinary? What was that like?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What images come to mind when you read the list of names Paul mentions in Romans 16?
2. What does Paul want the churches to do for Phoebe and why do you think he makes that request?
3. What details do we have about some of these people and what do those particulars suggest?
4. Why does Paul say that he rejoices over the Roman Christians? Why is that important?
5. How would you sum up Paul's encouragement to his readers in your own words?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Who do you know that seems "ordinary" to most people but is really a remarkable Christian? Why did they come to mind? What are some examples that good Christians disagree on?
2. Paul mentions divisions (and unity) again at his letter's end. Why is he so concerned about this issue and where do you see unity or division having a major impact on our world today? How about in the Church?
3. Where do you see God, "crushing Satan" today, and where do you long to see him do so? In your opinion, how is God going about it?
4. How does Paul characterize God in verse 27 of his benediction? Where do you see "wisdom" such as God has in the world today?

*cont.*

## CONTINUED:

5. Where do you see, or hear about, gentiles (or anyone, really) exhibiting the obedience that comes through faith? What does that look like in today's world? Do you think most people value an "ordinary" life? Why or why not, and how does celebrity culture play into your opinion?

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What ordinary person inspires you through their simple, faith-filled obedience and why do they have that impact on you? This could be someone you know well or a person you know by reputation.
2. What about this passage gives you hope or inspires you?
3. Does the "ordinariness of you own life bother you and why or why not? What do you wish to be know for if an apostle were to mention you at the end of their letter to other Christians?
4. What motivates you to continue a long, faithful obedience to Jesus, one that spans the majority of your life? If you're older, talk about what you've experienced. If you're younger, maybe think about what you'd like that life to look like.
5. How does this passage challenge you as you contemplate your "ordinary" life?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Take some time to talk with God about how you might share your ordinary life with someone by sharing your story or getting involved in B4's mission alongside other "ordinary" people.
2. Journal about the hope or strength you feel when reading Paul's encouragement and benediction in 16? Thank God for that.
3. Write a letter to someone (or text/DM them) who you haven't connected with in a while and share something hopeful or encouraging with them from your life. Acknowledge God's goodness as the source of your hope and/or encouragement.