



Week Eight

Romans 16 "Appreciating the Family of God"

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Leader's Notes have been included to help in your preparation. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all.

To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

ICEBREAKER OPTIONS

- What's something unique or funny about your family (or family reunions) growing up?
- Who in your life has made you feel most "part of the family," even if you weren't related?
- If you could create the perfect family dinner table, who would you want sitting around it with you — and why?

1 The Diversity in God's Family

Key Scripture:

Galatians 3:28; Romans 16:1–2, 9–11, 23

Discuss:

- What does unity among the people of God tell the world about who God is – and what His family is like?
- How could you build relationships with people who are different from you within the church family? What sort of impact could this have?

Leader's Note:

The early church was incredibly diverse — men and women, slaves and nobles, Jews and Gentiles, people from across the Roman Empire. Paul celebrates this diversity as a gospel witness. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

2 The Friendships in God's Family

Key Scripture:

Romans 16:3–5, 8–9, 12–13; Proverbs 18:24

Discuss:

- Who in your spiritual journey has been a true friend to you? What did they do?
- How can you be more intentional about making and deepening friendships within the body of Christ?
- What practical steps can your group take to become a more relational, welcoming community?

Leader's Note:

Paul wasn't just a church planter — he was a friend-maker. He knew people by name and built close relationships, like with Prisca and Aquila who risked their lives for him. Friendship is part of how we experience the love of Christ.

3 The Recognition in God's Family

Key Scripture:

Romans 16:3, 6, 9, 12, 16

Discuss:

- Why do you think it was important for Paul to name and thank people in his letter? How do you think they responded?
- Who could you encourage or honor this week for their faithful service?

Leader's Note:

Paul takes time to honor people who worked hard and served faithfully. He greeted them by name and publicly affirmed their efforts. Encouragement lifts weary hearts and reflects the love of Jesus.

4 The Warning in God's Family

Key Scripture:

Romans 16:17–20

Discuss:

- Why is it important to guard unity and sound teaching in the church?
- How can we lovingly respond to gossip or divisive behavior without becoming divisive ourselves?
- Ask someone in your group to read Romans 16:20 – How could this verse encourage you when you face spiritual battles or discouragement?

Leader's Note:

Even in the family of God, there can be division and false teaching. Paul warns the church to watch out for people who stir up conflict and to stand firm in the truth. The good news: God promises to crush Satan under our feet.

+ PRAY +

Invite group members to pray for one another:

- Thank God for making us part of His family through Christ.
- Pray for deeper friendships, greater unity, and boldness to honor others.
- Ask for God's protection over the church and for peace to crush division and darkness.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Diversity in God's Family: Celebrate the Beauty of Unity

God's big family is beautifully diverse—made up of people from every background, language, and story.



The Challenge

• Step Outside Your Normal Circle

Attend a different service time, group, or event at Silverdale that includes people of a different age, background, or culture.

• Have a Conversation

Invite someone with a different story than yours to coffee or lunch. Ask about their faith journey. Listen well.

• Pray for Unity in the Church

Pray that Silverdale would be a place where every person feels seen, valued, and welcomed as part of God's diverse family.



Upcoming Events to keep on your group's radar:

IMPACT Missions Conference - Nov. 5-9 | Illuminate - Dec. 1-4